

As always, we want to keep our parents informed on the quality of education we deliver, and sharing staff qualifications is an excellent way to illustrate our commitment to our students. The staff defines the education environment, and we are devoted to finding the best quality teachers and paraprofessionals to work with your children to ensure our school is a place where they can succeed. More information is available through the main office at the school.

Below is a table that list the current position and degree of each teacher employed at Max Public School.

Teacher Name	Current Position Grade Level	Bachelor’s Degree Major/Minor	Other Graduate Degree	Met State Qualifying for Licensure
Peggy Bingham	Preschool	Bachelor’s - University of Mary –Early Childhood Education, Instru- mental Music, Vocal Music		Yes
Bonita Berryman	4th Grade	Bachelor’s - Minot State University –Elementary Education, McKendree College (Lebanon, IL) Special/Gifted Education		Yes
Jordyn Clapper	3rd Grade	Bachelor’s - Minot State University –Elementary Education		Yes
Lana Clyde	Speech	Bachelor’s - Minot State University –Speech Language Pathology		Yes
Marissa Erickson	Title I	Bachelor’s - Minot State University –Elementary Education		Yes
VloriAnn Faul	1st Grade	Bachelor’s - Minot State University –Elementary Education		Yes
Rachel Filkens	Kindergarten	Bachelor’s —Minot State University—Early Childhood Education		Yes
Nicole Fritel	Special Education	Bachelor’s—Minot State University—Special Education		Yes
Amanda Huettl	Agriculture Education	Bachelor’s—North Dakota State University—Agriculture Education	Master’s—North Dakota State University —Advanced Professional Education Program	Yes
Holly Kersten	K-12 Counselor	Bachelor’s - Minot State University –Elementary Education, Endorse- ment Special Education Credential—K-12 Counseling		Yes
Jade Larson	JH/HS Mathematics	Bachelor’s - University of North Dakota—Mathematics		Yes
Kimberly McKinley	2nd Grade	Bachelor’s - Western Governors University	Master’s—Brigham Young University—Mathematics	Yes
Robbi Jo Morgan	Elementary/Secondary School Principal	Bachelor’s—Minot State University—Special Education, Elementary Education	Master’s—Minot State University—Education—Education Leader- ship—Minnesota State University-Moorhead	Yes
Cory Nordquist	Social Studies	Bachelor’s—Minot State University—Social Studies/Social Science		Yes
Larry Sebastian	Superintendent	Bachelor’s - Dickinson State University —Business Education/General Business—Computer Science	Master’s—North Dakota State University, Minot State University	Yes
Joshua Sierens	Science	Bachelor’s - Brandon University (Brandon Manitoba)—Physics/ Mathematics, University of Winnipeg—Secondary Education		Yes
Daniel Starks	Music	Less BA (Exception)		Yes
Nyssa Stroschein	English	Bachelor’s—Minot State University—History—Endorsements: Communications: English		Yes
Randi Swanson	Library	Bachelor’s - Minot State University –Elementary Education		
Lesli Talbott	Special Education/Activities Director	Bachelor’s - Minot State University –Special Education, Elementary Education	Master’s—National University—Special Education	Yes
Josh Thompson	5th Grade	Bachelor’s—University of Jamestown—History, Out of Field Endorse- ment Elementary Education		Yes
Nick Thompson	Physical Education	Bachelor’s—University of Jamestown—Physical Education		Yes
MicKenzie Watts		Bachelor’s—Minot State University—Business Education/General Business; Elementary Education; Computer Science and Cybersecuri- ty		Yes
Olsen Zerr	6th Grade	Bachelor’s - Minot State University –Elementary Education		Yes



# The Cossack Column

August 2023

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*The mission of Max Public School is to encourage students to dream about their futures, believe in their abilities and assist in achieving their goals.*



## Max FFA is the Home of National FFA Finalists

By: Madison Whiteowl, Max FFA Reporter

As the summer has come to an end, national judging finalists of applications are announced. We are excited that the Max FFA is the home of some exciting areas and will compete in the last round of judging at the National FFA Convention in November.



Ben Scheresky a 2022 graduate and Brytin Hauf a 2023 graduate of Max Public School represented the Max FFA Chapter as the only two proficiency finalist in the state of ND.

area of Division 5 Social Sciences. Shelsey also had to go through a rigorous process of researching people’s opinions on an agricultural topic, prepare a paper, and interview at the state level to advance to national competition. Shelsey is among ten finalists in the nation in her area after they assessed her paper this summer. Agriscience Fair finalists will be interviewed in the next month and the top three individuals will be awarded scholarships. She will also be announced on the National FFA stage and present her project to FFA members from across the country during the National FFA Convention. Congratulations Shelsey!



Shelsey Brandvold a senior at Max High School is the National FFA Agriscience Fair finalist for the state of ND.

## Superintendent Notes

Larry Sebastian

By time you receive this newsletter, school will have already started. Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year. As always, it seems the closer we get to the start of school the faster time flies by.

We welcome four new teachers to the Cossack family. Mrs. Rachel Filkins, Mr. Josh Thompson, Mrs. Bonny Berryman and Mrs. Lana Clyde. Mrs. Filkins is a graduate of Minot State University and is the district’s kindergarten teacher. Mrs. Berryman is the 4th grade teacher at Max Public School and has a background in elementary and special education. Mrs. Berryman is a graduate of Minot State University and McKendree College. Mr. Thompson is a alumnus of Max Public School and a graduate of the University of Jamestown. Mr. Thompson is Max’s 5th Grade teacher. Mrs. Clyde is a graduate of Moorhead State University and Minot State University, serves as the district’s speech and language teacher.



Some of the projects that took place over the summer include updating the men's and women's locker-rooms and painting within the school. Within the locker rooms walls, shower partitions and new showers were installed. There remains floor work to finish off the locker room project. Also the drainage lines from the building were scoped with a camera to determine the quality of the drainage within the building. Deterioration has taken place with the drainage lines beneath the building, and the pipes will be sleeved to elimi-



nate further deterioration and drainage issues.

Over the summer, the staff handbook, student/parent handbook was updated. Please take the time to review the handbooks as some of the content may have changed. One hardcopy of the handbook will be sent to each family to review and reference. There has been a change to the cell phone usage policy. To avoid distractions and cell phone usage in the classroom, the school district has moved to no cell phone usage within the classroom. Please contact the main office if you need to leave a message or if there is an emergency.

Last year the technology committee in conjunction with the school board chose to upgrade district Chromebooks for grades 1, 5 and 9. The Max school district remains committed to the 1-to-1 computer/student ratio. Pre-school and kindergarten currently uses iPads. In addition, IXL and other various reading and math applications have been purchased or renewed to reinforce and enhance student learning.

Some may remember the days of the Department of Public Instruction sending out AYP reports “Adequate Yearly Progress” to schools with the focus being reading, math, graduation, and attendance. The AYP reports are now replaced with a new online tool called NDInsights. The new accountability system is broken down into elementary (K-8) and high school (9-12). Each school is assessed in specific elements. For the elementary school it is divided into four components: State Assessment Achievement Growth(30%); State Assessment Achievement (30%); Climate/Engagement (30%); and English Learner Proficiency (10%). The high school has six elements; one being a Choice Ready component. The percentage breakdown for the high school is as follows: State Assessment Achievement (25%); Choice Ready/Growth (21%); Climate/Engagement (20%); Graduation Rate (16%); GED Completion (8%); and English Learner Proficiency (10%).

It is important for parents and students to be aware of how school districts are assessed since 2015 and the implementation of Every Student Succeed Act. The spring of 2018 became the baseline year for Choice Ready/Growth and was reported out to the public in August of 2019. For more information regarding Choice Ready you may find more information on the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction website or using the link [Choice Ready \(nd.gov\)](http://ChoiceReady.nd.gov) . Please take the time to read it, and if you have any questions contact either administrators or school counselor.

Welcome back, and have a good school year.



# Blood Drive

Because of you, life doesn't stop.  
#VitalToLife

**MAX HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST**  
**10:00-4:00 P.M.**  
**GYM**

Please make plans to donate at the upcoming Blood Drive. Taking an hour from your day can save 3 lives! Only 2-3% of North Dakota residents donate. Make a difference!

Call Cory Nordquist to schedule your appointment at 679-2685

For more information or to schedule a donation, call 877.258.4825 or visit [vitalant.org](http://vitalant.org)

### Max Community Garden is Thriving!

If you did not know, the community of Max has a great little hidden secret! If you go for a walk on the nature trail which is west of the Max Public School, you will find gardens growing in the old west baseball field. Several years ago, this was a weedy mess and after a Max FFA member came home from a leadership conference in Washington D.C., the Max FFA decided to turn it into garden plots and an area to grow vegetables for community members. The south half of the garden area is for community members to rent to grow their own produce. Renters sign a contract with the Max FFA and are allowed to pick the size of their plot for \$25 for the season. The north half of the area (north of the water tank) is planted and maintained by Max FFA members to grow produce to be used by the community. Produce that is not used by the community is used in the school lunch line and donated to the food pantry. This year the garden has been thriving! Feel free to pick zucchini, potatoes, corn, green beans, and much more when you head out to the garden. If you have any questions about our garden plot rentals or picking free produce, please contact Amanda Huettl (Max Agricultural Education Instructor/FFA Advisor) at the Max Public School.

### Cossack Callouts

We are excited to introduce a new program called “Cossack Callouts” aimed at recognizing and celebrating students who consistently go above and beyond expected behavior at school. This program is designed to acknowledge and appreciate the exceptional efforts of our students in demonstrating qualities such as kind-

ness, leadership, perseverance, and responsibility.

Through Cossack Callouts, we hope to foster a positive and supportive school environment where every student feels encouraged to make a difference. Our goal is to highlight the outstanding behaviors that contribute to a respectful and inclusive community. As part of this program, selected students will be recognized regularly, providing them with a platform to shine and inspire their peers.

We believe in the acknowledgement of these exceptional students and will do so in our newsletter, online platforms, and our bulletin board near the office.

# 23-24 Test Dates

When . . .

**ASVAB: 9/6/2023**  
**NWEA (Fall): 9/11/2023-9/22/2023**  
**ACT (Fall): 10/17/2023**  
**NWEA (Winter): 1/22/2024-2/2/2024**  
**ACT (Spring): 3/12/2024**  
**NDSA: 3/11/2024-5/3/2024**

### Mrs. Swanson Honored for ND Rural Races

Mrs. Swanson was honored at this year's North Dakota Rural Races for her outstanding efforts in ensuring that every child has a book of their own. This recognition was not only a testament to her dedication but also marked a significant milestone in the ongoing mission to promote literacy among children. The North Dakota Rural Races, known for their commitment to supporting local initiatives, took center stage in honoring Mrs. Swanson for her work in the field of children's literacy. Mrs. Swanson's jour-



ney began several years ago when she recognized the importance of instilling a love for reading in young minds. What started as a simple idea to provide books for children in her class evolved into a transformative initiative. The races provided a generous donation that will enable her to continue her mission of giving children the gift of reading. The funds will not only sustain the existing initiative but also contribute to expanding the Accelerated Reader Program.



Mrs. Swanson poses for a picture with Mr. Terrel Officer from North Dakota Rural Races for her effort ensuring every child has a book of their own.

### Max to Host Volleyball Games

Mark your calendars! The South Prairie-Max volleyball team will play in Max on September 19th, October 3rd, and October 17th. You won't want to miss it. These girls have put in a ton of time in the off-season and have started the season off with great success on the court. These girls are fun to watch - sharing laughs and smiles, it is clear that they enjoy playing together. The Royals are one of the teams to watch this year and are predicted to go deep into the post-season. Max players are: #18 Delaney Hankel, #5 Hattie Heer, #10 Jetta Wohlk, #20 Brynlee Hankel, #6 Kylei Wenger, and #2 Nevaeh Hauf.

“Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing.”

Benjamin Franklin

## Backpack Program Sponsorship

We are looking for sponsors for our Backpack Program

- Students receive a backpack of food on Fridays for the weekend
  - \$5 per student per week
- Sponsorship of one student for the remainder of the year is \$100

Backpack Program  
Lord's Food Pantry  
Great Plains Food Bank

Max Public School and Lord's Food Pantry are working together to start the Backpack Program for Max Public School students. Each Friday, students in the program will receive food for the weekend.

Max Public School | 2855 Hwy 83 NW Max, ND 58759  
Holly Kersten | 701-679-2685 | Robbi Jo Morgan