



Flint Hills Christian School News

February Edition

Staff Highlight: September Followup

By Jacob Lorentzson



Way back in September, when we ran the first edition of this year's Flint Hills Christian School News newspaper, we ran two articles on the newest teachers in secondary, Mr. Devoe and Mr. Mercer. It's been almost half a year and much about the school has changed since then, so I decided I would interview them again individually with some new

questions to see what they think.

To start, I asked them how it has been so far. Mr. Mercer, the high school history and economics teacher, said, "It's been wonderful. I really love being with all of you guys, all the students. It's been quite an adventure moving from the basement of the church to here but it's been one very enjoyable adventure for me." Mr. Devoe, the elementary PE and 11th-12th Bible teacher and a man of fewer words, said "I think it's been good. I've felt supported. It's been fun teaching the elementary kids. It's been a good experience."

Teachers do teach, but they also learn from their teaching experience how to better teach in the future. I asked them each what they had learned from teaching here. Mr. Mercer stated "I've learned a lot about teaching in general, but more than anything I've truly learned a whole lot more about each and every single one of you guys, and that's been very fun to get to know you all more. There have been a lot of different things that will change from day to day in teaching, I've learned a lot from that, but more than anything it's been wonderful to learn from you all



and to learn more about you guys." Mr. Devoe said he has learned a lot about teaching his elementary PE classes. "I'd probably say that I've learned techniques and different ways to get children to listen or behave, so that way they can understand what games we're playing and... How to better explain games so that way they're not confusing."

I then asked them what they think they could improve on. According to Mr. Devoe, "There's always things I can learn, and you can always improve no matter what you're doing." Mr. Mercer had something similar to say. "Just from the standpoint of teaching, teaching is both an art and a science, there's always going to be something that you can do better in any single one of your lessons... It's constantly a thing that I try to think about and try to improve on, but more than anything it's just trying to find ways to make sure that we are active in our learning and making sure that the students themselves are able to have a say within what they are learning."

The year is still only half over, so I moved on to some questions about the future. I started by asking what they look forward to. Mr. Mercer stated, "I'm really excited for the units that we have coming up, and hopefully we'll have more and more activities and projects that the students can really sink their teeth into and get more involved in. I really just enjoy the relationships that I've been able to have with the students, and more than anything, I'm just looking forward to getting to know you all better and be there with you all at a deeper level." Mr. Devoe said, "I look forward to just continuing to have a job where I get to teach kids how to use their fundamental skills, just the same stuff that was the reason why I wanted to be a P.E teacher in the first place." It seems that both of them do enjoy their job of teaching classes.

I also brought back a question from the first articles about them back in September. Both of them, when asked, anticipated certain challenges while starting here. Mr. Mercer said it would be an exciting challenge getting moved into the building, while Mr. Devoe said it would be a challenge to get used to the

schedule around here. Thankfully, after getting fully moved in, both of those challenges seemed to be solved. “Now that I don’t necessarily have to move as much, it’s been nice, and it’s awesome to not have to be in the band room anymore (where it just smelled like lunch food all the time). A lot of it, especially in the beginning, was ‘the only way out is through’ and there weren’t really a whole lot of options we had, besides just ‘these are the materials we have and we’re gonna go ahead and use them to the best of our abilities.’ It was a fun challenge that we were able to all kind of go through together, but I’m very much happy to be in a much more permanent location,” Mr. Mercer said. Mr. Devoe also said, “The schedule ended up easier than I thought, and the fact that we’re all in the same building now, the schedule just got easier in and of itself.”

When asked what other challenges they had overcome, Mr. Mercer said that learning how to juggle all the responsibilities of being a teacher was something he had been improving on, while Mr. Devoe said he had improved on teaching PE outside, as previously it would be hard to convince the kids it wasn’t just recess. I also asked them what challenges they feel are on the horizon, and while Mr. Devoe wasn’t sure of any, Mr. Mercer said that just continuing to create new lessons and to keep up with teaching would be a pretty big challenge.

Lastly, before ending the interview, I asked them what they would plan to do after the year finally comes to a close. Would they stay here or go somewhere new? For Mr. Mercer, what happens is still up in the air, and at this point in time he doesn’t know. For Mr. Devoe on the other hand, the answer was simple. “I plan to stay here.”

School Nurse Does The Accreditations For The School

By Madi Wood



Nurse Megan Steele was hired by Mr. Snyder as a school nurse and secretary in 2021. Then when she had her twins, she couldn’t work full time, and Kelly Johnson was hired as the new secretary. Nurse Megan continued working as a school nurse part time. She already

teaches nursing as a class. So, it was perfect that she was put in that role. Nurse Megan stated that, “Mr. Zimmerman hired me as the school nurse and Accreditations Chair.” An Accreditation Chair has to make sure that Flint Hills meets all twenty standards for re-accreditation, including curriculum, safety, hiring qualified teachers, and technology. Accreditation allows students to graduate from Flint Hills and attend an accredited college or university. Flint Hills is currently accredited by ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) and Nurse Megan’s task is to make sure we do everything right to stay accredited. “I tell the teachers that, hey, this month I need you to turn in documents in Bible and Math. Once teachers send those items to me, I document it to our accreditation,” said Nurse Megan. The hardest thing Megan has to deal with is when someone is sick. She isn’t authorized to treat students with antibiotics at the school because those types of medications can only be given at a hospital. The only thing she can do is send them home. It’s very hard for her to do that sometimes because some kids want to be at school. When Covid hit she realized that her kids should be in a private school that focuses on a biblical worldview. She used her knowledge and skills as a nurse to help Flint Hills through Covid. When she was living in Texas, she was at a private school. The first year they didn’t require school uniforms, however the second year they did. She realized that students were more attentive in class, no one worried about their looks because everyone looked the same. She observed that there was more respect, and less behavior issues. A fun fact about Nurse Megan is that she is a political guru. Her next goal is to run for political office. Learning about the Accreditation Chair was interesting and very inspiring.

New Eagles Soccer Team For Girls

By Madi Wood

Eagles girls soccer is a new team for Chief and Flint Hills students to play soccer together. It starts in the spring. There is a high school team for ninth grade through twelfth and a junior high team for sixth and eighth graders. This soccer team is new to Flint Hills. It is not new to Chief. The two coaches that will be teaching girls soccer are Jamie Peddicord and Jenna Catterson. Both of these coaches have

extensive experience with soccer; they have played soccer in high school through college. They are going to practice at Griffith Park at 4:00 pm on weekdays. It



will start on March sixth. They will play their home games at Anneberg Park. The season will end in early May. I went to Mr. Hoftra's office and talked to him about the new soccer team. We used to have a boys soccer team but we

don't anymore. The student body was talking to Chief families and that is what created the interest to have a girls soccer team. One of the coaches at Chief talked to Mr. Hofstra about the idea. "There is that rivalry but if you look at the Eagles football, we have had success in the past. Their football team has always been successful. Flint Hill Christian athletes who have played with Eagles football have a lot of success. Playing running back and wide receiver in football can only see what will happen in soccer. [The coaches] are aware of the athletic abilities that our athletes have," said Mr. Hofstra. In conclusion, as the new soccer team evolves, we should try and support the Eagles team.

and 23rd, and it's a pretty good one, too. We hope to see you all there!

Upcoming School Play

By Jacob Lorentzson

As of Thursday, February 16, practice for this year's school play has begun! A handful of actors from last year's play will be returning as well as some new ones! Some of those returning from the previous play will be Kendall Vandorn, playing the role of 'Director', Noah Marquardt, playing the understudy, Jacob Lorentzson, playing Shakespeare, Caleb Buchanan, playing Romeo, Cassidy Vandorn, playing 'Stage Mom', and Brady Smoller, playing 'Blatman'. There will also be many new faces starring in this play. Directed by Miss Shults and Miss Hall, the production this year is going to be *The Misadventures of Romeo and Juliet* by Stephen Frankenfield. Similarly to last year's play, *Tea, Trial, and True Love*, this year's play will be a comedy. This play takes place during a rehearsal of Romeo and Juliet, where a lot of wacky stuff then takes place. You will be able to see the play on April 22nd