

GVMS NEWS

STAFF Q&A



VOLUME 2. ISSUE 1. SPECIAL EDITION

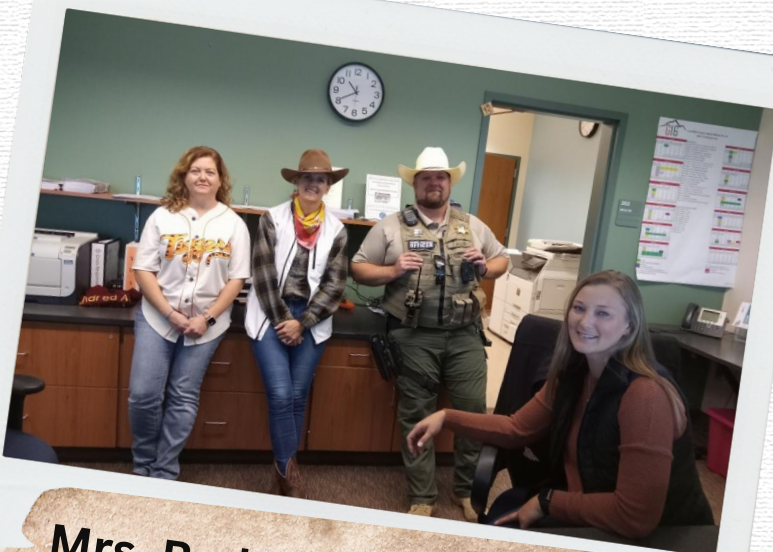
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023



Ms. Rath,
Ms. Knox, & Mr. Stanfield



Mr. Ferro, Mrs. McCormick,
Mrs. Carter & Mr. Amborn



Mrs. Radel, Mrs. Hoyt, Mr.
Miller & Mrs. Stark



Mr. Vashus, Mrs. Noble,
Mr. James & Ms. Johnson

Red Hall



Mr. Vashus
Science

1) Why did you choose GVMS?

I had taught 6th grade in the past and there was an opening here at GVMS. I took it and have been very happy with my decision.

2) What do you enjoy teaching most?

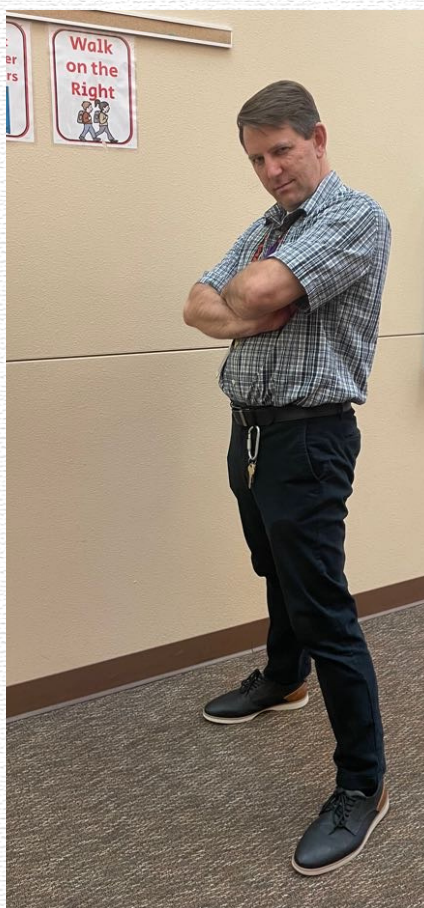
I definitely enjoy teaching, but to be honest, coaching wrestling is my passion. I am the head high school wrestling coach and love it.

3) What would be in your middle school locker?

Pretty much just my books and maybe the occasional snack.

4) What are your hobbies outside of work?

I love to go fishing, camping, and hiking. I also like eating out and traveling.



Mr. James
Social Studies & Theatre

1) Did you see the new "Star Wars" on opening night? What memories do you have from the first movie you ever saw in the theater?

I did not see "Star Wars" on opening night. Not a big enough fan for that. One of my memories is of my brother taking me to see "An American Tale" when I was a kid. He is 12 years older than me, so it was pretty cool that my high schooler brother took his annoying little brother to a movie.

2) Why did you start teaching?

I started teaching because I wanted to influence our world by encouraging kids to be the best people they can be. Sometimes kids in this country don't have the best experiences, and I wanted to be someone that could care enough for them to see them become a successful adult.

3) What would be in your middle school locker?

Nothing. I never used my locker (my school let us carry backpacks).

4) How many theatre productions have you been a part of? Do you write your own plays? Why did you bring a theatre class to GVMS?

I have been in many theatre productions. Enough that I don't want to have to figure it out. I do write my own plays. I have written many for children's theatre and one for an adult production. I am also working on a new musical that I hope to produce in a couple of years. I brought theatre to GVMS, because theatre is a great creative outlet. It also has shown to improve academic success in those who participate. Plus, it's a fun thing to do.

Red Hall



Mrs. Noble

Math

1) Why did you choose to come to GVMS?

I chose to come to GVMS to try out a new environment and teach Math. So far, everyone has been very kind and welcoming, and I am thankful to experience that this year.

2) What is your favorite number?

My favorite number is 21.

3) What would be in your middle school locker?

My middle school locker would probably have lots of pens and pencils, a mini-whiteboard, and snacks!

4) If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? Why?

If I could travel anywhere in the world, I would probably visit Iceland because of the many outdoor activities they have there! It seems like an awesome place.



Ms. Johnson

Literacy

1) What would be in your middle school locker?

My middle school locker was very organized with folders in the order of my class subjects with one extra folder for paper and a pencil box with supplies. It was not decorated.

2) How many years have you been teaching and how has it impacted your life?

I've been teaching since 1994, so it has been my entire life.

3) What subject was your favorite when you were still in school and why?

My favorite subject in school was art because I enjoyed creating new things.

4) How many dogs do you have? What are their names?

I have two dogs, Gengi and Snickers.

5) What mountains do you ski at? What do you like about skiing?

Last year I mostly skied at Powderhorn. I enjoy the quiet of the snowy landscape along with the adrenaline rush when going down a steep slope.

Purple Hall



Mrs. Carter

Literacy & Journalism

1) If you could be any animal in the world, what animal would you be and why?

I would be a cheetah because I love to run or a dolphin so that I could explore the ocean.

2) What do you like about being a teacher?

I love teaching! It is such a rewarding job even on the tough days. It is amazing to watch students suddenly experience the “aha” moment when confusing new skills or concepts suddenly become clear. I enjoy helping students grow in their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical thinking skills.

3) What would be in your middle school locker?

In my locker, I would have my backpack, books, notebooks, a planner, pencils, pictures of my friends, a mirror, my lunch, snacks, and inspirational quotes!

4) What is your favorite TV show to binge watch?

This is a hard question. I enjoy watching TV shows with my daughter, April, and right now we are rewatching season 1 of “Wednesday.” I also really like the show “Bones.”

5) What is your favorite inspirational quote?

“Every mountain top is within reach if you just keep climbing.” - Barry Finlay



Mr. Ferro

Science & Math

1) What are some of your hobbies outside of school?

Some of my outside of school hobbies are hiking, fishing, horseback riding, camping.

2) What is your favorite food?

My favorite food is lasagna.

3) How many years have you been a teacher?

This is my 31st year teaching.

4) Why did you choose to teach science?

Science is one if not the most interesting topic for me.

5) What would be in your middle school locker?

In my middle school locker I would have books, a jacket, a hat and a messy stack of papers.

Purple Hall



Mr. Amborn

Social Studies

1) What is one of your hidden talents?

I think that a hidden talent that I might have is that I am pretty good at video games. I have been playing video games since I was 10 and I am 34 now, so I have had some time to practice. I like playing “Madden”, “Call of Duty”, and “Mortal Kombat.”

2) What's the best part about being a teacher?

Summer break! But seriously it is the ability to impact the future in a small way. I really like the idea that I can help young people navigate their world. It is also cool seeing my past students and what they are doing with their lives.

3) What would be in your middle school locker?

A mountain of papers, crumpled up readings, an old banana peel, and half finished missing assignments. I was a mess.

4) What is your favorite moment in history?

That is a tough question to narrow it down to one, so I will give you three:

- I feel like the moment in history where humans began to take care of each other. The point where a human could survive a broken leg because other humans had the compassion to help them through it and survive.
- Also, I like learning about the middle ages where kings and knights ruled the land.
- I also think that the Civil Rights movement was a particularly inspirational time where nonviolent protests were able to impact real change on our nation.



Mrs. McCormick

Math

1) What inspired you to teach Math? What part of Math do you enjoy?

I had a math teacher that made class fun. The reason I keep teaching is the students. I like the moments when they begin to understand a concept. My favorite is when they tell me the lesson was really easy.

2) What is your favorite part about teaching?

My favorite part about teaching is coming to work everyday. I enjoy all the adults that I get to work with. Most importantly I like seeing students in the hall and asking them weird questions.

3) What would be in your middle school locker?

Books, a backpack, pictures on the door, mirror, lots of colors, a teleporting machine to take me anywhere I wanted to go.

THE GALS OF GREEN HALL



Ms. Rath

Science

1) What's the most important thing in your classroom?

My kiddos and my plants!

2) What's the best part of being a teacher?

Getting to know my students and having fun with them through working together, doing labs/ experiments, and watching them start to enjoy learning about science!

3) What would be in your middle school locker?

Lots of cheesy photos with friends, snacks, and a mini whiteboard for leaving each other notes!

4) What do you find most fascinating about science?

My favorite things to learn about are evolution and genetics, but I think science is fascinating because there are always new things being discovered all over the world!



Ms. Knox

Literacy & Yearbook

1) Did you like reading as a kid?

I looooved reading as a kid. My grandma would often take me to Books-a-Million where I would spend HOURS combing through the selection of books and begging my grandma to buy them for me. I've collected an insane amount of books over the years--when I moved to Colorado, I came with TWELVE boxes of books (and have acquired more since then 😂).

2) What is one of your hidden talents?

My hidden talent is I can make some of the BEST sweet tea (unbiased opinion, of course)

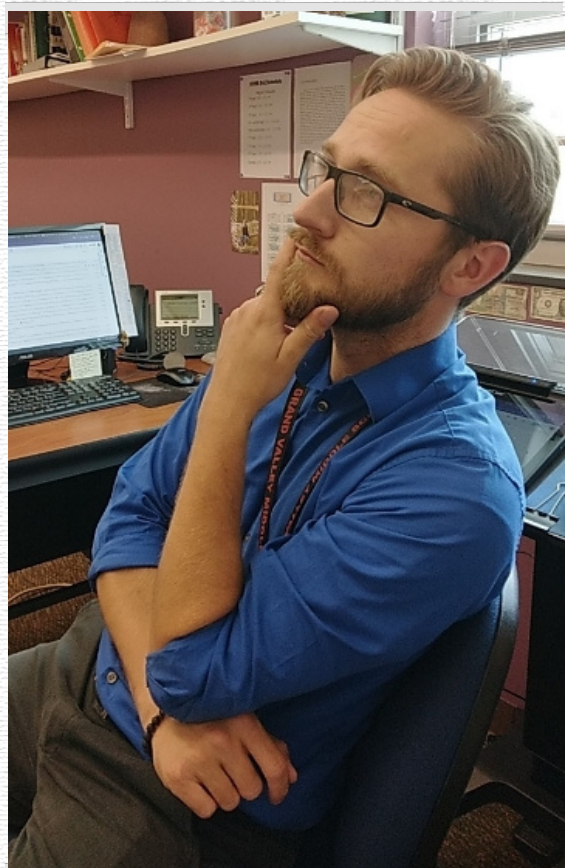
3) What would be in your middle school locker?

My middle school locker would probably have some printed-off photos and a whiteboard with a To Do list on it

4) if you were a book what genre would you be?

If I was a book genre, I like to think I would be a mystery/ thriller 😎.

THE GUYS OF GREEN HALL



Mr. Stanfield

Social Studies

1. What would be in your middle school locker?

I was not as organized as a middle school student as I am as an adult. So more than likely, old crumpled up homework, and lots of textbooks. Back in my day, we had to bring our textbooks to every class and we didn't have Chromebooks!

2. What is it like being a 7th grade social studies teacher?

Being a 7th grade social studies teacher is awesome! I love working with middle schoolers and teaching about a subject that I really love and enjoy. It is my goal to teach you guys as much as I can and make learning social studies fun.

3. Why did you decide to work here?

Well, my old school in Grand Junction was closed at the end of last year. So, I had to find a new teaching job. I just happened to meet Mr. Godfrey at a teacher job fair at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction. We spoke for a little and he offered me an interview, I came to Parachute and I fell in love with the small class sizes and awesome school building. So here I am!

4. What ancient civilization do you feel is the most interesting? Why?

Oh! That's a hard question. I love all of them, they are all so different and there are so many cool things to learn about them. But, if I had to choose, I love Medieval Europe most of all.



Mr. Carpenter

Math & Data and
Curriculum Specialist

1. What would you have in your middle school locker?

Paper, Pencils, Books, and an Organizer.

2. Why did you choose GVMS?

I chose GVMS because I had the opportunity for a change from teaching high school.

3. What do you like about teaching Mathematics?

The best part of teaching math is the "Ah ha" moments, this is when I see the lights go on for a student on a concept they didn't get before, coming from the realization that they can do anything in math if they put their minds to it.

4. What is your job when you are not teaching Math 6th hour?

I am a Data and Curriculum Specialist for GVMS.

Orange Hall



Ms. Mayo

Digital Media

1) What is the coolest camera you own?

My coolest camera is the Nishika n8000. It is a film camera that takes 4 pictures at once that, when edited together, creates one 3D picture! It's pretty old but still works very well.

2) What is it like having to care for so many computers being one person?

Luckily, I don't take care of them all by myself! All of my students work together to keep the computers in good condition. Also, Mr. Humphrey and Mr. Tanner in the IT department do an excellent job caring for the computers when they need a little extra help!

3) Why did you decide to work here?

I decided to work here after meeting the students and staff. Everyone was welcoming and excited to learn. Also, Colorado is pretty cool!

4) What would be in your middle school locker?

I never used my middle school locker! If I had, I would've put my textbooks, extra notebooks, and lunchbox in there. I think keeping some extra pencils or erasers would've been a good idea too.



Mr. Withouse

Art

1. What would be in your middle school locker?

Foldable kayak made in woodshop, a ceramic coil pot, and drawings of most cartoons on, during my time, "Ren & Stimpy," etc.

2. If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?

Haven't been to many places but Japan to learn about pottery and ceramics.

3. How many members do you have in your family?

I have 4 siblings, only one sister and my parents, but my personal family is my wife Angela and my three children Lennon, Penny, and Harrison.

Orange Hall



Mrs. Jones

Music



1) What inspired you to become a music teacher?

I grew up listening to my mother play trumpet, piano, and singing all the time. My father also really enjoyed music and I got exposed to all sorts of genres of music from an early age. I started playing piano at the age of 7 and then joined band playing saxophone at 11 (though I originally planned to play trumpet too). After years of playing in band with Mr. Webb at Fruita Middle and Mr. Crabtree at Fruita High I knew that music was something that I wanted to pursue in college (Music Scholarships paid for half of my tuition) and while I was at BYU-Idaho I studied Music and Geology. I couldn't decide which to focus on, but after a few years of working at Coal Ridge and Riverside as a pianist and assistant teacher for the choir program I knew that I would love to spend my years in a music classroom. I adored my students and had so much fun helping them create beautiful music and performances. I have been consistently in a music classroom ever since (2014).

2) What makes a good day at school?

A good day of school is full of making good music and seeing students make advancements in their ability. Our students are playing some really fun music this year in band, choir, and ukulele so it makes it easier to have fun. It is extra good when the students are focused and we are able to spend more of our time playing/singing as a group. However, it is also fun when once in a while the students are focused enough to have a short story time or a random question of the day. I have one student in particular that likes to ask random questions and most of the time it makes class extra fun.

3) What would be in your middle school locker?

If I had a locker now it would probably have an extra sweater just in case (did this in high school), snacks (particularly goldfish or cheetoh puffs), some candy, and maybe a couple of my favorite books (Jacky Faber, Lord of the Rings, Divine Rivals).

4) What instruments do you play?

I play so many instruments. In order to become a music teacher you have to show proficiency in every instrument you may have to teach. This includes: Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Saxophone, Bassoon, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, All Percussion Instruments (which is a lot in and of itself), Violin, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. However, for me to teach at a small district I also learned guitar and ukulele. I have also played the organ, hammered dulcimer, mountain dulcimer, theorbo and others. However, my main instruments are piano, saxophone, clarinet, and of course voice. I have played piano for 24 years, saxophone for 20 years, and clarinet for 11 years (mainly bass clarinet). Within the saxophone family I have played Soprano sax, Alto Sax (20 years), Tenor Sax (17 years), and Baritone Sax. I have been performing from the age of 5 (vocal solo performance for 1500 people) and have had so many incredible opportunities because of my crazy music background.

Orange Hall



Mr. Spies

PE

1) Why did you choose to teach?

In the army, I gravitated to jobs and assignments that allowed me to teach, when I got out I wanted to find a job where I felt I was still serving my country. After several years of reflection and bouncing around degrees (I spent 7 years in college) I decided to give teaching a go. When I landed the middle school job at GVMS 11 years ago, it sparked a passion that has kept me here ever since! I get to have the privilege of helping generations of young people find ways to be as happy as I feel with my life choices. I can think of no greater honor.

2) How long have you been teaching?

Oof. I am in my 11th year teaching here and my 12th year teaching in general. I was a long term high school substitute teacher as I completed my license. It's cool because I know that my former charges are out there in the world living their dreams and I can say that I did my very best to help them find their passions.

3) What would be in your middle school locker?

In middle school I was not at all popular, I had 2 friends, and we were skateboarders. I avoided most people and my locker if possible. Inside was likely an enormous quantity of loose paper and junk, a skateboard, snacks, and anything I didn't actually need or wasn't allowed to have. I was allowed to wear hoodies, hats, and carry a trapper keeper which is why MOST of my stuff was on my person... and I had an obsession with pencils and pens so I had a LOT of them in my pockets. There was no phone because I am old enough to predate cell phones.



Ms. Livingston

Special Education

1) What is your favorite snack you see kids bringing in?

My favorite snack that I see kids bring in is chips.

2) What is your favorite thing a kid/student has ever said to you?

My favorite thing a student has said to me was "I love rocks!"

3) What would be in your middle school locker?

I would have snacks and colored pens in my locker.

4) How long have you been in education?

I have been in education for 34 years.

5) What do you enjoy about your job?

I enjoy learning new things within my job.

Orange Hall



Ms. Flor
ELL

1) What is the best thing about working in a school?

The best thing working in a school is to help the students and to change their mind about school that is ok to have an education. To help the students understand the importance of having an education.

2) What led you on your journey to becoming such an incredible and memorable teacher?

Wow! That's a great question! Well when I was in school I didn't know English, and my teachers didn't talk to me or even help me. I was sitting in the corner of the class. There was no one that could help me or even translate for me. I cry day by day to the point that I didn't wanted to go to school. But one day a teacher spoke to me in Spanish (I would never forget Mrs. Piña) she told me that I was really brave and I could be anyone I wanted to be, and the day change my life, she help me learn English. And that was the day I promise myself that I was going to do anything on my power to be a teacher as good as Mrs Piña that she wanted to help the students. And I wanted that, to change the minds of students, to show them that dreams do come true. to help them understand that education is importance in this world. And I want my legacy to be that to be the greatest teacher I could be to change a little part of the world. I told myself if I could help other it didn't matter if it was a student a parent or anyone that need it my help I am going to be there to help anyone.

3) What would be in your middle school locker?

My locker had pictures of my friends, P.E clothes, bag with a brush, and hair ties. Books and trash of course.



Mr. Crowhurst
Special Education

1) What is your dream vacation?

I love the mountains, so anytime I can spend time in the mountains is a vacation. I have been to every peak in Colorado and Wyoming, 14,000 feet and above. Each day I climb is a vacation. Any time I can ski is a vacation. Any time in the mountains is a vacation.

2) Do you like cats or dogs more?

I have both, but Rocky, my dog, is definitely the best. He is a big ol crazy Newfoundland who loves to play and be with people.

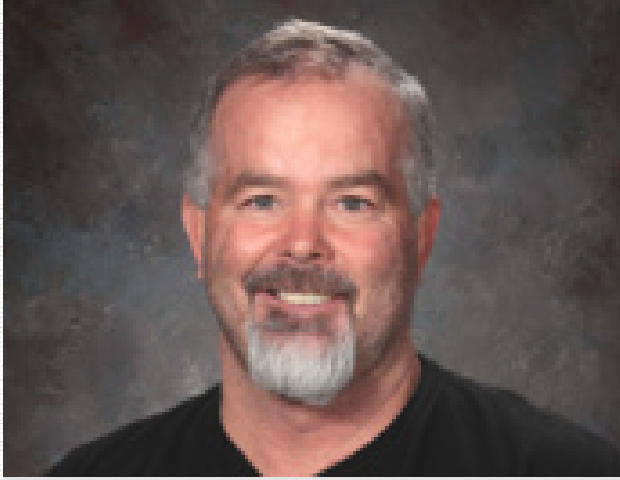
3) What would be in your middle school locker?

My MS locker would have wrestling shoes and books. The shoes would probably be used more than the books.

4) What is the highlight of your job?

Kids like you!

Administrators



Mr. Godfrey

Principal

1) What would you have in your middle school locker?

Books.

2) What clique were you a part of in high school?

Our high school did not have cliques.

3) What did you want to become before becoming a teacher?

An artist.

4) What do you enjoy about being the Principal?

The students.

5) What is your greatest accomplishment?

My children.



Mrs. Speakman

Assistant Principal &
Athletic Director

1) What clique were you in in high school?

I went to high school in Paonia, Colorado. I was lucky enough to attend school K-12. In school, I was very involved in sports, drill team, and band. I hung out with the student athletes.

2) What made you leave the classroom to become a principal?

I left the classroom because I wanted to be a mentor to teachers and students. I enjoyed teaching and wanted to expand my love of teaching with other professionals. As an administrator, I can help make decisions to positively affect staff and students.

3) What would be in your middle school locker?

In my middle school locker, I kept my school supplies, pictures of my friends, a mirror, and my lunch.

4) What is the hardest part of your job?

The hardest part of my job is when students make poor decisions. I don't enjoy discipline, but believe helping students become better human beings is necessary.

5) What do you enjoy about being the Assistant Principal?

The best part of my job is getting to go into the classroom to see what students are learning. I also enjoy seeing how teachers interact with students and engage them in learning.

Secretaries



Mrs. Radel
Administrative Assistant

1) Why did you choose to work here?

I needed a change from what I was doing before.

2) Whats your favorite thing to do at work?

Interact with students and teachers.

3) What would be in your middle school locker?

Books, folders, snacks, pictures of friends, sport stuff.

4) Whats a day in the office like?

4. CRAZY! It is a constant craziness between the phone, students, parents, and teachers.

5) I hear you take photos as a side gig. What kind of photos do you take?

I do! I mostly take senior photos, but I do families and wildlife and landscape (when I have time).



Mrs. Stark
Attendance Secretary & Health Clerk

1) Why did you choose to work at GVMS?

I chose the middle school to work for because I loved the staff when my daughters came here. I also chose the school because I love having summers off.

3) What does a day in the office of GVMS look like?

Honestly, a day in the office is typically hectic. I think that is why I like it because it makes my day go by faster.

3) What was your favorite subject (or elective) in school?

My favorite subject in school was Math and accounting.

4) What would be in your middle school locker?

Food, any kind of snack.



Counselor



Mrs. Hoyt

Counselor

1) Why did you want to become a counselor?

I wanted to become a counselor to help students learn the skills necessary to be successful in all aspects of life. I also love that I still get to work with students every day but don't have to spend hours grading their schoolwork! 😊

2) How many years have you been teaching/ counseling here?

I taught at GVMS for 8 years, and I am in my second year as the counselor.

3) What is your favorite food?

I like too many foods to have one favorite, but maybe cheesecake.

4) What would be in your middle school locker?

In my middle school locker, I had pictures of my friends and all the stuff I needed for sports practices (tennis shoes, socks, knee pads, etc).

PARA PROS!



Ms. Kayla F.

Special Education Paraprofessional

1) What inspired you to become a paraprofessional?

I thought it would be a good opportunity to help others.

2) What makes a good day at school?

When everyone else is having a good day.

3) What would be in your middle school locker?

School supplies and art things.

4) What class do you help out in? What do you like about helping out in that class?

I do what is needed. I like to help get work done.



Ms. Kayla P.

Special Education Paraprofessional

1) What is one of your hidden talents?

One of my hidden talents is organization skills

2) What's the best part of being a paraprofessional?

The best part of being a paraprofessional is working in the same school district my children attend.

3) What would be in your middle school locker?

In my middle school locker you would have found *NSYNC posters, body sprays, chapstick, and gel pens.

PARA PROS!



Ms. Rachael

Special Education Paraprofessional

1) What is the hardest part about being a paraprofessional?

The hardest part about my job is watching kids struggle. All the kids I work with are smart, but they have a difficult time with certain things.

2) Why did you come to work here?

I came to work in Garfield 16 because I live in Parachute and my daughter started school in this district. It makes it easy to work and take care of her.

3) What is the highlight of your job?

The highlight of my job is getting to work with kids and seeing them learn and grow. I have fun joking with kids and having fun.

4) What would be in your middle school locker?

In my middle school locker, I would have books I like to read, Jolly Ranchers, Life Saver mint candy, water, and whatever was needed for class.



Ms. Yandell

English Language Learner Paraprofessional

1. What is your favorite thing to drink?

My favorite drink is a chai tea latte.

2. What would be in your middle school locker?

Organizers and a board to write little reminders.

3. What do you enjoy about your job?

Seeing the kids I help grow, and not let the language barrier prevent them from getting an education.

4. What do you do in your free time?

I like to read or take my dog on walks.

PARA PROS!



Ms. Candie

Special Education Paraprofessional

1) What would be in your middle school locker?

In my locker I would have school stuff of course, and probably 5 packs of different kinds of gum (I am addicted to chewing gum), and a backpack, along with a change of clothes for volleyball, a mirror, and about 10 different kinds of lip glosses.

2) Why did you choose Grand Valley Middle School to work at?

I transferred over from the De Beque school, because I wanted to work with the higher up grades, and Grand Valley Middle School is very structured and I love that. I also would like to transfer my kids over because I feel there are more sports options for them here.

3) What is your favorite part about helping GVMS?

I love watching kids grow academically, and I love bonding with all of the students and getting to know everyone. It's such a fun school, I love that they have Friday assemblies, watching all the kids work together and bond together has been a great experience! Also a bonus, all staff members have been wonderful to work with.



Ms. Amanda

Special Education
Paraprofessional

1) What drew you to be a paraprofessional?

I love kids and I love helping others. I went to college to become a nurse and have done that job, but I wanted to do something else and the paraprofessional job fit me.

2) What do you do in your free time?

In my free time, I spend it with my family, which is my husband, and two sons, I also spend time with my nieces and nephews their mom, and my friends. We go to the movies, go camping, go play bingo, go out to dinner, and just hang out.

3) What is your hidden talent?

Well I don't have a hidden talent, with me what you see is what you get, no surprises.

4) What would be in your middle school locker?

In my middle school locker, there would be notebooks, pens, pencils, and pictures of my friends and family along with makeup and hairspray.

Food Services



Ms. Archuleta
Kitchen Manager

1) What would be in your middle school locker?

My middle school locker would probably contain a mirror, some decorations, paper, pencils/ pens, maybe some gum/ candy, and maybe a small poster of my favorite band.

2) Why did you choose to work at GVMS?

I chose to work at GVMS for a couple of reasons.

- It worked with my children's schedules.
- I love to cook/ bake.
- I've always enjoyed working with children.



3) What is your favorite school lunch?

My favorite school lunch would be Breakfast for lunch, I also really like the Holiday dinners (Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Dinner Roll, Veggies) YUM!!!

4) What's the highlight of your job?

The highlight of my job is watching the kids of our future become these amazing human beings that have more and more understanding of the world around them as they grow up. (It's also a lot of fun working with the ladies I work with. They have been amazing!)



Ms. Hamilton
Lead Cook

1) What is a good memory in the kitchen?

Getting to cook with great friends in the kitchen. We have a lot of laughs daily.

2) What's your favorite thing to make for the students?

I love to bake desserts, but we have only done cobblers a few times.

3) What would be in your middle school locker?

I do have a locker in the kitchen. In it is a jacket and gloves to put inventory away in the freezer. Drink mixes, arm protectors, burn gel, and cards from students. Also, decorations to celebrate each season.



Ms. Baltazar
Prep Cook & Server

1) What would be in your middle school locker?

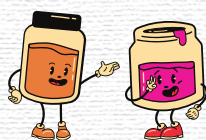
In my locker, I would have my phone, personal things, and my families phone numbers.

2) What is your favorite thing to prepare for lunch?

Enchiladas and barbacoa.

3) What is the most popular lunch item?

Salsa.



Gustodians



Ms. Holly
Lead Custodian

1) What was the nastiest thing you had cleaned in this school?

The nastiest thing I have ever cleaned up would be vomit hands down.

2) What do you do in your spare time?

In my spare time I spend my time with my new grand daughter (Lena) and play with my dog (Roid). I also love camping, hiking, hunting, cooking, traveling and bowling.

3) What would be in your middle school locker?

In my locker, you could find a jacket, a pair of sneakers, paper, and a pen.

4) How long have you worked at GVMS?

I have worked at GVMS since the building was first built 14 years ago, but have worked in the district for 16 years. I can't imagine being anywhere else.



Mr. Alberto
Night Custodian

1. What do you like about your job?

I like that I get to work alone and that I am not rushed.

2. What would be in your middle school locker?

I am unsure what I would put in my locker.

3. How long have you worked at GVMS?

I am going to celebrate 10 years working for the middle school.



SRO & Nurse



Deputy Miller
School Resource Officer

1) What do you enjoy about being a school resource officer?

I enjoy coaching, mentoring, and making an impact in people's lives. I love it when the students stop seeing the uniform and start to see the guy who wears it.

2) What is your favorite thing a kid/ student has ever said to you?

That I have made an impact in their lives.

3) What is your favorite snack you see kids bringing in? Flaming Hot Cheetos.

4) What would be in your middle school locker?

Hoodie, Candy, some crumpled up school work.



Ms. Laidlaw
School Nurse

1) What's the best thing about being a nurse?

The best thing about being a nurse is getting the opportunity to teach people new things. As a nurse you get to teach people how to make themselves feel better, how to cope with comorbidities, or losing a family member, and much more.

2) Why did you choose to be a nurse?

I chose to be a nurse because of the variety of career options there are. I always wanted to work in surgery in some form or fashion and/ or be a teacher (I know a big difference) growing up. Becoming a nurse allowed me to do both of those things. I loved working in the OR it was one of my favorite jobs, however it was very un-family friendly, and my kids are my number one, therefore I changed my paths, and I absolutely love being a nurse for a school district because I can teach, I can make observations, I can collect data, and so much more. And, best of all, it's a great family schedule. Knowing that there are so many different options/ things I can do as a nurse, makes this a wonderful job to have!

3) What would be in your middle school locker?

Food (snacks are life).

Technology



Mr. Tanner

Systems Administrator

1) What would be in your middle school locker?

I attended middle school in a VERY small community in Wyoming. My 8th grade class was me, Donny, & Jody 😊 We didn't have lockers, but we did have the desks with a lid that lifts and we stored stuff inside. And let me tell you... mine was a MESS! Pens, pencils, text books, Kleenex, snacks, old assignments, baseball cards, pencil sharpener shavings, you name it!

2) How many tasks or small jobs do you have to do each day?

We have a helpdesk app that creates tickets whenever someone emails helpdesk@garfield16.org about a problem they're having. According to it, I solve about 18.5 issues each day. Of course, not every problem gets out on helpdesk, but that's a near enough estimate.

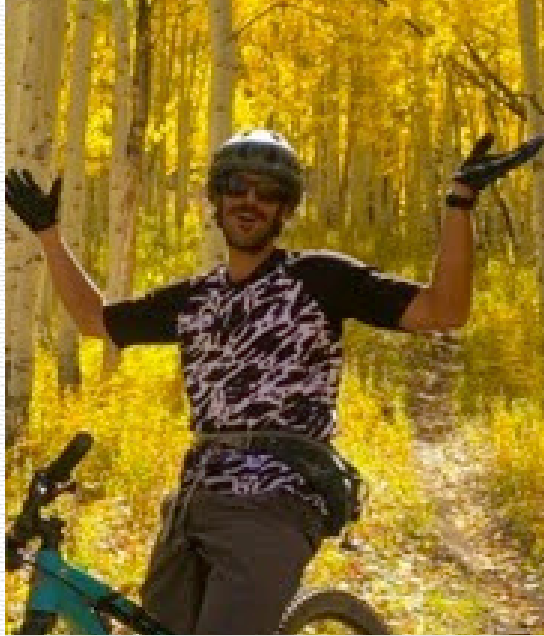
3) I've heard that you have a son, Liam Tanner, a 7th Grader here at GVMS, how does it feel to work in the same building with him?

I love being in the building with him! It always brightens my day when I get to see him in the halls or in a class where I go to offer support. I think he likes it too so I can help when he forgets something... which happens a LOT 😊 lol

4) I heard you are a coach as well. What do you coach? What do you enjoy about coaching?

I have coached in the past. I have coached a lot of basketball, boys and girls, from 3rd grade youth all the way up through high school varsity. I've also coached high school football and Piranhas football. I've coached baseball and tee ball. I've even coached some soccer for my daughter when she was young. I believe that sports are important to developing character. There are things that kids learn through sports that simply can't be taught in a classroom. Grit, discipline, leadership, mental toughness... these things can only be fully developed by pushing the boundaries of your capabilities and sports allow that. Or, if you want to be good, demand that. I love helping my players develop those aspects of their character.

Outdoor Education



Mr. Ari

Outdoor Education Coordinator

1) What would be in your middle school locker? Why?

Inside my middle school locker, you'd find cutouts from Thrasher Magazine, skate shoes, and an old ham sandwich because skateboarding was life. And the ham sandwich because I hated them even though my parents would make them every day.

2) What was your favorite part about teaching science?

My favorite part was watching kids blow things up and being able to explain why, because who doesn't like blowing up things in class?

3) Why did you leave the classroom to become an Outdoor Education Coordinator?

I became an Outdoor Ed. Coordinator because as much as I love teaching in the classroom, I think helping teachers and schools to get students outside is important to learning. And I get to share my love of the outdoors with kids and learn about what they enjoy outside.

4) What is your favorite outdoor activity?

My favorite activity is mountain biking in the summer and snowboarding in the winter. But anything I can do to be outside brings me happiness.

Psychologist



1) What made you want to be a psychologist?

I have an autistic brother who needed a lot of support in school. He's only a year younger than me, so we were usually in the same school, and my mom would bring both of us to his IEP meetings. I saw how the psychologist supported him and knew I wanted to help kids too!

2) What do you do in your free time?

In my free time, I like to read, go hiking, and play Animal Crossing. I'm also big into cross-stitching!

3) What would be in your middle school locker?

My middle school locker was full of doodles from my friends and pictures of the Backstreet Boys.

4) What is your favorite Disney movie?

My favorite Disney movie of all time is Beauty and the Beast (the animated one from 1991). The songs are GREAT and I identify with Belle so much because she's a brunette book nerd like me!



Ms. Jackie

School Psychologist