

# COUGAR & REVIEW

Back to School

THE YEAR OF THE COUGARS

2025

## DOWN IN THE D.R.



BY: ADDISON BRUNSTING

Over the summer, a group of our classmates traded textbooks for passports and headed to the Dominican Republic for a once in a lifetime school trip. Between soaking up the sun, trying new foods, and helping local communities, the students came home with more than just souvenirs; they returned with stories, memories, and a new perspective on the world.

The opportunity to partake in this amazing experience was introduced early in the 2024-2025 school year for students in any Spanish class to use their speaking skills in real world scenarios. Although most students will say that they have no interest in what they learn in school, these select individuals decided they were going to take what they learned and use it in stride.



From classrooms to Caribbean shores! We're trading textbooks for turquoise waters and making memories that will last a lifetime in the Dominican Republic.

Ms. Grimes, a leader in the trip, and Greenfield-Central's own Spanish teacher said, "Overall, what I liked most about the trip was watching my students become interested in this place and culture."

One of the coolest parts about the trip was how much everyone got to practice their Spanish. Instead of just memorizing vocabulary words for a test, students were living the words and using them for everyday tasks that might not result from sitting in a classroom studying. Not only was the trip educational, but it was also enjoyable as the students were able to go to beaches, explore, and so much more.

There are school trips every year, in the spring and in the fall! Stop by the language hallway and see what interesting places you can travel to with GC. Go Cougars!



# BLUE & GOLD PATROL

BY BRODY ASH

Just before the start of the new school year, Greenfield-Central School Corporation launched its own dedicated police force. Until now, the Greenfield Police Department covered school security during officers' free time, a practice that created added strain and disruption to their regular schedules.

More information was revealed in a recent interview with Officer Mullins. When asked about challenges before the implementation of the new force, Mullins replied, "Well, the biggest was that GCPD officers were essentially volunteering their personal time to help us out. They were coming in during their off-duty hours to provide security at school events and handle any incidents." He went on to explain the effect it had on the officers, "Well, that's where we really saw the problem. These officers should have been resting and spending time with their families during their days off. Still, instead, they were working additional hours at our schools."

This new arrangement offers several significant advantages. First, it absolutely reduces the burden on GCPD staff, who no longer need to sacrifice their personal time to provide school security.



Tray Strunk, A school resource officer at the Green Field Corporation.

Officers can now enjoy their days off without worrying about being called in for school-related incidents. The newly dedicated school police force means that Greenfield-Central now has consistent, reliable, and corporate security coverage that is specifically trained to handle the challenges that can arise in schools. Most importantly, this change is expected to increase overall safety and security throughout the school district, giving parents, students, and educators greater peace of mind.



# REEL IMPACT

BY JULIANN JONES

A new challenge is roaming the halls of Greenfield-Central. The Reel Impact Challenge from the Indiana Association of School Principals is challenging high school students to create their own video highlighting a school activity of their choice! Athletics, band, choir, newspaper, or any other activity related to Greenfield-Central can be showcased through this activity. Find pictures online through Facebook, Instagram, or anywhere else to submit to your teacher or assistant principal. The winner of this challenge is rewarded in a plethora of ways! Greenfield-Central Senior Juliann Jones has created an example video, posted on social media, highlighting Greenfield Athletics. She is currently an intern at IASP and was commissioned to create this through them! For the video, travel to Greenfield-Central Cougars to watch. Check this challenge out and see if that's something your Cougar Pride is interested in!

# UNPACKING THE BACKPACK

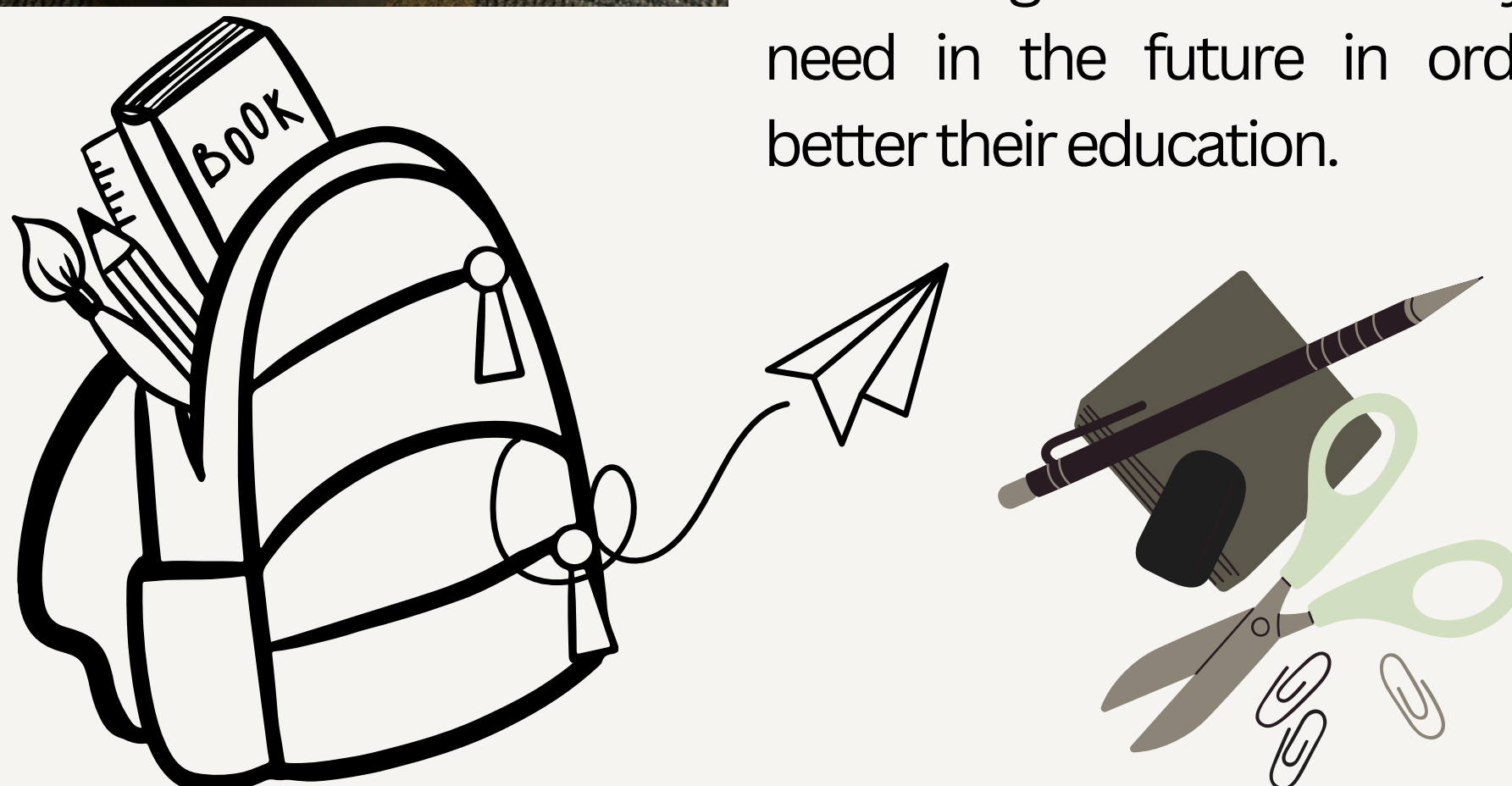
Ever wonder what's hiding in your classmates' backpacks? From crumpled homework to mystery snacks, every bag tells a story. We unzipped a few to see what students really carry around all day.

Buying school supplies for upcoming school years has and will continue to be a huge event for Back to School season. No matter what grade you are in, whether you are going into kindergarten or senior year of college, it is a given that some type of school supplies will be needed. Olivia Stevens (Sophomore) has a full backpack of supplies including a binder, several folders and notebooks, a pencil case, and an iPad. "My iPad is probably the most important thing to me in my backpack because that is what I do all of my work on." Says Junior Brody Ash.

BY ADDISON BRUNSTING



At the end of the day, what's inside our backpacks is like a sneak peek into who we are as students. Some people are organized with everything, while others just toss in whatever they need and hope for the best. Either way, our backpacks are filled with the things that help us get through the school day. From snacks to chargers, it's all something students feel they may need in the future in order to better their education.



## THE BEST TIME OF YEAR

BY JULIANN JONES

As the air cools off and Friday night lights begin again, there is a new title waiting to be claimed. Greenfield-Central's Homecoming Week begins September 15 and a new Homecoming King and Queen are waiting to be crowned.

Before the Friday night game, there is a week of festivities. Float decorating, fun themes throughout the day, and late-night planning for what's to come Saturday, homecoming will be a time to remember. Cougars— make sure to sign up for male volleyball and powderpuff, representing your grade in front of the whole school for a day. The pep rally, Powderpuff Championship, and Staff vs. High Schoolers games are something to see. Stay the whole day to experience the fun!

Running for King and Queen is easy, winning is the hard part. If interested, fill out the form in your year classroom (ex. Class of 2026), write you and your partner's names, and Mrs. McCall will get back to you! Riding in a float during the parade after school is an honor, join your club for a ride or stand and catch some candy!



# ABSOLUTELY RADIATING!

BY LAYLA LONG

In December of 1898, French physicists Marie Curie and Pierre Curie had announced their discovery of a chemical element named Radium, alongside another element called Polonium. However, its properties were not well known. It had been used successfully in treatments for cancer; many considered radium as a miracle element, and a variety of commercial products such as toothpaste and cosmetics, led radium to become an active ingredient. 20 years later, one horrific incident in a factory changed the view of the once considered “miracle element” forever.

During the onset of World War 1, several factories were established across the United States to produce watches and military dials, painted with a material containing radium, a radioactive element that glows in the dark. Hundreds of young women were hired for the well-paying painting jobs because of their small hands, well suited for the exact, detailed work. They were under the impression that the chemical was harmless, as there was a common practice called “lip-pointing”, where they would shape the paintbrush tips to a fine tip with their lips. Radium was used to treat cancerous diseases, so how bad could it possibly be?

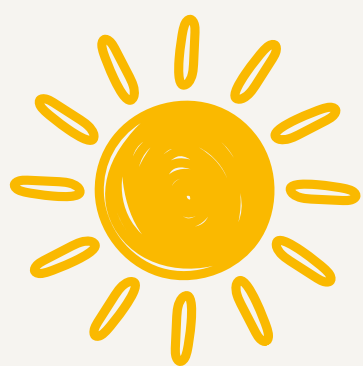
Throughout 1917 to 1926, about six women were exposed to radiation. Among the six was Amelia “Mollie” Maggia, who was the first of these victims. She reported having a toothache, which required the removal of the tooth. Soon after it was removed, the tooth next to where it had been extracted, painful ulcers, bleeding and full of pus developed where the tooth had been, which

cultivated in her lower jaw being removed. Maggia died on September 12, 1922, of a massive hemorrhage. However, her death had been ruled out to be syphilis. After these horrific incidents, the factories were sued by a dying radium worker named Catherine Wolfe over her illness, and the issue was finally settled. The Radium Girls case was among the first in which a company was held responsible for the health and safety of its employees, and it led to a variety of reforms as well as the creation of the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Many years later, the legacy of the Radium Girls has been remembered in several works, one of them being *These Shining Lives* by Melanie Marnich. The play explores the dangers women faced in the workplace and the lack of concern companies showed for their health and safety. This fall, the Greenfield-Central High School Drama Department will bring *These Shining Lives* to the stage on October 2-4, 2025.



An Image of a scene in *These Shining Lives* production at UCI Arts.



# SUMMING UP SUMMER

BY DONNIE BLACKBURN

*This summer, while many teens were relaxing by the pool or hanging out with friends, Brody Ash was building responsibility and independence. Between family visits in Texas, earning his own money, and taking steps toward becoming a licensed driver, Brody's summer was one he said made him "proud" of the accomplishments he achieved.*

*When Brody arrived at his family's home in Texas, he was greeted with smiles and warm reunions. "I enjoyed Texas and getting a job — it makes me feel responsible. Along with getting my learner's permit, I'm really proud of myself," Brody said with a grin.*

*His summer was a balance of work and fun. Brody landed a summer job at Burger King, giving him the chance to make and save his own money. With his learner's permit in hand, he's now saving toward his first car so that when he gets his license, he'll be able to drive himself to school and work.*

*Texas offered plenty of downtime fun, too. From barbecues to watching bull riding, Brody made the most of what the Lone Star State has to offer. Visiting relatives also gave him a chance to reconnect with family he doesn't see often. "Visits really help people feel better after long periods of time away," he reflected.*

*For Brody, summer wasn't just about enjoying the moment — it was about growth. Whether through family, new responsibilities, or personal goals, he found ways to enjoy himself while preparing for the future. And while Brody's summer may have looked different from yours, he reminds us that every summer holds something special. Some spend it with family, some focus on their future, and others take time to simply relax. What matters most, he says, is that you "make the summer yours — be yourself, believe in yourself, and make your dreams come true."*





## FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

BY ASHER HOOTS

The Greenfield-Central football season is officially here, and excitement is in the air! Following a triumphant and exhilarating 2024 season, the Cougars are ready to hit the field once again. With renewed determination and a fierce competitive spirit, they are focused on one goal: victory! Fans can expect thrilling plays, intense teamwork, and the relentless drive to win as the Cougars fight on this electrifying journey. Get ready to cheer them on as we enter a new season!

On August 22, the Cougars played their first game, suffering a heartbreaking loss, with a score of 38-16. After this disappointing loss for the Cougars, the upcoming game against Greensburg will showcase their talent as they strive to work harder as a team.

Although it was an upsetting night, senior corner Carson Anderson said, "This was a loss that won't be repeated. We're still figuring out some things, so keep believing in us." One of the captains, senior Landen Ford, also stated, "The loss was hard, but it's one game out of our year, the boys are picking themselves up, and we won't let this happen again."



Football Season is back and the Greenfield-Central Cougars are paving the way for another record breaking season. As the band is putting on breathtaking performances every night, so are the boys. The coaching staff is leading the Cougars into another historic season, proving that this one will be a challenge!

## KICKIN' IT WITH THE COUGS

BY TREVOR LEONARD



The Greenfield-Central High School Boys Varsity soccer team is looking to have a great year in the 2025 season

After a disappointing 2024 season, the GCHS soccer team enters the new year with renewed determination and high hopes for a turnaround on the field. The 2024 season proved to be a challenging one for the GCHS soccer team. However, the players have taken the lessons learned from last year to heart, using them as motivation to improve and grow. When speaking with some of the players and coaches on the team, they all expressed the expectation that this year will be better, with more wins.

The Cougars had their first game of the season on Saturday, Aug. 16, against South Dearborn. The Cougars won 3-0 after Grayson Young scored two goals and Cale Caldwell added one goal, while goalkeeper Parker Takach kept a clean sheet.

On Aug. 19, GCHS tied with the Batesville Bulldogs. Grayson Young scored twice, and Bennett Singco also scored a goal in the 3-3 tie. Parker Takach, Bennett Singco, and Cale Caldwell all had assists

In the Cougars' game against the East Central Trojans on Aug. 23, the visiting East Central Trojans soccer squad scored a tight 1-0 win over the Greenfield-Central Cougars. Come out and support the Cougars!

# FOR THE SPIRIT OF THE GAME

BY HAYDEN KING

With quick sets, powerful swings and a hunger to prove themselves, the Greenfield-Central Cougars are charging into the season ready to make noise in the Hoosier Heritage Conference. Their first game is Monday, Aug. 18, and after weeks of preparation, the Cougars are determined to make this their best season yet.

Head varsity volleyball coach Candice Wyatt said in a recent interview, “I see this team accomplishing a rebuilding season. It’s going to have a lot of growing. I feel like the way we start the season and the way we end the season is going to look completely different.” Wyatt said she is excited to see the team’s talent come together, especially with many young players who joined during the past two seasons. “We spent a lot of time working over the summer. This year’s sophomores and freshmen were both part of our youth league that we’ve done the last two years, so that’s been preparing players with a lot of their fundamentals,” she said. “Lots of offseason workouts and encouraging players to play club volleyball in the offseason.” Wyatt also noted that one area of focus is communication. “We do drills that require you to communicate to be successful in the drill,” she said. “I’m constantly reminding the athletes to communicate and then implement drills that force you to communicate.”

Head varsity volleyball coach Candice Wyatt said she has high expectations for her athletes this season. “For each athlete, I would like them to achieve some personal goals this season — for their own stats, to look at their week-to-week progress, specifically on serving,” she said. Wyatt explained why she is so passionate about coaching. “I love building relationships with people, and I just love competing. I don’t think I could ever get away from volleyball.” Wyatt played volleyball all four years of high school, along with two years of softball and two years of track. She earned her undergraduate degree at IUPUI, then received her master’s and doctorate degrees from Butler University. Outside of coaching, she works as a physician assistant at Hancock Dermatology.

Balancing her career and coaching can be difficult, she said. “Thankfully I have a good work schedule and understanding of my position. Once we get into actually having multiple games a week, it’ll be tougher having more late nights.”



The Greenfield-Central varsity volleyball team marks the start of its season at media day.

Wyatt concluded, “I love coaching, and I’m glad I’m back for my third season.” The Greenfield-Central volleyball team has a lot to prove this season, and players are eager to make it their best yet.



# TENNIS BROS

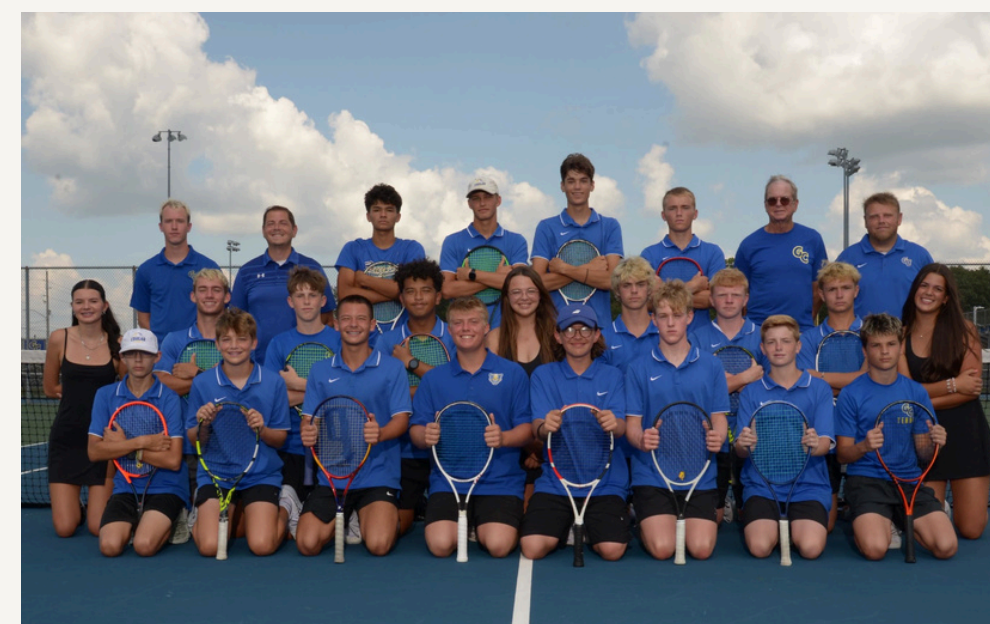
BY BRODY ASH

This year the boys tennis team is bouncing back stronger than ever. However, the pressure is on with the new season just over the horizon. Will they succeed? Let's find out and give them our best support. The head coach, now in his 30s, was once part of this same team. After three and a half years of coaching, he understands how tennis transforms people. Having experienced both triumphant victories and valuable defeats, he teaches players that each outcome offers important lessons for personal growth. Athletes discover how to support teammates while keeping sight of larger goals.

One of the program's proudest moments came in 2023 when the boys reached sectionals for the first time since 2007. This achievement demonstrated the program's remarkable progress and set the stage for even greater ambitions. The coach aims not only to return to sectionals but also to establish a lasting tradition of excellence for future players. The coaching staff prioritizes teaching life lessons alongside tennis skills. Hard work, respect, and determination form the foundation of their philosophy. This season, the team plays for themselves, their program's history, and its future. With the assistant coach's experience, the head coach's commitment, and the players' determination, they're prepared to make this year truly memorable. Tennis may look like an individual sport, but for this team, it is about brotherhood. Every match is a chance to prove that with hard work and teamwork, anything is possible.



"More than just a team, we're a family. We've got each other's backs on and off the field, building a legacy of hard work, respect, and determination."



# TEE TIME

BY ZOEY BLOMBERG

School is starting up again, and with it comes the kickoff of multiple sports seasons—one of those is girls golf. With a mix of new and returning players, the girls are ready to make a strong impact in the Hoosier Heritage Conference. After their season ended in sectionals last year, the team is ready for a fresh start beginning August 5<sup>th</sup>. Several team members have been playing for a long time, and their experience is paying off. They picked up



their fit win against Triton Central and Rushville on August 11. During their first win of the season, the team showcased exceptional individual performances that contributed to the overall success. Senior Kate Baker led with a score of 51. Close behind her was Aly Wilson, who scored a 52. Senior Alissa Kitcoff also made a significant contribution to the win, scoring a 57. Finally, Leighanna Gibbs scored a 59. With this promising start to the season, the team looks forward to building on this momentum in their upcoming games.

# SPOTLIGHT: NEW COUGS

BY HAYDEN KING

Greenfield-Central welcomed nine new teachers and staff this fall for the 2025-2026 school year. New to GCHS are Matt Clayton, Haley Diaz-Vega, Garret Gieseke, Breanna Herbst, Amanda Hodge, Becca Key-Kerr, Ethan Robbins, Miles Wayer, and Jackson Williams. Exciting new adventures and opportunities await them as their journey begins here in Cougar country.

In a recent interview, three of the new teachers, Miles Wayer, Matt Clayton, and Amanda Hodge, were asked questions. Miles Wayer was interviewed; he is the new head varsity basketball coach who joined GCHS from Fishers High School. Wayer said he's most excited for the upcoming basketball season and looks forward to working with his new players. Adjusting to a new school, he explained, has been challenging but rewarding: new students, new staff, and new adjustments to the school day. When asked about his main goals this year, Wayer said he hopes to encourage his PE students to "become more fit and active. In PE and in health, to learn more about their physical, emotional, and social education." He added that his coaching philosophy in basketball closely matches his teaching styles in PE and health: "I try to go hand-in-hand in both and keep my teaching and coaching connected." When asked what he likes about teaching at GC, he emphasized, "The students, they all seem to be very engaging with one another." One of his favorite quotes, by legendary coach John Wooden, sums up his approach: "Be at your best when your best is needed." Wayer wrapped up by saying, "Excited to be a Cougar!"

Amanda Hodge, the new English teacher, was also interviewed. Hodge is excited for a more community feel at Greenfield-Central. "Homecoming has been really hyped up, so I'm hoping it's a really good time, also looking forward to football games." She also said that she comes from a basketball family, "So being a part of a community is really exciting!" Moving from Franklin-Central, she says, has been very challenging. "All the technology is different; PowerSchool, Google Classroom, and Apple are all new to me. The printers are hard to use sometimes, learning a new bell structure, all of that has felt limiting in my abilities." She said that, even though she has been teaching for quite some time, it feels like starting over. "Would you ever want to have your own children in your class?" Hodge explained, "I don't think so! If you ask my daughter, she would currently love to be in my class, but sure that will change as she gets older." When asked about what she mainly wants to teach her students this year, she said, "I like to teach them to think independently and have good critical thinking skills, just making sure they're good thinkers!" Hodge concluded the interview by saying, "Excited to be here!"

Matthew Clayton, the new science teacher, was interviewed. Clayton shared that he is excited about teaching a new subject this year. "I am also excited to be able to see so many familiar faces," Clayton added. Clayton explained that it has been challenging moving from the Junior High, "Teaching two new courses is sometimes challenging. The block schedule is taking some time getting used to as well." Clayton said his main goals for teaching his students are, "I hope students enjoy my classes and look forward to coming to class each day. I want students to leave with an appreciation for science." Clayton concluded by saying what he likes about teaching at GC, "I like the connections I get to make with new and former students. It's been great seeing so many past students these past few days. The staff at the schools are great to work with as well. Everyone makes you feel welcomed and valued."

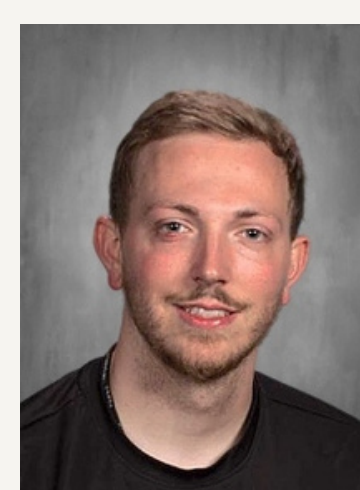
The new teachers at Greenfield-Central have high hopes for this upcoming school year. Each one is excited to make memories and be a part of a welcoming community. They are each a really good fit for GC and will strive to inspire and create a welcoming environment for their students.



"Everyone makes you feel welcomed and valued."  
Matthew Clayton



"Homecoming has been really hyped up so I'm hoping it's a really good time, also looking forward to football games."  
Amanda Hodge



Miles Wayer hopes to encourage his PE students to "become more fit and active. In PE and in health, to learn more about their physical, emotional, and social education."

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