

THE RAM PAGE

1st Quarter

• Developing Leaders One Student at a Time •

October 14, 2022

Rams 'March On' New Field



The Marching Rams perform at half-time.

I spoke with the school band director, Mr. Carter, to get his thoughts on the new football field. I asked him, "How do your students like to march on the new field?" Mr. Carter said, "They really like it, and it's better than marching on a piece of grass near a parking lot." The next question I asked was, "What are some good things about marching on the new field?" He replied, "There is never going to be a muddy spot, or a pothole. It's very even, so that makes it easier to learn your position." Next, I asked if there are any cons about marching on the new field. Mr. Carter said, "We practice after lunch, which is the hottest time of the day and that makes the pellets very hot, and it always burns their feet, but it's just a problem right now. When Fall arrives, that should be over with."

When I asked if it was easier to march on, Mr. Carter said, "It's all super consistent. It's probably easier than on a grass field. The design is perfect, some don't like it, some do, and sometimes when you step back you get turf in your shoes." The next question I asked was, "Are the bleachers more accommodating during the game?" He said, "They are very thin and we have to expand out in them more, but if numbers grow, then we won't have to worry about that." The final question I asked was, "Are you planning any new formations this year?" His response was, "All of the formations are new for every show we do. We bought new music that the kids are excited about such as; Dancing Queen, Save Your Tears, Push It, and Yeah!"

By: Hayleigh

Scott City Has New Food Service With Taher

For this quarter's newsletter I interviewed Kellie McCutchen, our new food service director with Taher. I asked Kellie how Taher became our new food service. She responded with, "The superintendent, Mr. Umfleet, and the admin. team came to East Prairie, and they really enjoyed the food that was being served to the kids. I went to the school board, we put in a bid, and they liked everything that they saw at East Prairie, so they voted for us to be their new food service provider. Next, I asked when the change became official. Kellie responded with, "July 5th". Then I asked what some of the new items offered were. She answered with, "We have multiple new items. We have different menu items than the other company. The elementary school gets a choice between three items instead of one, and we have a lot of new recipes. We also have the hydration station set up, and we try to make a lot of our stuff from scratch.

Then I asked Kellie what was different or special about Taher. She replied with, "Taher is a family owned company. I love that during the summer I would go out to conferences, and the owner and his sons were there with me. It's very family oriented and I like that. I feel like a part of the family, instead of a big company." Next, I asked what her favorite meal was that Taher makes. She answered with, "I know everybody likes the stromboli. I eat the food every day, so it's hard to decide. I enjoy the Munchables (they are like Lunchables). The little kids really enjoy them, and the mac & cheese is really good because it is homemade. The meatloaf is also really good and made with real ground beef." I asked what items were popular so far. She replied with, "The stromboli and the barbeque chicken wings. Everybody went crazy for those."

By: Madison



Elementary students enjoying lunch in the cafeteria.



MS Football Sees Changes

By: Peyton

David Spriggs is the new head middle school football coach for the 2022 season. He explained to me how much he loves being a coach. He thinks it is very exciting and a great adventure. His assistants are Addison Grigsby and Sgt. Atlas. Coach Spriggs says he is learning how to coach his players and how to improve. He says the players are learning how to respond and he added, "I think as a team and as a coaching staff, I am very blessed to have some great assistant coaches. It's a team effort so we are doing a pretty good job right now and hope we can continue throughout our season." Football is Mr. Spriggs' favorite sport. He is very passionate about it. He wasn't sure if he could coach football, but with the phenomenal coaching staff that was put together he feels like they are doing good things. Coach Spriggs loves working with student athletes and seeing kids learn and be excited about something they love to do. His favorite thing about coaching football is being involved with the student athletes and watching them grow and watching them learn week to week what they did well and what they did wrong. "I want them to grow as athletes, so when they take the next step and go into high school they are ready and prepared to take on that challenge." His players put in hard work every week, and he says it is such a joy to be out on the field with his team. So far this season is off to a good start. "We are giving it our best effort. At this point our 8th grade is 3-0. We've played some tough competition, and we've got some tough games ahead of us. Our 6th and 7th grade team finally got to play their first game recently. All the players have learned a lot and will be perfectly fine playing against good teams in the future.", said Coach Spriggs. Next I asked him about 6th grade getting to participate this year. He stated, "Well, it's definitely different with 6th graders being involved, but the stipulation with 6th graders is that they cannot hit against the 8th graders. That's why you will see the 6th graders in white jerseys instead of blue jerseys while they are practicing. They wear white jerseys during practice so the coaches know who they are and can tell them apart from 8th grade players. They do that so they can separate 6th grade from the older boys," he explained. "They play separate games. There are 6th and 7th grade games and they know they can participate in that and they are very excited. We have a great group of 6th graders that are working really hard, and they make up a big component of our 6th and 7th grade team. We do have some 7th graders that have been moved up to play with the 8th grade," he added. Since 6th grade gets to participate there are two football teams for middle school. There is an 8th grade team which will consist of 7th and 8th graders. Then there will be a 6th and 7th grade team, which the 6th graders will participate in. Coach Spriggs said, "This year we are scheduled to play six games. We are very fortunate because most teams in the area only get to play 5 games. Three of those games will be on the road, and then the other three will be at home. This year we were lucky enough to have our first middle school Green-Out game, which was tremendous. Our fans' support couldn't be better. A great number of people showed up for that. Many people came out to support our middle school athletes which we are very thankful for and we hope to continue on with the Green-Out game every year and get our community involved with our middle schoolers. They deserve it for how hard they have worked."

Elementary Rooms Receive Facelift

The elementary hallway received new, upgraded classrooms this year for the 1st and 2nd grades. I interviewed 1st grade teacher, Mrs. Vazquez, about her new classroom. I asked how she likes it. She said she loves it! Next, I asked her what her favorite thing was about her new classroom. She said how bright and clean it is. Mrs. Vazquez said they changed the wall colors, new closets, and added new floor tiles. The old bathrooms were taken out. The old sink was taken out, and replaced with a new cabinet. She changed her theme to match the new upgrades. I asked Mrs. Vazquez when the last time her room was updated. It hasn't changed since the school was built. I asked her how the students like the new classroom. She said they are amazed at the new changes. When I asked, "Did you have enough time to get your classroom ready?" She said, "There is never enough time to get my room ready." Finally, I asked if there was anything she didn't like about her new classroom. She said she misses the old bathrooms that used to be there. The closest bathroom that her kids now use is down the hall and her students have to use the bathroom frequently.



New 1st gr. classroom

5th & 6th gr. Soc. Studies & Science with a Twist

By: Ava

I sat down with 5th grade Science teacher, Ms. Jana Porch and asked her, “How do you like teaching both 5th & 6th grade Science this year?” Ms. Porch said, “I love it because it’s my favorite subject to teach. I love that I get to teach my 6th graders again. This way I can build off what they learned last year.” Then I asked her why the middle school combined 5th and 6th grade Science and Social Studies this year. Ms. Porch said, “We were moving to the bell schedule, and Science is my favorite, and Social Studies is Mrs. Simmons favorite, so it worked out to give us both what we like.” I asked Ms. Porch if she likes the change. She said, “It was a very big change because I haven’t been on a bell schedule in over five years, but I am getting used to it.” Finally, I asked, “Are there any downsides?” She said smiling, “For them maybe, because they have to have me two years in a row, but I don’t see a downside myself.” After I spoke with Ms. Porch, I spoke with Mrs. Kaitlin Simmons and asked her how she liked teaching both 5th and 6th grade Social Studies this year. She answered, “I’m enjoying it so far, it’s a big change, but I really like it!” I asked her why we combined 5th & 6th grade Science and Social Studies. She said, “It came down to the fact that Ms. Porch really likes Science, and I was really into Social Studies, so it just worked out to where we could both teach what we love.” I asked her how she liked the change so far. She said, “I like it, but there’s a big learning curve with trying to switch from teaching 6th graders to 5th graders. It’s a big jump in your approach.” Next, I asked her what the benefits of teaching both are. Mrs. Simmons said, “I like that we get to loop with the kids.” Lastly, I asked her, “Are there any downsides?” She answered, “Not necessarily. I haven’t come across anything super negative.”



Ms. Porch explains a mealworm lab with her students.

District Dress Code Changes

By: Destiny

I interviewed Mr. Umfleet about the new dress code changes. The first question I asked him was, “When did the dress code officially change?” He replied, “The board voted on it before school got out last year, but it officially changed this year when school started.” Next, I asked “Why did we decide to change the dress code?” He said, “We just felt like it was time. We think the old dress code had run its course, and over time we just felt like it was time for the kids and for our families.” His answer led to my next question, “How did the parents feel about the dress code changes?” He said, “The feedback so far has been good. Obviously, the kids love it, and the parents are happy that they don’t have to battle dress code everyday.” The next question I asked was, “Are there any downsides to the new dress code?” He said, “Absolutely, there are. Students like to get away with as much as they can; they will push the limits on what they can and can’t wear. Another downside is that it’s something new and some people don’t like change.” Finally, I asked, “What are the biggest changes with the new dress code?” Mr. Umfleet stated, “Students can wear things they like. It doesn’t have to be a solid color, polo, or a Scott City t-shirt; they can wear what brands or styles they like to be more self expressive.”



Newsletter staff members pose in their favorite attire.

Community Spotlight

By: Autumn

I interviewed Samantha and Brandon Strieler about their local business, Semo Buried Treasures. Sam runs the store in the morning hours, while Brandon works his other job, and then he works in the evenings. Their kids, Gabbi and Jordan, help out every once in a while. Semo Buried Treasure is located at 212 S. Lincoln Ave., right across the street from Father's Arms Fellowship here in Scott City. Their hours are Wednesdays and Thursdays 12-6, Fridays 10-6, and Saturdays 10-3. On Mondays and Tuesday nights Samantha and Brandon do online auctions on Facebook Live. I asked them, "What does your store have to offer?" Samantha answered, "A little bit of everything. We have new items, used items, toys, health and beauty, kitchen items, and tools/gardening." Next I asked, "When and why did you open your store?" They replied, "We opened it on November 11th, 2020." Brandon stated, "I had too much stuff and it was either I had to open a store, or move into a different house. I grew up going to yard sales, then one day I went to an auction and Sam told me I was going to have to sell some of my stuff to get more money. She told me I could either get me a new home, or open a store, so we opened the store." Next, I asked them what the pros and cons of owning a store in a small town are. Sam said, "Lots of hard work, in the fact that you have to pull in people not only from Scott City, but surrounding communities, so you have to be bold in advertising and getting the word out there. You have to have a big personality. A pro is you have a bunch of people who enjoy coming in and shopping, and before they go to the Dollar Store or Wal-mart, they always try to stop by to see if they can get it from us first."



Semo Buried Treasures is a family owned business in the middle of town, just off Main St. They offer a wide variety of items.

Stranger Things Season 4 Review

By: Kaylee

I finished watching Stranger Things Season 4 over Summer break. It is mostly about a group of people trying to defeat a monster called Vecna. "Why are they trying to defeat Vecna?" you may ask. Well, Vecna is trying to take over a town called Hawkins, Indiana. Series characters: Steve, Nancy, Robin, Eddie, Mike, Max, Dustin, Lucas, Will, and Eleven have to try to defeat him, but it's kind of hard because Mike, Will, and Eleven were in California. They were in California because Joyce,

(Will's mom) had to put her house in Hawkins on the market and move. Mike was in California because it was Spring break and he wanted to visit. Joyce's family friend, Murray went to Russia to rescue Hopper. At the end of Season 3, we got a glimpse of Hopper (Eleven's adopted dad) being contained in a Russian prison after everyone in Hawkins assumed that he died battling the Mindflayer. Joyce and Murray received a doll in the mail with clues that he was still alive.

Meanwhile, Dustin, Lucas, Max, Steve, Nancy, Robin, and Eddie are trying to defeat Vecna in Vecna's old house in Hawkins, but then something happens in the house while they are there, and in the Upside Down (where Vecna and other evil things are), but I don't want to spoil it.

Overall, I really liked season 4 of Stranger Things. I give it a 10/10. I really recommend watching it if you're a fan of Science Fiction and/or the 80's. The introduction of a new character, Eddie Munson and his subsequent storyline made for a **very** entertaining season.