

Classes start today!

Thirteen new staff members greet Clark students



Travis Ahrens



Renae Dahl



Raegan Florey



ShyAnn Springer



Karla Claussen



Beth Severson



Travis Barthel



Tabitha Schmidt



Jennifer Jensen



Regan Garry



Mariah Jennings



Amanda Ahrens



Myra Lewis

Today, Wednesday, August 19, the 2020-2021 Clark School kicks off, as the school doors opened today at 8:00 a.m.

Superintendent Luanne Warren MS/HS principal Travis Ahrens and elementary principal Renae Dahl greeted students as they began a new school term.

Seeing their teachers and classmates again in person after an extra long break from school may be appreciated even more this year.

Thirteen new faces will be greeting the students in the Clark School system.

New to the Clark School this year are Travis Ahrens, Renae Dahl, Raegan Florey, ShyAnn Springer, Karla Claussen, Beth Severson, Travis Barthel, Tabitha Schmidt, Jennifer Jensen, Regan Garry, Mariah Jennings, Amanda Ahrens and Myra Lewis.

Travis Ahrens

Travis Ahrens will be the new high school and middle school principal and a co-activities director, sharing the position with superintendent Warren.

Originally from Jackson, Minn. where he graduated from Jackson

County Central in 2001, he's spent the last 13 years at the Flandreau Public School as a high school social studies teacher. He earned his Bachelor degree in 2006 from South Dakota State University and his Masters degree from there in 2020.

He's moved here along with his wife Amanda and three children. Breanna will be in the fifth grade, Adilynn will be in fourth grade and Behrett will enter the second grade.

Amanda will also be teaching at the Fordham Colony, starting this year teaching grades five through eight.

Renae Dahl

Renae Dahl will be taking the position of being the Clark Elementary and colony principal.

A 2001 graduate of Watertown High School, the Watertown native earned her Bachelors degree in Elementary Education from USD in 2008. She went on to earn her Masters degree in Educational Administration in 2017.

Previous teaching positions have been at Waverly/South Shore, Oglala Lakota County schools, Canyon Lake and at Rapid City where she was also the summer school principal.

Renae lives in Clark and is the mother of four children. Jonah will be a junior, Isabella, a fifth grader, Haven will be in first grade and Kyren is three years old.

Raegan Florey

Raegan Florey will once again be on the volleyball courts at Clark High School, but this time as a junior high coach. The 2016 Clark High School graduate will also be a kindergarten teacher at Clark Elementary. Raegan earned her degree this year from SDSU with a B.S. in Early Childhood Education and an

endorsement in kindergarten. This will be the first teaching position for the daughter of Paul and Kris Florey. Raegan lives in Clark and is engaged to Jess Karber.

ShyAnn Springer

ShyAnn Springer will be a middle school language arts teacher starting this school year. It's only been four years since Springer was in the Clark School classrooms herself, being a 2016 CHS graduate.

She attended Northern State University after high school and

Teachers

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A new look and a new menu is coming to Clark with the restaurant, El Corral. Two families are bringing both northern and southern Mexico's traditional dishes to the area with the 'Cocina Mexicana' - Mexican kitchen.

When updating and winterization are finished, hopefully by the first week in September, they will be

open for business at the former DB BBQ location.

Above are, left to right, seated - Ismael Cruz, Diana Garcia Cruz, Brenda Garcia, Teresa Regalado, Ivan Regalado and his son Ivan, Jr.

Standing are, Diego Garcia, Orlando Cruz and Ernesto Garcia.

El Corral to open in Clark in next three weeks

Authentic Mexican food is coming to Clark! And it will be a blend of offerings from both the southern and northern parts of Mexico with dishes that reflect their traditions.

The two families that have partnered to buy the former DB BBQ building, along U.S. Highway 212 on the west side of Clark, are Ismael and Diana Cruz and Ivan and Teresa Regalado.

Hopefully if construction goes as planned, 'El Corral' with its cocina Mexicana (meaning Mexican kitchen in Spanish) will be open for business by the first week in September.

"It's going to be good!" stated co-owner Ismael. It's a good combination with the partners having different recipes and different dishes.

"We love to cook - it's our family time together," stated Ismael. "It's been a family dream to open a restaurant since we moved here in 2006."

Ismael and Ivan both work for Riverview at the Raymond location and plan on keeping these positions while their wives will be the cooks at El Corral. The feedlot is now under construction to become a dairy.

Having grown up in central Mexico, Ismael later moved north after marriage and lived in Tamaulipas. He's spent the last 20 years working with cattle in the feedlots.

Diana Garcia Cruz is an experienced cook who most recently worked in a Redfield nursing home in the kitchen. Diana and Ismael

have two sons, Alex and Orlando.

Diana's sister Brenda Garcia and her sons Diego and Ernesto have also moved to the area from Sheldon, Iowa, to help with this venture. Brenda and Diana both have a lot of experience in the kitchen with food preparation.

Ivan's wife Teresa will also be a cook in the business with her expertise in specialty Mexican ice cream and syrups. Fruit infused waters and ice pops made with fruit juices and real fruit such as strawberry, kiwi and mango are what she's excited to bring to the business.

Ivan and Teresa and their son

El Corral

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Clark School inservice

Jeff Gould gives encouragement presentation during these pandemic times

"You have the ability this year to teach children about life, resilience, hope and courage," stated Jeff Gould at last Wednesday's teacher inservice training at the Clark School.

Jeff Gould, a broadcaster, author and eulogist from Sioux Falls is an experienced communicator who uses story telling to guide and encourage people to live with meaning, balance and purpose.

His talk on Wednesday gave the teachers options and advice on dealing with the fears and anxieties out there due to this year's pandemic situation.

In his presentation, his first slide show photo was of a roller coaster. "This right here - this is the 'right now' for us. What a roller coaster ride we've been on this year."

"That click, click, click sound as you go up before you reach the top and then the drastic fall, that's what it feels like now. It's a nervous experience.

"A third of us are riding this roller coaster to the top in limbo, as we don't know what's going on from one day to the next. Sports - not sports, etc., things change and every day it seems there is a new thing to make you anxious.

"Another third of us are frantic trying to keep up with new demands. There are so many shortages now, from construction lumber to white thread and even bullets.

"The other third have no job now, especially in the restaurants counting on the social interactions of their customers. The ag industry is suffering.

"Anxiety is felt by everybody," he continued. "When will this be over? What can be done?"

"You are the help these kids are looking for. The training you have is what the kids need. You are the



Jeff Gould, an author, eulogist and broadcaster from Sioux Falls gave an uplifting talk last Wednesday to the Clark School staff. Helping with the fears and anxieties of students during the pandemic was his topic.

Telling stories to prove his point, Gould inspired teachers to make a difference in their students' lives, showing by example and teaching with love.

teacher and care about your kids."

Harrisburg shooter story

Gould used an example of kids feeling safe under their teacher's care when describing the Harrisburg shooter in the school several years ago. His wife and daughter were in the school that day - in the choir room and in class. The crisis was soon over leaving one principal shot in the arm and Gould was asked by his wife Libby to come and pick up their teenaged daughter. He pondered on the drive there on what he should say when he picked her up. He went the calm and reassuring route and his words were "It's over. Things are fine. What do you want for lunch?"

He also saw a frantic, hysterical parent come out of her car to look

for her daughter. The daughter was fine until she saw her mother freaking out and then she did, too.

"I watched my daughter then

Gould

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WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Aug. 11.....	87	60	.02
Aug. 12.....	87	61	.14
Aug. 13.....	87	63	0
Aug. 14.....	88	71	0
Aug. 15.....	81	57	0
Aug. 16.....	85	59	0
Aug. 17.....	85	60	0
2020 precipitation to date	14.71		
2019 precipitation to date	26.60		