

Eight new faces at Clark School greet students today



Greg Erhke **Samuel Williams** **Amy Nelson** **Bobbi Jo Bohnet** **Julie Ann Grund** **Dawn Clayton** **Marlene Dreher** **Emily Repp**

Today (Wednesday) the 2017-2018 Clark School year kicks off, as the school doors are now open. Superintendent Luanne Warren and Principal Jerry Hartley greeted students as one and all begin a new school term.

Eight new faces will be greeting the students in the Clark school system. New to the Clark School for the 2017-2018 term will be Greg Ehrke, Samuel Williams, Amy Nelson, Bobbi Jo Bohnet, Julie Ann Grund, Dawn Clayton, Marlene Dreher and Emily Repp.

Greg Ehrke
Greg Ehrke will be the fourth

through eighth grade teacher at Fordham Colony. He will also be an assistant coach in boys and girls junior high and varsity basketball. He is originally from Hecla and is a 1975 graduate of Hecla High School. Ehrke is a graduate of Northern State University.

He taught in Hoven from 1991-1996, Viborg from 1997-2011, Mt. Vernon from 2011-2015 and in Redfield from 2015 to 2017. He and his wife Mindy live in Clark. They have three grown children, Christopher, Sara and Daniel.

Samuel "Sam" Williams
Sam Williams will be the com-

puter/technology coordinator, girls basketball assistant and senior advisor.

He is originally from Poplar, Wis., and is a 2011 graduate of Northwestern High School in Maple, Wis. He graduated from University of Wisconsin-Superior with a degree in interactive media.

Williams recently worked from 2011-2017 at iFan Sports Network in Superior, Wis.

He is single and lives in Clark.

Amy Nelson
Amy Nelson will be the PreK through grade 12 vocal music teacher. Nelson will also be an RTI (Re-

sponse to Intervention) instructor at the elementary. She is originally from Sisseton and graduated from Sisseton High School in 1998. She graduated in 2002 from Northern State University with a bachelors degree in music education.

She taught at Henry School from 2003 to 2007 and at Watertown Christian School from 2014 to 2016.

Amy and her husband Bruce live on a farm east of Clark. They have three children, Leah is nine and a fourth grader, Mallory is eight and in the third grade and Grant is five and is in kindergarten.

Bobbi Jo Bohnet
This Hamlin High School graduate will be the fourth grade teacher at Clark elementary. Bohnet is originally from Hazel. She attended SDSM&T and BHSU with a middle school education degree, math and science.

She previously taught for one year in the Rapid City School district and at Lower Brule Tribal Schools for three years. She was a teacher and head volleyball coach for four years at Stanley County School District.

Bohnet is single and lives in Clark. She has two children, Lo-

gan is nine and in the fourth grade and Gage is eight and in the second grade.

Julie Ann Grund
Julie Ann Grund will be a teacher at Silver Lake Colony. She is originally from Goodwin and graduated from Deuel High School in 1996. She has an associate degree in business from Mount Marty and a BA in elementary education.

Grund previously worked as a substitute teacher for the Watertown school system for three years.

Clark School
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Clark Elementary begins second year of RTI



Superintendent Luanne Warren is seated at one of the newer picnic tables outside of the front entrance to the Clark High School. Two more tables will be added this year. Also new is the screened covering on the front doors put on this summer by Lee Twait of Willow Lake.

For safety reasons in part, one can see out, but one

can not see into the commons area from the outside doors, noted the superintendent.

Continuing a new teaching tool this year - Response to Intervention (RTI) - a state program that the Clark School has committed to, will help younger students in their reading skills and comprehension.

Phonemic awareness is a subset of phonological awareness in which listeners are able to hear, identify and manipulate phonemes, the smallest units of sound that can differentiate meaning. For example, separating the spoken word "cat" into three distinct phonemes,

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Intervention reading education.

Clark superintendent and elementary principal Luanne Warren initiated this program at Clark School and it is implemented in grades kindergarten through fourth grade.

"Developing proficient readers with the capacity to comprehend text is the end goal of RTI," said Warren. "More importantly, each student's needs are addressed during small group work."

As mentioned, the RTI instruction is a state supported program. Clark School has a five year commitment to this program. A state grant has helped institute this program.

"The (reading) growth was unbelievable the first year," said Warren, as this will be the second year that Clark School is using the RTI program. "The students were tested at the beginning of the year and showed massive growth in their reading skills by the end of the year."

All students are involved with RTI and depending upon test results, student are categorized: benchmark, strategic and intensive. Test results were entered into Dibels NEXT and individual scores were categorized as benchmark (right on target), strategic (needing assistance in some skill areas) or intensive (needing more mediation with skills). Testing is done three times a year: beginning, semester time and end of the year.

According to superintendent Warren, in one teacher's class, 65% were in the intensive group which

RTI
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Chad Thomas was busy last Friday with all of his duties as the start of another school year commenced today (Wednesday) for the 2017/2018 session. Spreading out the engineered wood fiber with a rake around the new playground equipment, the Clark Elementary custodian visited with the Courier about the new changes at the playground that will greet the students.

'New look' playground for Clark Elementary students

A 'moonrock', spinners, a butterfly crawl through and an obstacle course area will greet the students at Clark Elementary today (Wednesday) as another school year begins.

That big pile of wood chips this summer one may have noticed at the north end parking lot just outside of the playground fence is half gone now. The remaining wood chips will be placed around the rest of the equipment designed more so for the older elementary students.

The younger elementary students will especially enjoy the new equipment pictured above - designed for their age group.

"This new area is designed more for the preschool/kindergarten students and what they enjoy doing," noted Chad Thomas, elementary custodian.

The blue and red domed 'moonrock' as it is called, resembles a fort in a way as youngsters can climb under it and be somewhat hidden. Knobs on the outside of it enable one to have hand and foot holds as they climb over the top of the sturdy plastic dome.

An orange crawl through tube with butterfly ends and peek holes

New playground
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New additions at Willow Lake School

Chris Lee is the new principal

The 2017-18 school term is off and running at Willow Lake, as the doors opened today, August 23.

New staff in the Willow Lake School system are Christopher Lee, Shawn DeWitt, Lindsay Nolte, Desiree Glanzer and Norlan Froke.

Christopher Lee
Christopher Lee is the new Pre-school through eighth grade and colony principal. He grew up in Clark and graduated from Clark High School.

Lee graduated from Mount Marty College in 20002 with a degree in elementary ed. He received his Masters in Administration from South Dakota State University in 2015.

He has taught in coached in the Hurlley and Lennox School districts and for the last five years he has been teaching and coaching in Clark.

Lee and his wife Lisa live northwest of Clark. They have four children, Hunter is in the eighth grade, Avery is in the fifth grade, Peyton is in the second grade and Champ will be in preschool.

Lindsay Nolte
Lindsay Nolte will teach seventh and eighth grade English. She will also teach middle and high school PE and high school health. Nolte

Willow Lake School
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Christopher Lee



Lindsay Nolte



Desiree Glanzer



Shawn DeWitt



Norlan Froke