

Shepherd's Staff



Technology in the Classroom—Pass or Fail?

By: Ava G.

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Special points of interest:

- Mrs. Clark
- Mrs. Luna
- Mrs. Davis
- Deaconess Grace
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We live in a world that depends on technology. Many kids have their own Chromebooks, tablets, or computers to use for school work or entertainment. Some kids also have smartwatches and smartphones. Teachers use technology to teach, and students use technology to learn. However, is it a good idea to depend only on technology for classroom work? In many ways, technology has helped students to learn using a variety of resources. On the other hand, using only technology might not be the best method for all subjects and for all students. That is why students should be able to use both high-tech (Chromebooks) and low-tech (workbooks and handouts) methods in the classroom.

Like many schools, Good Shepherd was forced to rely on technology for distance learning during the Covid epidemic. Before the shutdown, students used high and low-tech in their classes. Since the shutdown, the school has phased out low-tech methods and emphasized high-tech methods in the classroom. Students receive their assignments on their Chromebooks. Rather than carrying around heavy textbooks, they can read the material on their Chromebooks. Instead of paper handouts, the materials are on Chromebooks. Essays are written, and tests are taken using Chromebooks rather than pencil and paper.



Mr. Krueger is the homeroom and primary classroom teacher for the 8th grade at Good Shepherd. He said he uses technology for most of his work because it takes less time to prepare. In his words, "Copying papers takes more time." He also believes "technology helps learning because it makes more materials available." He mentioned that technology works better with some subjects than others and that he prefers that essays be written on paper.



Mrs. Italiano is the Resource teacher at Good Shepherd. She prefers that students use paper but said that "some kids do better with Chromebooks." She said that for some subjects, it's "easier to read the material on actual paper than a Chromebook." When she was asked as a resource teacher whether Chromebooks make learning easier or harder for the students she helps, she said, "Honestly, it depends on the individual,

but most students I work with seem to perform better using paper."

Mrs. Italiano did a great job discussing the issue when she said, "I don't think that technology hurts learning. We are in a society that revolves around technology and isn't going away. I just like having the option for students to use paper if that is how they learn best."

As a student, I prefer using paper and pencil for many of my assignments. I'm able to do all of my math assignments and tests on paper rather than my Chromebook. For other assignments, I do some on the Chromebook because that's easier. I also am able to print out assignments and use a pencil to work on them. I believe that should be an option for all students if it makes learning easier for them.

Technology in the classroom is both "pass and fail." It has the advantages of making materials more available for students. It helps some students learn better. However, technology makes learning more difficult for students who struggle with reading things on a screen rather than in a book or on paper. In the future, students should be given the opportunity to use both high-tech and low-tech methods in the classroom.

Why Everyone Should Join the Band

By: Dean H.

Can anyone play any instrument well? This is an important question for any member of a band to understand, and the answer is not simple. However, with time and lots of consistent practice, playing an instrument can be almost easy. Furthermore, playing an instrument increases musical ability, which can be helpful in many ways. Finally, being able to play an instrument can open many opportunities later in life. For this and many other reasons, everyone should learn to play an instrument and join a band.

The GSLS band is an optional group for students in grades 5-8. The band is directed by Mr. Stegman, who also directs 1st-8th grade choirs, the preschool through 8th-grade music classes, and the 4th-grade beginner band. The full band practices on Tuesday during 8th hour. The band also has practices in the mornings on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, depending on the section. They perform in the Italian Fest Parade, the Veterans' Day Parade, the Veterans' Day assembly, the Collinsville Light Up Parade, the Christmas Concert, the Spring Concert, several basketball games, a church service at Good Shepherd, and the 8th-grade graduation. Band members also have many opportunities to play in more advanced bands and perform solos, including the ILMEA (Illinois Music Education Association) junior band and jazz band, AIJB (All-Illinois Junior Band), Lutheran Honor Band, the Madison County Band Festival, the Madison County Jazz Band, and the IGsMA (Illinois Grade School Music Association) Solo/Ensemble Contest.

Firstly, the band is a great choice over music because of the performances. This year, the band performed "Funiculi, Funicula," an Italian folk song, in the Italian fest parade. Almost all band members were able to memorize the song in time for the parade, and

the performance of the song was great. Mr. Stegman is even using it as a song for the pep band. After that, the band moved on to "Hymn of the Hero," an arrangement of all five military service songs, along with practicing the national anthem and pep band songs. On November 4, they played for the volleyball pep rally. On Veterans' Day, the band members first went out in the cold and marched in the Veterans' Day Parade, playing the Army and

several events, but the most notable of these would be the All-Illinois Junior Band, a highly selective band that takes junior high auditions from around the state and selects around 70 of the best. Dean H., who also played in AIJB last year, will perform in this year's band on January 20-21. Members of the band also have the opportunity to perform a solo or in an ensemble at the IGsMA Solo/Ensemble Contest. The band will play in a church service, at the

Spring Concert, and at the eighth-grade graduation ceremony and be represented in the Lutheran Honor Band, Madison County Jazz Band, and Madison County Band Festival. It is also clear the band's music is another reason to join. Many think this year's selection is better than last year's. Grayson G. describes it as "a very good variety and good for educational purposes."

Hayden S. also says, "I do like the pep songs a lot more than last year." Furthermore, Ben S. says that "[the songs] are fun to play." The band's songs are similar to last year's, but a good number are more challenging. However, the band is performing well so far, proving that practice can help anyone learn.

Many band members also say that they do band because they didn't like music class or thought more highly of band. Brad D. says of why he joined the band, "I guess I just wanted a break from music [class] because it got kind of boring." Hayden S. also says, "I don't want to do music [class]." Grayson G. says that he does band "...because I like music [abstractly]." Jacob S. says, "...it's also fun..." Furthermore, Alex R. says he joined the band "because it gives me an opportunity to do something new, learn new things, meet new people." Also, Ben S. says, "I think it's fun to play with other people."

Band is more popular this year, with 52 members, almost 20 more than last year. Mr. Steg-



Marine songs. Later that afternoon, they played for the Veterans' day assembly, playing the full-service song arrangement and "The Star-Spangled Banner." On November 15, the band performed at their first basketball game. Although many of the band's members were in the game, cheerleaders, or not able to make it, the few students there performed several songs, including "Y.M.C.A.," "Johnny B. Goode," "Funiculi, Funicula," and "The Hey Song," along with the school fight song and the national anthem.

There are also several more pep events planned. On November 19, two members of the band, Ben S. and Dean H. played in the ILMEA District 6 Junior Band. The band marched in sub-freezing temperatures on December 4th in the Collinsville Light Up, playing a selection from "Fantasia on Adeste Fideles." The band also played in the Christmas Concert on December 12 and performed "Still, Still, Still," "Fantasy on an English Carol," and the full "Fantasia on Adeste Fidelis." In 2023, the band will perform and be represented in

"... it gives me an opportunity to do something new, learn new things, meet new people."

—Alex R.

Why Everyone Should Join the Band (continued). By: Dean H.

man is helping all the new band members well. Grayson G. says, "Mr. Stegman is doing a good job teaching them [the 5th graders]...They've definitely improved from the beginning of the year. Mr. Stegman has done a good job teaching them notes and articulations." Brad D. also says, "I feel like they're learning really quickly." Finally, Alex R. says, "In a little bit, they'll be on their way to being good band players." Clearly, with Mr. Stegman's help and lots of practice, anyone can be great at their instrument.

Joining the band is

quite obviously a great choice for everyone. There are the amazing performances, the great songs, and band's superiority over music class. There are many instrument options for anyone who wants to join the band, ranging from a lot of people playing an instrument, such as the 16 clarinets, to just one, like tuba. Someone could even play an instrument no one else plays. Mr. Stegman also has a wide variety of rental instruments for anyone who doesn't want to buy an instrument. Anyone who wants to join the band should contact Mr. Stegman, whose email is zstegman@gslcs.org.

In the end, band is the

best choice. But the most important part of band is practicing apart from school. Jacob S. says that the only way to improve our band is "practice." Furthermore, Ben S. says, "We just need to practice more." Finally, even Mr. Stegman says, "Everyone, even myself, can improve their current abilities with practice. Regular short practice is so much more effective than practicing even 5 hours once or twice a week. Be sure to play your instrument at home; every moment counts, and a little bit goes a long way!"

New Active Boards! By: Andrew L.

This school year, we have purchased new active boards for all of the homeroom classes. But are these boards more efficient than the old Promethean boards?

Active boards have improved over the years, and so has Good Shepherd. We had the old ac-

active boards for about 13 years, and as society grows, so does technology. Since the old active boards were over ten years old, the

screens weren't as bright, the projectors needed to cool down, the filters needed to be replaced, and expensive bulbs needed to be purchased. It was definitely time to get new active boards. Good Shepherd decided to replace the Promethean Boards with Newline Interactive

Screens.

Some students think that there are pros and cons to the new active boards. Hayden S., an 8th-grade student, says some pros are, "The new active boards seem brighter, and they are touch screen, but one con is that the screen is smaller."

money by having no projector bulbs or filters to replace. And many times in the 2021-2022 school year, the projector was very loud and could disrupt the learning process. The projector could also easily overheat; if they did overheat, we would have to

buy new projectors. Overall, people are happier with our new active boards this year, and we hope they will last Good Shepherd for many more years to come.



Another student, Aiden E., also thinks some of the same things Hayden does, but in addition, he thinks that some pros to these are that "there is no projector, which makes it much easier to turn off." It also has many other pros to it as well; it saves

Peer Tutoring at Good Shepherd

By: Kaitlyn Pe.

Many people have different views and feelings about peer tutoring, but here at Good Shepherd, anyone can enjoy being helped or helping at peer tutoring. Some people think it shouldn't be the 8th graders tutoring the kids, but it is actually very helpful for them to earn National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) hours and learn leadership skills. Peer tutoring is a helpful extra-curricular activity at Good Shepherd.

Peer tutoring is a special thing at this school where the 8th graders get to help students who need extra help with their homework. This happens every Thursday after school from 3:30 to 4:15. The 8th graders who are in the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) earn volunteer hours for helping the kids who need it. This year might be the first time ever that there are more tutors than tutees. This is very

helpful because now the kids get more one-on-one time to learn and understand their subjects.

Having more 8th graders (tutors) this year than tutees helps everyone a lot more. Emily (a tutor) states, "I feel like more students are getting more one-on-one time with the tutors." Mrs. Italiano (a coordinator) states, "It has never happened before, and it is very helpful because we know we always have enough (tutors). It is a good problem to have." Because we have more tutors, it helps both the tutors and the kids.

All of the tutors this year are good and helpful people. Emily states, "I feel like they are good tutors and help with the student's needs." Mrs. Italiano states, "I think they are some of the best. They are excellent with all ages and are very willing to help. They are a very mature bunch. In some groups, you have to stay on the tutors more than the tutees." This

shows that they are a good group of people who are always willing to help out.

How can you help the tutoring program? Good Shepherd accepts donations on its website (gslcs.org). If you can, make sure you donate to help our school. If possible, you can also donate resources like learning games or books. Any donation you make is helpful to our school.

If your kids need help with their homework, ask their homeroom teacher if your students can be recommended for the peer tutoring program. Everyone needs help sometimes, and peer tutoring helps students focus on their homework for an hour. Even if your child doesn't have that much homework, as Mrs. Italiano says, "We always have books!"

"I think they are some of the best. They are excellent with all ages and are very willing to help. They are a very mature bunch. In some groups, you have to stay on the tutors more than the tutees." —Mrs. Italiano

Grand Reopening

By: Kaitlyn Pi.

The library door opens and closes with a muted thud. There is the sound of books opening and closing and of pages turning. The smell in the air is of paper. The floor creaks slightly every few steps, and there is the sound of feet pattering and quiet whispering. The library is a good place to be.

That was not the case for a while. The library has been closed for two years. In those years, no one was allowed to go into the library much or check out books. There were no story times, and although some classes would take place in the library for short periods of time, no books could be checked out.

When the library closed, younger kids missed the library the most. "The first graders had never been to the library and didn't know how things worked," states Karen H., a volunteer in the library. For some of the newer students, it was just the same. They didn't know how to do certain things in the library, but they are learning now and enjoying their time there. For the kids who had been there before, they are loving their time back!"

Natalie T. tells us, "You get a whole hour to pick out a book and start reading it. It was fun to pick out a book to read." Excitement from everywhere has flooded the library because

H. "We have a large library with a great selection." The library is certainly a great library to go to, look at all the books, and check out a book. "You can always learn new things in books." says Natalie T.

Over the summer, a ton of work was put into the library by a group of volunteers. All of these things and more make the Good Shepherd library an amazing library.

The library has some type of impact on every student in the school. The library has helped and aided students on many problems, assignments, etc. It will always have an impact year after year. It will also be full of new books full of new stories and information. The library will be able to help and entertain you. Be thankful for the library!



it is now open again.

The Good Shepherd library is a great library, and people put a lot of work into keeping it that way. "We rearranged all the books in the library. It took a few days to finish. All the books are more organized now," stated Karen

Book Fairs Are Back and Better Than Ever

By: Aiden E.

The book fairs have returned to Good Shepherd, and many students cannot wait for the event to occur. This year the book fair will be held in the library before and after school on January 24-27. The school will also be using a new company called Blue Ribbon Book Fairs. This company ensures that all books and products are family-friendly and appropriate for a Christian setting.

The book fairs that Good Shepherd used to run were taken away at the very beginning of COVID-19, the same time when all the other schools had shut down. Now that Good Shepherd is bringing back these amazing and fun book fairs, kids are more excited than they have ever been. Many children have said that it makes it more exciting because they have not had a book fair in over two years! All of the children are trying their hardest to wait patiently for the fantastic event that Good Shepherd will be hosting.

Everyone is excited

about the book fair this year. Andrew, an eighth grader, says, "The book fair is such an amazing event for the school; it allows kids to pick out one of their favorite books, series, or maybe even buy a cool pen. The



book fair is definitely more exciting because it has not been around since the start of COVID-19, which was around two years ago, so it makes it so much more thrilling that they are coming back." The book fair will most likely be one of the most significant events the school has hosted, as well as one of the most anticipated events.

The book fair is one of the most anticipated events the school is hosting, mainly because the book fair has not been around for a while. Kaitlyn, an eighth grader, says, "The book fair was a really cool event, but they got taken away when I was in fifth grade!"

What can you do? You could call the school and ask if they need any help setting up. Connor, an eighth grader says, "There are a few ways that people can help. Such as, help the school set up in the library, help them monitor the library while there are kids in the book fair, ask if there are any books or any other cool things that they would need to get for the book fair, and if the school needs any help taking all of the stuff down and out of the library when they are all done with the book fair." These are reasons why the book fair is so exciting and highly anticipated for the Good Shepherd school year.

ILMEA Choir: Why You Should Do It

By Grayson G.

Picture this, you are singing with a bunch of your friends and others. You just finished the song, and everyone applauds you. Do you want to have that feeling? Well, if you're in 5-8th grade, you can!

ILMEA stands for Illinois Music Education Association, and they teach you a lot about music, and it's fun too! ILMEA has both choir and band, but this article will focus on the choir. ILMEA is amazing, and here is why you should join.

In the ILMEA choir, you get to sing about four songs. You spend most of the day practicing the songs, and the directors will perfect the whole class. At the end of the day, there will be a concert where you get to sing all of your songs. Dean H., an eighth-grade student, says, "If you don't play an instrument,...you should do the

choir."

You should join it because it is very fun. You can be with your friends singing all day, but you can also have breaks to socialize with them, and you can



meet new people. The directors also make it fun with their cheery moods and actions. Kaitlyn P.1, another eighth-grade student who has attended ILMEA five times before, states, "It's very fun. You get to hang out with your friends, and you can sing."

You can learn a ton of things and also work on improving

your skills. The directors help perfect your voice so it can be spot on. Kaitlyn also states, "I learned not to be an asparagus." (Being an asparagus is standing still during songs, which students were told not to do and instead have fun with the music.)

In conclusion, you should join ILMEA since it is very fun and you can learn a lot. You can hang out with friends and have tons of fun singing! Next year, ask Mr. Stegman to try out for the choir, and you could make it into the ILMEA Choir!



Lunchin' and Munchin' with Chef Lisa

By: Alex R.

What did we do without Chef Lisa? We were all stuck bringing our boring lunches day after day, which meant that we had to get up earlier to throw things together, or if you were lucky, your parents threw a PB&J and an apple in a brown bag while you slept. That got boring real quick, and we wanted a change. Then came the email our parents had been waiting for saying that there would be a lunch served by a professional chef starting soon. This was welcome news because the parents and kids were getting burned out on this routine.

Chef Lisa Riggins came to our rescue. She is a certified chef and graduate of St. Louis Community College with an AAS in Culinary Science and also studied Nutrition and Dietetics at Saint Louis University. She caters for weddings, luncheons, birthdays, anniversaries, and retirement and kids' parties. She is also the founder of 2 PutOn Catering and Event Planning. In addition, she cooks dinner

daily as a personal chef for 16 priests and works at several schools in the St. Louis area. Because of this, she is very familiar with kids and their finicky taste buds. She tries to make tasty and nutritional



meal options with a visual presentation that is appealing to even picky eaters. Chef Lisa says she serves "around a hundred meals a day," and the food she most commonly serves is "fast food style." She says the kids' favorite meal she serves is chicken strips, and the days when more kids bring their own lunches are when she serves

"more nutritional items."

Seventh grader Lauren K., who almost always eats the school lunches Chef Lisa prepares, says her favorite lunch is "definitely shepherd's pie," and she brings her lunch when tacos are served. Her only thoughts about the school lunch service are that "they warm up their meals a bit more."

Eighth-grader Austin K. loves the burgers and tacos and says Chef Lisa's food "is usually fantastic." The one thing Austin suggests is to have "more burgers please!!!"

There you have it. Chef Lisa was the answer to the problem of cold, boring sack lunches. Her culinary expertise helps create nutritional and delicious hot lunches every school day. Chef Lisa, we appreciate you!

Eighth-grader Austin K. loves the burgers and tacos and says Chef Lisa's food "is usually fantastic." The one thing Austin suggests is to have "more burgers please!!!"

Cheerleading Is Back!

By: Emily K.

"Let's Go, Let's Go, L-E-T-S G-O, L-E-T-S G-O, LET'S GO!" cry the cheerleaders; it fades away every time they say it. Ten cheerleaders, five cheerleaders, and three cheerleaders—over the years, the squad got smaller and smaller. It soon collapsed, and cheer was ghosted. However, cheer is back this year, and many people want it to continue.

Cheer was a Good Shepherd program a long time ago, but many cheerleaders quit, and then there were not enough to have a team. Just this year, many girls have asked to bring the program back. Jill Schubert and Brittney Christ (school parents and cheer coaches) thought that the stands were a little too quiet and needed a cheering section, and the perfect way to get one was by adding a little spice called "cheerleaders!"

This cheerleading squad is made up of fifteen 5th-8th graders who practice Wednesdays after school in the hall for an hour. Many girls on the team are exuberant and



not only cheerleaders and fans but coaches, too. Coach Brittney Christ said, "Yes, I am excited about cheerleading returning because it gives girls another option to do and helps the school, and it is fun."

What can you do to support our cheer program? You can cheer on the cheerleaders and encourage many others to join the squad. Coach Jill Schubert says, "I have felt that Good Shepherd needed to bring cheering back to invite more parents and children to games."

About 13 years later, Jill Schubert and Brittney Christ walked into that dark alley, not knowing what they would get out of it. A week later, they came out with 15 girls, professional uniforms, and filled stands at the GS home games.

Many people are very excited that cheer is returning,

Music to My Ears

By: Ben S.

Music is all around us. It's in movies, TV shows, video games, and of course, songs. We don't realize how much music impacts our lives. If you really enjoy playing music, then you might be interested to hear about the two students from Good Shepherd, Dean H. and Ben S., who went to the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) band festival this year.

Making this festival is not a piece of cake. You have to practice a lot. If you are not committed, you probably won't have the best odds of being selected to play in the band. They don't select everyone who tries out. Plus, it's pretty competitive. Mr. Stegman had this to say about making the festival: "Good Shepherd had two students audition this year for the ILMEA all District band, and both were accepted. Students from Edwardsville and Bethalto all the way down to Carbondale and Cairo are able to audition for this band, so it is highly competitive."

You might be wondering what happens at the festival. Mr. Stegman tells us this: "At the ILMEA festivals, our students will



join students from schools all over Southern IL to play challenging music with a guest director." From the point of view of someone who played in the band, what happens is that you do play challenging music with a guest director, but you practice the songs for hours and hours. At the end, you give a concert of all the songs that you practiced that day.

Good Shepherd had two people that made the band this year. Dean H., an 8th grader at Good Shepherd, has a few words to say about that. He says, "I think that a lot of band members could make it into ILMEA if they practiced. Everyone should try." Plus, what's the harm? Even if you don't get selected, you have improved and could try again next year. These festivals are available up through high school.

In the end, ILMEA can be a fun experience. It is a cool way to share your talent with the other kids that made it. Even though it takes sacrifice and dedication to make the band, it is worth it. And even if you don't make that band, you still get better. You can just try again next year, and maybe you'll make it.

"In the end, ILMEA can be a fun experience. It is a cool way to share your talent with the other kids that made it. Even though it takes sacrifice and dedication to make the band, it is worth it."

Field Trips Are Back!

By: Conner S.

It was a dreary day at Good Shepherd, and it was raining outside. The students were having a bad day until they heard the great news. The terrific news was that field trips were back. Field trips were a fun event at Good Shepherd for a long time. Along with many other things, field trips were not an option because of Covid. Recently Mr. Mayhew decided that he would allow field trips again. Many students and teachers are excited about this great opportunity. Mr. Mayhew agrees that it is a good thing that field trips have been reinstated. He said, "Field trips are a great educational tool." They are a great educational tool because students can learn many things while out on a fun field trip.

It is also good they were started because the students are enjoying going on

field trips. The students are having fun and learning many new things on the field trips. Part of the fun of field trips is being able to leave school and visit a local place, such as the



St. Louis Zoo or the Botanic Gardens. Mrs. Krause, a kindergarten teacher, was interviewed and asked if the kindergarten enjoyed the field trip. "Yes! They especially loved riding the bus!" she said.

Even though field trips are back, there are many

challenges with the field trip program. There are some places that students could go to in the past that are not allowing field trips anymore. It is sometimes very hard to get the money for the field trip and to plan the field trip. Another challenge is the field trip might be canceled because of weather or some other unexpected event.

Overall, field trips are an excellent way for students to learn about many things. They are also hard to organize. Do you think field trips are worth the cost and work to arrange? Do you think that field trips are a great educational tool?

The Gingerbread House Is Finally Open!

By: Hayden S.

The Gingerbread House is finally open? Yep, this year students finally get to go to the gym balcony and pick out some cute little gifts for our friends and family. In the years that students have gone up there to shop, they haven't heard a single person say they didn't like it. The gingerbread house is too much fun. The best part is the gifts are cheap and unique, and there is a variety of neat gifts you can get for anyone.

The Gingerbread House is something the school has been doing for a lot of years. But with Covid these past couple of years, the school hasn't been able to do it due to the guidelines. So this year, the school is proud to say that the Gingerbread House is open! This year should be more fun than ever after not having it for so long.

The kids love going up there and picking out gifts for friends and family. Marie Ruth, a faithful volunteer, states, "It's a good opportunity for the students to

do some shopping; the items aren't expensive, and they're good items, and they're things relatives like, and they can get things for their pets."



This opportunity for the kids is not only a bundle of fun, but it teaches them some basic shopping skills. Marie Ruth says, "It helps make Christmas more fun for the students, and it teaches the students how to budget their money and to try to think of things for other people besides themselves."

What can you do to help the Gingerbread House? Any parent can help with volunteering. All you have to do is run the cash register, or you can help the kids shop. It is super easy and fun. The kids also love it. Marie Ruth says, "I have been told by parents that their children are so excited about the things they bought their parents. I think it helps the kids learn when you shop how much money to spend and how much to spend on each one." It is a fun thing to do to help the school as Alex R. a student, states, "It is basically a fun fundraiser."

The kids this year will have so much fun. The kids who have never done it before will look forward to it. So remember, if you would like to volunteer, you can contact the school, and they would be more than happy to let you.

"It helps make Christmas more fun for the students, and it teaches the students how to budget their money and to try to think of things for other people besides themselves."

—Marie Ruth

The New Fish in the School

By: Jacob S.

There are a lot of new students every year. They appear out of nowhere on the first day of school, and sometimes it can be stressful for new kids. When people would get new kids in their class, sometimes they would fit in perfectly. Most of the time, when people join from another school, they can be caught off guard by Good Shepherd's challenging curriculum.

New kids have it the hardest because they are being introduced to a new environment. Firstly, there are new kids at schools every year, most people have experienced getting a new student at least once in their life. But they all have one thing in common; they are in a new environment. Most new students had different learning systems in their old schools, so it is good to explain everything carefully. Helping the student do homework until they understand it could also work. It is mainly good to make them feel welcome.

Second, people do not always need help. Some people had the same learning system at their

old school. Ben S., a new student in the eighth grade, is a good example of this. Ben is familiar with Shurley English which Good Shepherd does. Ben also says a few more things such as, "When I first arrived, I felt welcomed, and I didn't feel very nervous because I already knew some of the people that were



there." He states that this school felt welcoming to him, almost as if he was still at his old school.

Sometimes, when a new student comes from a home school, it can be a whole different story, such as Anna A., also in eighth grade. She states, "This school is a lot different from my old one because I actually have other classmates and actual teachers. There is a completely new curriculum to

explore." This example shows that when someone comes from a home school it can be both more challenging and more exciting.

What can you do? You can include the people in your everyday activities with your friends, or you can help them find friends. Even sitting next to them at

lunch can help their day be better. If you were dedicated enough, you could become a teacher to support the new kids, unless you already are one!

In most cases, people new to schools don't always have it easy. Some people aren't included in the old kid's activities. On the other hand, the new kids could also fit in perfectly and have no trouble getting along with their classmates. When people come to a new school, the right thing to do is to include them in your activities and make them feel welcome.

Girls' Volleyball Team

By: Natalie T.

The volleyball girls were waiting for their opponent's serve to go over the net. *Swoosh*, the ball came flying over the net. Grace (8th grader) passes it up in the air. Natalie (8th grader) grabs the ball and sets it to a hitter and *smack*; the ball goes straight down. The Chargers won the game!

The 8th-grade volleyball girls have been playing volleyball for three years. Some have been playing longer than others, but they love to play together the most. They love each other like sisters. They never bring down a sister, but they help build that person up from where they were so they could get better.

The girls loved playing at the state tournament; it was their last time playing volleyball together, so they had to make it the best last time. Some cried, and some cheered them up. They were classy in what they did while saying thank you to a teacher who was retiring. The volleyball team hasn't gone to state since 2019, so this was a chance to make it happen again and make it more memora-

ble.

The love of the game and the fun is what matters most to the girls. Grace P. states, "I get to play with my friends, and I like playing with this team because I like them and get to see them every day." When they get to play with friends, the game is always better.



Anna A. states, "My teammates are most important, and I enjoy competing against other teams and having fun." The team works together, and they have fun every time they get together.

People can volunteer to help at the home games, like at the concession stand, so that if the

volleyball girls can't eat dinner, they always have a place to have food and to energize. They also need people to help with the scoreboard. Someone can always help out by becoming a coach because more and more people don't want to help out because they don't have the time or they just don't want to. Coach Jamie says, "I like coaching school because I start working with kids when they're in middle school. Seventh grade and up, I get to see them grow till they're 18 years old, so I get to be with the kids and be part of their lives. I really love it a lot because I get to see the kids for a long time, and I get to teach them new things and see them grow from where they began."

In conclusion, the volleyball girls did their best at state. It was a big deal for them because it was the first time since 2019 before COVID that any volleyball team could go to state. While the volleyball girls were at state, they had much support from their parents, and if there weren't any parents, the girls would not have as much spirit.

Mrs. Luna-The Newest Addition to the G.S. Staff

By: Autumn W.

Some of you may be asking, "Who is Mrs. Luna?", "What is she teaching?", "What is she like?". Well, I am here to tell you about her and her story. Mrs. Luna was a public school teacher in St. Louis for 15 years before working at Good Shepherd. She was born July 11, 1982, which means she is now 40 years old. She has always wanted to teach at a private school since she started teaching but had yet to find the right one until Good Shepherd. Mr. Rinker, the 8th-grade and 6-8 grade science teacher retired, so that means that Mrs. Luna is his new replacement.

Mrs. Luna is very excited to keep teaching at Good Shepherd and loves how God is everywhere in this school. When asked why she wanted to move to this school, she stated, "I always have just wanted to work at a Christian school, and I love it here." She teaches the 5-8th grade science, 7th-grade math, and is a 5th-grade homeroom teacher. Everyone seems to like her, especially the 8th graders! We would like to

make her feel as welcome as possible because being a new teacher in a new environment can be somewhat intimidating. Mrs. Luna makes a great impact on her students lives and really helps them understand the lessons she is teaching with her methods. Natalie T., an 8th grader, stated, "Mrs. Luna just runs over the



lesson with the class, and then we get a really thought-out assignment online."

Mrs. Luna really loves what she does. Science is one of her great passions! When asked what word describes her best, Mrs. Luna said "Nerdy, because I love science and reading." She really cares about her students and makes sure they excel. Natalie T. said, "When I ask

her a question, she reads me the problem or question and works through it with me till we get the answer together."

What can you do to welcome Mrs. Luna to GS? Since adjusting to a new environment is hard, we would like to make the process of getting used to this school as easy as possible. If you see Mrs. Luna in the hallway, try to wave at her or say good morning to make her feel welcome to Good Shepherd. You could also be extra nice to her as she is teaching and adjusting to this new building.

Overall, Mrs. Luna is what this school needed. She is an amazing addition to our staff and a very generous and caring teacher to go along with the other staff. She fits in perfectly here, and we couldn't be more thankful that God sent her to do what she does best, teach! Mrs. Luna makes an impact everyday on her students and co-workers' lives. She was sent to teach and help her students' daily lives. We love you, Mrs. Luna!

Welcome Mrs. Davis!

By: Isaak B.

Over the years, there have been changes at our school, especially with teachers. For many years in sixth grade, Mr. Voss taught at Good Shepherd. About two years ago, he decided to retire. After that, there was Mr. Caleb Betts. He taught sixth grade last year, and he also served as a track coach. He decided to take the call he was offered later that year. However, Good Shepherd learned about Mrs. Davis and her husband during the year. Soon after that, Mrs. Davis was hired. Now, the people of Good Shepherd welcome Mrs. Davis as the new sixth-grade teacher this year; hopefully, she will enjoy her time here.

Mrs. Davis grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, and her husband grew up in Detroit, Michigan. When asked about her career and how she decided on it, she said, "When I was little, I just wanted a job where I could serve people, so I decided to be a teacher." Ever since she was younger, she had always planned on helping others. It actually goes well with our theme, "Chosen." God chose her to help serve her community. However, Good Shepherd isn't the first school she has worked in. She said, "I have experience teaching elsewhere, but this is the first time I have my own classroom."

Mrs. Davis is thrilled to teach here at Good Shepherd. In some

places, it might be difficult, but with the help of her peers, she will overcome it. Mrs. Davis explained in the interview, "I have loved the students and staff at Good Shepherd! The first year as a teacher is hard, but the people here make it worth it!" Mrs. Davis's favorite class to teach is religion. Religion is very special to her. During her free time, she likes to spend time with her family, too. God



and her family are the most important things in her life. She says, "My favorite classes to both teach and take have always been religion. I love learning about and teaching the Word of God! My favorite thing to do outside of school is spend time with my family." This is really important when it comes to good, Christian teachers. Kids at young ages learning about God need a good role model.

After interviewing Mrs. Davis, two sixth-grade students were asked about their thoughts on Mrs. Davis. These two are Brady B., and Liam D. They both said they liked

her. Brady said, "Yes, I like her as a teacher," and Liam Downing said, "I enjoy Mrs. Davis as a teacher. She is very good." They were also asked what their favorite and least favorite subjects were with her. Brady said, "Math is my favorite subject with her, and English is my least favorite subject with her." Liam said, "My favorite subject with her is art, and Math is my least favorite subject with her." They both said they enjoyed sixth grade and that their class was respectful of her. There was one question left to ask, which was originally written as a joke, but it was decided to be kept. If they were held back, would they still enjoy her as their teacher? Brady B. said, "If I was held back, I would still want her as a teacher." Liam Downing said, "If I was held back, I wouldn't be happy with her as my teacher because she made me get held back."

If you see Mrs. Davis in the hallway, please give her a welcoming smile or just a simple "hi." Good Shepherd should really make her feel welcome here as a new teacher. Nobody wants to start something not having a good welcome. In the end, Mrs. Davis is a bold, confident Christian. She enjoys working with kids, and she loves teaching the Word of God. All people should follow these qualities to live a good, Christian life.

Mrs. Clark's Debut at Good Shepherd

By: Grace P.

A new first-grade teacher came to our school this year named Mrs. Clark. You may be wondering questions like, "Where did she come from?" and "Why did she decide to come to Good Shepherd?". Just keep reading, and you will find the answers to all of these questions and more information about the new addition to our Good Shepherd staff.

Mrs. Clark was born in the Philippines. She lived in a military family, so she moved to a variety of different places, including South Carolina, Kansas, and Illinois. By the time she was twenty-one, she had gone to twenty-one different schools. Mrs. Clark went to SIUE and the University of Arkansas to receive her Bachelor's in Early Childhood Education. She also attended Western Governors University for her Masters in Special Education.

Before Mrs. Clark came to Good Shepherd, she taught at many different schools. She was a Resource Teacher at Wolf Branch Elementary, she taught Preschool at Discovery School, and she was a Special Educa-

tion teacher at High Mount School. When asked what the most important thing about teaching was, she replied, "Seeing the kids grow, and seeing the light bulb come on when they finally get it." This is one reason why teaching is a rewarding experience for her.

Mrs. Clark has liked



teaching at Good Shepherd because "the community of teachers is very helpful and welcoming." She also enjoys the fact that she can share her faith freely with her students. When asked why she decided to come to Good Shepherd, she replied, "I liked that I could share Jesus while in my classroom and pray openly without

having to worry about getting in trouble." Gavin, one of her students, also loves learning about God. He said, "I like Jesus more than anything!"

Mrs. Clark stated that her favorite subject to teach her students is science. The reason she likes to teach science is that the experiments are "more fun than a lot of other things." Mrs. Clark also likes to see her students having fun. Her favorite memory with her students is "Getting to go to the zoo and seeing them relax and running around and being in their element." From this information, we can conclude that having fun while learning is definitely a priority in her classroom.

To conclude, Mrs. Clark enjoys sharing her faith with her students and seeing them grow and have fun. Now you know all about our new first-grade teacher at Good Shepherd. If you see her, be sure to welcome her to our school!!

Christ's Calling

By: Lilly G.

The inspiring journey of Deaconess Grace continues through Good Shepherd School and her teachings as she walks in God's path of righteousness. Deaconess Grace shares her faith in Bible class with the seventh graders; she is the youth director and a church secretary. Grace is excited to join GSLCS for her first year as a deaconess and her first year teaching seventh grade. Grace loves Jesus, so she shares her love for Him throughout our school.

Grace has been teaching Sunday School since she was sixteen, and then she started teaching Bible studies for ten years. She then thought she wanted to be a Director of Christian Education, but God called her to get her degree in college and work at a senior living community.

Deaconess Grace is doing an internship at Good Shepherd this year. She states, "During my internship, I do the work of a Deaconess, with a supervisor (Pastor Walther) who works with me to ensure I am doing my work well and continuing to learn and grow into my position." As part of her internship, she also teaches the seventh-grade Bible class. Grace enjoys every moment she

spends with God and shares her love with others! She shares her faith with the seventh-grade students every morning, and she loves it. Grace states, "I love taking every opportunity to tell others about Him and what He has done for all of us by sending



His Son to die and rise again." As Grace said, she loves doing this, and God called her to do so. Deaconess Grace didn't think she would go this route, pursuing being a Deaconess doing mercy work, teaching, etc. Grace said, "When I was in grade school, I thought I wanted to teach, but by high school, I had changed my mind and decided I did not want to pursue that route." Grace was following what God was pushing her to do, and she now says she loves doing

what she does, teaching the Word of God.

Josie, in seventh grade, confidently declares, "She will tell us her own stories from her life and how she reflects on it, and if it happens to us, she guides us." This is showing that Grace cares and loves her students, not only teaching them about life but guiding them to live a Christian life. She encourages her students to do what Jesus would do in every-day life.

What can you do to welcome Deaconess Grace? As Grace ministers to the people she goes and sees with Pastor Walther, she needs some positivity in her life, so try waving hi, asking how she is doing, or talking to her in class.

Grace's impact on the school and on the kids is amazing; she is doing what Jesus sent his apostles to do. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). In conclusion, we should all tell our neighbor or friends about God, just like Deaconess Grace.

"I love taking every opportunity to tell others about Him and what He has done for all of us by sending His Son to die and rise again."

—Deaconess Grace

Mr. Krueger...in 8th Grade?

By: Brad D.

Remember when Mr. Krueger taught 5th grade? The year that Mr. Rincker was retiring? Well, Mr. Krueger took Mr. Rincker's place! Now, in 8th grade, Mr. Krueger will hold up the 8th-grade torch. Everyone is sad that Mr. Rincker is gone, but we're confident that Mr. Krueger will be good in his new position.

In the 2021-2022 school year, Mr. Rincker said that he would retire. The school was shocked about the retirement plans, especially the upper-grade teachers. Thus, our principal, Mr. Mayhew, asked Mr. Krueger, who was teaching 5th grade at the time, to teach 8th grade for future years. Coincidentally, that means Mr. Krueger is teaching the same kids he taught in 5th grade!

Mr. Mayhew is proud and confident in his choice to move Mr. Krueger up three grades. "I wouldn't put him in 8th grade if I didn't think he would do well," said Mr. Mayhew. If the school principal is firm with his choice, students should trust Mr. Krueger

to teach them many things.

Even Mr. Krueger is happy with the new move. He said, "It will be an enjoyable experience because I get to teach the same kids for multiple years." He's ready to have kids he taught before he moved.



Some things to help Mr. Krueger on his path: Say hello to him in the mornings and say encouraging words to him. Be sure to bring him treats on his birthday, too!

So what do you think? Will Mr. Krueger be a great 8th-grade teacher? He'll indeed be a good leader for the grades he teaches. Even if you're in kinder-

garten, you may see him sometimes!

Overall, Mr. Krueger will be in students' hearts for years to come. "He is a great teacher, and great teachers do great things," Mr. Mayhew comments.

The Veterans Day Assembly: Honoring the Brave

By: Anna A.

The gym was packed with students, all waiting silently in anticipation. The band director, Mr. Stegman, raised his arms and counted down from 3. The band started playing "The Star Spangled Banner." The song represented the freedom of America. The kids in the bleachers waved their mini American flags while looking at the white and red striped flag with the 50 white stars.

The Veterans Day event is important to the veterans who attend it and to the kids who can learn about the veterans. The veterans served our country and sacrificed their mental health and some even sacrificed their life and or physical body. The Veterans Day Assembly is to thank veterans for their service to our country. There is no way to repay the veterans, but we can at least show appreciation. At the event there were many veterans and people still serving in the military. You could tell by looking at the veterans' faces that they appreciated the event and all the kids performing.

I think Veterans Day events are important because veterans have seen worse things than we could imagine. Some have even physically suffered or are still suffering. We should appreciate them for what they

have done to serve our country. The Veterans Day event was held on November 11th. "We are one of the only schools to have school on Veterans Day," says Principal Mayhew. "Veteran's day is important enough to have school in honor of the veterans." I asked if the Veterans Day events are



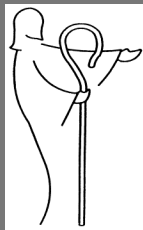
important. Crystal Hernandez, a veteran at the assembly, said, "Absolutely, young people need to better understand what veterans and soldiers do."

The events are important to the family members of the veterans as well. The family members of the veterans have walked through the suffering of the veterans. They have had to be apart from family members for long periods of time. The people who served probably missed children's or spouse's

birthdays due to war and being sent to different countries or states. Crystal Hernandez also says, "I missed a daughter's 8th grade graduation, a daughter's confirmation and several birthdays. Some of the families of the people who served might never have seen that person again. They might have said bye to the family member and then later were told they had been killed in war. Losing a family member may even be more painful than physical wounds.

The event was really heartwarming to see the young preschoolers and kindergartners sing to the veterans. The performance done by Kaitlyn Pe., Emily K., Grace P., and Kaitlyn Pi. was also very touching, and the band played well. If you are able, it is important to contribute like the four girls by singing, dancing or reading a speech you put together like Dean Hemmer to show the veterans you care.

Next Veterans Day Assembly, really thank the veterans and contribute to the assembly. The veterans love to see young children perform. Do you have anybody who served in your family? Have you heard of things they saw or experienced? If not, ask them about it and think about if you can do something to show appreciation.



About Shepherd's Staff Writers

This edition of *Shepherd's Staff* was written, edited and published by Good Shepherd Lutheran School's Journalism 101 class, which is composed of eighth-grade students. The newspaper is a culminating project of this semester-long course. During this class, students analyzed many local and national news articles. They learned the key components of a news story, the importance of a good lead, and the value of citizen interviews.

Students were involved in every step of producing and publishing this newspaper. In addition to writing the stories, they also determined the newspaper layout and the arrangement of the articles.