

The Explorer

**A Practicum
Design Publication**

**Meet The New
Teachers**

**Volume II
Edition I**

Granbury High School with its new and updated facility has also had new teachers join them. One of them who has joined would be **Russell Ash**, a former prosecuting attorney who is now an Algebra II and Math Models teacher. Mr Ash decided to retire from his former job of an attorney and put to use his teaching degree he earned in 1982. He and his wife decided to move to Granbury because it fit all of the criteria that they wanted, and since his wife is also a math teacher at GHS, he decided to go in that direction as well.



He graduated from Angelo State University in 1982 with a Bachelors of Science degree in Mathematics and later was accepted to and graduated from Texas Tech School of Law. He received his Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1992, meaning he studied the Philosophies of Law. He studied in many areas including family, criminal defense, criminal prosecution, real estate, probate, municipal law, and bankruptcy. When he started going to school he and his wife already had three young children from ages one to seven. Mr. Ash was elected the Reagan County Attorney for 18 years prosecuting misdemeanors and for the past three years he practiced criminal defense.

His hobbies include riding his motorcycle, a 1989 Honda Goldwing, playing a bass guitar and a cajon, a percussion instrument. He also is learning German and Ukrainian, as well as European travel. While at his house he enjoys to loom knit and makes scarves, hats, shawls, and afghans. It helps keep his hands busy while he is watching TV.



Ashley Benson is new to Granbury High but not new when it comes to education. As a graduate from Oklahoma Baptist University. She went to Joshua and was the Varsity assistant coach in Volleyball and softball, as well as the head coach for JV softball.

Outside of coaching, she also has taught World Geography and she was a special education inclusion teacher. Benson recalls, *“the teachers and coaches I had made the biggest impacts on my life and I wanted to do the same for others.”*

Granbury High School has been freshly renovated and has also added new staff to the roster. One of which is **Meagan Clay**, our new Algebra 2 and Honors Geometry teacher. It is her first year teaching. Before teaching she worked at Oklahoma State University

She graduated from A&M University and she decided to become a teacher because she enjoys working with students and she loves math! One experience she has had on campus was that she was yelled at for being in the hall because she looks like a high school student. She also has a husband who is a high school math teacher/coach at Brock High School.



When asked, some of her favorite hobbies are watching football and baseball and she also love playing with her goldendoodle, Jax, which is her only pet.

(TOP) (BOTTOM)



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Kelcey Daffan is new to the art department here in Granbury High School. Before coming to GISD, she taught art classes in Farine Elementary in Irving from grades kindergarten through fifth and absolutely loved the district.

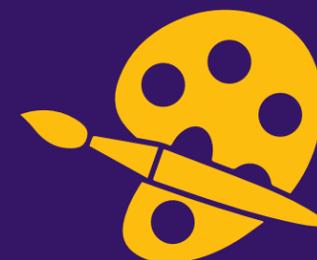
She is actually a former student of Granbury High School and is very surprised of how different the campus looks compared to when she attended here during her high school years. She ended up moving back to Granbury after getting married and was happy to work in the same district she had grown up in. Daffan states that her former teachers had a huge impact on what she does now. She states keeping the art department in public schools is very important to her.

She became an art teacher because she loves teaching new forms of art to her students. She also began working to earn her master's degree, but had stopped due to not knowing what specific degree plan to go through with. According to her, teaching seems to be a little like what she thought. Stating that there are surprising qualities to both elementary and secondary and she absolutely loves it.

Personally, what she enjoys doing during her free time include hanging out with her husband and their three dogs. She also enjoys painting, reading, and binge watching sitcoms. She seems excited for this new teaching year and memories to make in Granbury High School.

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Don Davis is our new French teacher this year, he teaches French I, II, III, and IV, grades 9-12. He has graduated from Texas Tech University with a B.A. in French and in English. Before coming to Granbury High School, Mr. Davis taught at the Texas Juvenile Justice Department in Mart, Texas where he taught secondary math. He chose teaching because he enjoys academics and learning; specifically sharing information with others.



The expectations he has of his French students include acquisition of speaking, reading, listening, and writing the French language, learning and appreciating the Francophone culture, and a deeper appreciation of our American culture.

He is married to Debra Davis, a retired school teacher and has three adult children, Lauren Davis Ross, Alicia Davis, and Connor Davis as well as two grandchildren, Gianna Ross and Rocco Ross. His hobbies vary and include boating, flying, fishing, camping, reading, gardening, playing chess, traveling, music, and painting acrylic and oil.

Interesting facts about Mr. Davis:

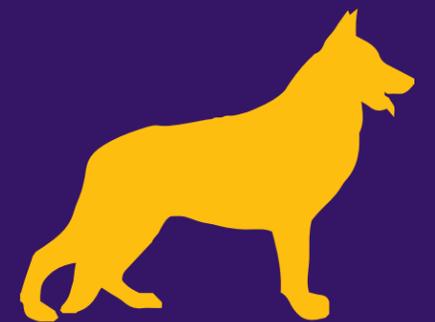
- He retired from the US Postal Service as a manager after 40 years of service.
- He is now in his fifth year of teaching.
- Don Davis lived in Quebec Canada for several years where he learned French.
- His goals for this new year are to succeed in the classroom by being the best teacher he can be, to perfect his French, to improve his math skills, and to lose weight.
- Mr. Davis is happy to be at Granbury High School, he says the students here are a very high caliber of student and considers himself fortunate to have them as students.



Magdalena Dobbs attended San Jose State University, San Jose, CA and taught summer school for three years in a row in Manhattan Beach, California. Mrs. Dobbs had great teachers in her highschool years and was inspired by how energetic and enthusiastic each teacher was and aspired to be one in the future. Magdalena Dobbs expects her students to do their very best in Spanish and not only just take Spanish 2 but be inspired to take further advanced levels in the future. She also expects for the school to foster a great environment for all students to learn.

Mrs. Dobbs has a husband she just celebrated 15 years of marriage with in August and has lived in Texas for 4 years. Dobbs claimed she had never heard of Granbury before moving to Fort Worth last December. Magdalena and her husband own two fur-babies, one named Mack and the other named Eddie. Mack is a German Shephard two years old and Eddie is A fifteen year old Beagle mix. Mrs. Dobbs says she spends a lot of her free time outdoors with her family and frequently visits dog parks with her two fur-babies.

Some interesting facts about Mrs. Dobbs include traveling to Mexico every year from December to March with her family during elementary school. Instead of letting her kids fall behind in school, Magdalena Dobbs's mother would enroll them in school while in Mexico for 3 months until Magdalena reached the 5th grade. Mrs. Dobbs's goal for the year is to start working on her Master's Degree in the spring.



Wade Green is the newest addition to our school's science department, teaching physics and astronomy he is sure to be a big help. Mr. Green has come to GHS from Stony Point High School in Round Rock Texas. After 11 years of teaching at Stony Point he decided that he wanted to be closer to his family, so he came to GHS.



Years before, Green went to college and then decided that he wasn't ready, and joined the Navy instead. While serving in the Navy he met his wife while he was on leave. When he got out of the navy he got his degree from the University of Texas in Austin, He says that he "*Bleeds burnt orange*".

Mr. Green has been married with his wife for 27 years now and has 2 sons, both of which are grown. He as well has a dog named Blossom and a cat named Mooch. He is really good at juggling and loves to bake and make kolaches.

Coming to a new place with new people can be hard, and you don't always know what to expect, but Mr. Green has said that he has loved his first few weeks here. He says that everyone has been very welcoming and friendly with him. Though it has been a little bit difficult to switch to our bell schedule because at the old school he taught at he had to go by an A/B schedule. As he adapts we should all welcome him with big open arms.



New teachers buzz with excitement and fresh new ideas for their students now and to come as a new year begins. A bright eyed new teacher who was once a Paramedic now takes up a job as a Health Science teacher beams with positivity and has a nature to draw other to her. Looking for a new job opportunity, **Casey Hallmark** left her job as a 24/7 Paramedic and decided to settle for a

simpler, more stable job. Her first day was definitely nerve wracking that's for sure, but after a few hours of teaching, she noticed how she was actually having fun. "*I have an awesome group of kids this year.*"

She started out in Odessa College and had a dream to be a teacher "*Decided I wanted to do something different and I switched to EMT.*" She ended up moving to DFW and started Paramedic school at Hill College. "The hardest thing about college was trying to finish while raising 3 kids."

While she was new, she did happen to know some of some other staff from working in the EMT world, and felt right at home. She worked for the local ambulance company for 3-4 years and has many exciting stories for all who are interested. "*There is never a dull moment.*" She begins to explain how she would only be called if there was a bone left on the patient. "*I expect the kids to listen and learn. Learn from my mistakes, learn how to save a life, learn that we are family, and learn to be kind.*" She seems to be glad that the 24/7 days over, and her new kids do too.

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New to Granbury Hight School, **Agustin Hinajosa** was college bound for Tarleton State University, where he recieved his degree from. Before becoming a teacher, he used to work on and with various ranches, welding shops, and as a game processor. He wanted to become a teacher to teach Ag Mechanics. He had a pair of Ag teachers when he was in school that looked out for him and kept him on a good path.



Outside of teaching at GHS, he has various hobbies he enjoys. One of which is that he is blacksmith when it comes to knife making, he likes to build projects out of metal.

Seeing students make projects in his class that they thought they couldn't gives Mr. Hinojosa a little confidence boost. It shows that the work he puts into students makes them better. A personal goal of his is to be the best he can be and teach children things that they will never forget.

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It is safe to say educating students runs in her veins. **Melissa Kinnear** has taught for the past 15 years at Big Spring ISD, Amarillo ISD, Joshua ISD, and now currently, Granbury ISD. At Granbury High School, she teaches English II and is a Coach for Lady Pirate volleyball and basketball.



Now when it comes to her education, she has studied at Texas Tech University, Grand Canyon University, and Lamar University where she has received her teaching certifications and gets to do what she loves.

All her life she knew what she wanted to do from a very young age. Raised in Denver, Colorado, she grew up in a home where both her parents were teachers so she has always been around education and educators.

Outside of a school life, Coach Kinnear loves spending time with family and friends, listening to live music, going out on the lake, and loves all sports.



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Andrew Lahey is our new Assistant Band Director here at GHS. He graduated TCU with a Bachelor's degree in music education, but before college he actually served 4 years in the Marine Corps. As a tuba player with the Marine Forces Pacific Band stationed in Hawaii. Although he is primarily a Tuba player he loves to listen to the Oboe more than any instrument.



Locally, his expectations going into this school year is to learn as much as he possibly can as a first year teacher, acquiring as much wisdom and knowledge from more experienced teachers. On a personal level, he is happily married to Mrs. Lahey and has been for over 6 years. He doesn't have any children but he does have 2 dogs or "Fur Babies" as he said, named Kalea and Bella. His main hobbies are woodworking, cooking BBQ, and hunting/fishing. He can also juggle. When it comes to sports, he loves Indycar, and being from Illinois, his favored sports teams shouldn't come to much of a surprise, this is the list that he gave us,

- Football: Chicago Bears
- Baseball: Cubs
- Hockey: Blackhawks
- Basketball: He stopped watching in June of 1998-when Michael Jordan and Scotty Pippen retired.



Priscilla Lumbreras may be new to teaching Biology and IPC in Granbury High School but is not new to the teaching scene, she has taught at Mount Sacred Heart Catholic School in San Antonio, Texas for 3 years, she then taught at Lorenzo de Zavala Middle School in La Joya, TX for 7 years.



Priscilla Lumbreras chose to share this wonderful story from a previous school she taught at: *"I used a cheap brand of aluminum foil while performing an experiment. The foil tore and the materials we were heating caused so much smoke that the whole 8th grade section of my previous middle school had to be evacuated. The fire alarms went off and three fire trucks had to come to make sure that everything was okay. After that day, I became known as "Mrs. Bonfire." What makes this even funnier is the fact that my last name "Lumbreras" literally means bonfire in spanish."*

Prior to teaching, Ms. Lumbreras was a Counselor in Charge in the juvenile detention system in San Antonio, Texas and was also an Assistant Research Scientist at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Her work in the juvenile detention system was a very rewarding experience and it was there that she realized that she really enjoyed working with kids. She also graduated from The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Personally, Ms. Lumbreras owns a very confused 6 pound chihuahua named Lady that really believes that she is a 200 pound pit bull.

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Elizabeth Robblee is new to the ASL language department this year. She has worked with teens most of her adult life, and was previously a youth minister across the United States and later as a debate and speech coach. She also was an interpreter in schools in Wyoming.

She primarily taught for Fort Worth ISD, teaching American Sign Language at Western Hills High School in Benbrook; while living here in Granbury. She had returned to college in 2014 to seek a degree in Psychology. She originally thought she would chase after a Masters in Counseling, but while working for her Bachelor of Science in Psychology, she worked for her local school district as an interpreter in the High school and was the head speech and debate coach. She then realized she could make a big impact from working in a classroom. Elizabeth thinks of her work as a hope and a dream, not as a job. A personal career goal of hers includes always being open to learning new things and to grow as person. Also to enhance her knowledge base.

Her hobbies include building and crafting things. Over the years she had taught herself to crochet. She is also a very avid photographer, and she absolutely loves being able to capture things around her. Mrs. Robblee is excited, thankful to be where she is now, and ready for this year and new memories to make in Granbury High School.

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Scott Smith is the new Statistics and Algebra teacher here at GHS. He has a B.A. in both Film Studies from the University of Utah and in Mathematics from the University of Alaska Anchorage. He says has always known he'd become a teacher.



He spent the past 15 years in the state of Alaska as a journalist and has gotten everything he could from that job, so he decided that it's time to move back down to Texas to become a teacher. A goal of his for years.

Going into the school year he planned to work super hard and make sure his students succeed, he wants to be the best teacher he can be.

He is not married but he does have an 11 year old daughter named Hannah. His favorite hobbies include: snowboarding, Hiking mountains and fishing for salmon. Pretty safe to say he needs to update to some good ol' Texas activities! Mr. Smith's loves basketball and has watched the Mavericks ever since he was a kid.

During his journalist days, he covered the Redskins football team a lot which shaped him to become a Redskins fan. When I asked about his talent(s) he said and I quote, "*I can math real good. Just kidding. I can do a back flip on a snowboard while doing math in my head. I can also edit a 3 minute long TV news story in 20 minutes.*"

If anybody wants some *spicy* information about anything regarding journalism, his quest is 3rd period and his conference is 7th.

One of the newest teachers brings much promise to the school of Granbury ISD as she leaves behind the life of the court and the business suits to teach freshminds.



Renae Whitsitt graduated in 2004, and began her quest to survive in the real world. She dated with her school sweetheart through college though sadly, not the same one. He graduated from Tarleton, which is about five hours away from SFA, the college she attended.

SFA or, Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, and attended for 4 years where she learned BA and Political Science. Afterwhitch she attended Texas Wesleyan School of Law. She became licensed to practice law in Texas and went to law school for three years. "The most difficult part of all my time pursuing my own education was the summer of 2011, studying for the bar exam," she explained.

She spent two years practicing mostly family law and spent another three years in Granbury in the Hood County Attorney's Office as an assistant county attorney. "I spent a lot of time in the courtroom and enjoyed being in trial. I use my experiences as examples in my class." In 2012 she had a new county attorney. She enjoyed her time there and decided she wanted to teach other students, but she has hopes to return to the job she loves.

When she saw a criminal justice position open at our high school, she thought it would be an exciting adventure! She hopes by teaching them how things flow, they will find out who they really want to be when they grow up and out of the school.

