

## October Events

- Oct. 3 ...1 pm Dismissal/Inservice
- Oct. 3 ....9:30 pm FCCLA Lock-in
- Oct. 8 .....4 pm FFA Judging
- Oct. 9.. 1 pm HOA Vocal Honors
- Oct. 15.... PSAT/NMSQT Test Day
- Oct. 16...9:30 FFA District House
- Oct. 24.... No school/1st Quarter
- Oct. 27-31 .....MES Book Fair
- Oct. 28 1 pm Dismissal/PT Conf.
- Oct. 28 .....FCCLA FLC @ Lindsborg



Photo by Caleb Allen

Senior Cassidy Siemens at the FFA's day at the farm.

## MHS Clubs Roll-Call for 2014-2015

**F**<sup>FA</sup>  
 President- Desmond Finley  
 Vice-President- Paige Finley  
 Secretary- Whitney Fiedler  
 Treasurer- Kaden Diederich  
 “We want to promote premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. We’re hoping to increase interest in the program.”  
 -Sponsor Shad Marston

**P**ep Club  
 President- Erin Miller  
 Vice-President- Alli Rice  
 Secretary- Bailey Strausz  
 Treasurer- Peri Lange  
 “I’m impressed with the amount of students supporting their school and the school spirit they’ve brought.” -Sponsor Sara Rice

**S**<sup>tuCo</sup>  
 President- Colton Frazer  
 Vice-President- Robert McNutt  
 “This year we have new leadership training that we hope can help [inspire] better leaders.”  
 -Sponsor Monica Schmidt

**F**<sup>CCLA</sup>  
 President- Baylie Blouin  
 Vice-President- Brooke January  
 Secretary/Treas.- Mayla Frazer  
 “quote from Ms. Kaufman”  
 -Sponsor Connie Kaufman

**C**ole Street Singers  
 Sopranos- Seniors Bailey Strausz, Emily Knight, Jaida Wheatley, Maria Peterson; Junior Mykaela Ptacek; Sophomore

Cassidy Sparks; Freshman Jessica Ullom-Minnich.

Altos- Seniors Michelle Schrag, Alli Rice; Juniors Sky Creed, Peri Lange, and Brynne Wedel.

Tenors- Sophomores Cameron Clark, Parker Lange; Freshmen Chris Leddy, Bryant Olson, and Jaeden Dalke.

Basses- Senior Brandon Sparks; Sophomores Caleb Frye, Dylan Sugars; Freshmen Luke Ratzlaff and Noah Eichelberger.

“We have hopes [to do] more challenging pieces, show group pride and leadership, and to do well at contest.” -Sponsor Kim Kellum

Courtney Huff



# Cat's Corner

A Publication of 21st Century Journalism at MHS

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Photo by Caleb Allen

English teacher Melanie Krehbiel (left) stands next to fifth grade teacher Aaron McDaniel (right). Both are new teachers this year at Moundridge High School and Middle School. Not Pictured: New debate and forensics coach Tammy Duvanel Unruh.

## 21st Century Journalism Class

Editor  
Allison Jasso, so.

- Reporters
- Samantha Blaylock, sr. (MES)
  - Jaida Wheatley, sr. (MES)
  - Alejandro Jimenez, sr. (MHS)
  - Jasmine O'Quinn, jr. (MHS)
  - Rylie Dick, jr. (MHS)
  - Courtney Huff, jr. (MHS)
  - Mercedes Walls, jr. (MHS)
  - Bryn Litecum, so. (MHS)
  - Bayard Bell-Martinez, so. (MHS)
  - Kadie Carrell, fr. (MMS)
  - Jessica McKay, fr. (MMS)
  - Jasmine Walls, fr. (MHS)

This newsletter is a production of the 21st Century Journalism Class of 2014-2015. Advisor is Ms. Melanie Krehbiel. Questions or comments may be directed to: krehbielm@usd423.org.

## New Teachers Join Moundridge

Three teachers joined the Moundridge High School and Middle School staff this year. The teachers include debate and forensics teacher Tammy Duvanel Unruh, English teacher Melanie Krehbiel, and fifth-grade teacher Aaron McDaniel.

Duvanel Unruh previously taught at Bethel College, Newton High School, Sedgwick High School, and currently teaches a class at Hutchinson Community College.

"I have respect for Moundridge debate and forensics," Duvanel Unruh said. "I have a history with [previous debate and forensics coach] Mark Stucky. This job also let me be able to

teach debate and my HCC class."

Duvanel Unruh taught debate and forensics at Moundridge in 1991 and 1992. She was the debate coach before Stucky came to Moundridge.

"Everyone here is flexible and friendly. It's nice to be in a place where everybody knows everybody."

Duvanel Unruh has a husband and two sons in college. She currently lives in Newton.

"I worry [about] doing the program justice. [Moundridge debaters] are so used to winning that you don't know how rare it is for a school to have such an amazing record."

Continued on Page 3



Photo by Colton Frazer

Anna Stucky, Alli Rice, Caleb Allen, Emily Knight, and Elizabeth Ratzlaff dressed as the bachelor and bachelorettes.

## Wildcat Words

**“My favorite part of Spirit Week was the pep rally, because it’s not norm.”**

-Dylan Sugars, so.

**“I was honored and surprised to be elected homecoming queen.”**

-Emily Knight, sr.

**“I liked spirit week because guys could wear tights.”**

-Bryant Olson, fr.

**“Being selected a homecoming candidate was a privilege. My favorite day of spirit week was movie character day because it was fun to see everyone dress up.”**

-Brandon Johnson, sr.

# Homecoming a Success

This year for homecoming MHS students participated by dressing up for Spirit Week, which was held Sept. 22-26, 2014.

Monday was twin day; Tuesday was 80’s rock day; Wednesday was TV/ movie character day; Thursday was superhero/villain day.

Spanish exchange student Alejandro Jimenez’s favorite spirit day was TV character day.

“I didn’t dress up for it, but I did enjoy [seeing what other students wore],” Jimenez said.

Friday was black-out day. This was the most popular day. Almost the entire student body participated by dressing in black.

StuCo chose these Spirit Week days because they thought they were entertaining and people would enjoy them.

This year’s homecoming candidates were seniors Jimenez, Alli Rice, Robert McNutt, Emily Knight, Brandon Johnson, and Erin Miller.

The homecoming ceremony began at 6:30 pm on Friday night before the

football game.

At the end of the ceremony, Knight and McNutt were crowned King and Queen.

“I was honored and surprised to be elected homecoming queen,” Knight said.

The homecoming dance was on Friday after the football game. Pizza was served for free, and drinks were sold. The DJ played hits like “The Cupid Shuffle” and “The Wobble”.

Most students who went had a blast and enjoyed themselves. They made sure to show off their smooth dance moves.

“Overall I felt like there was too much grinding going on during the dance,” junior Faith Barton said. She also mentioned that it would have been better if it was cleaner.

“I thought that it was the most participated school event there has been in a while,” Rice said.

Mercedes Walls



Photo by Caleb Allen

(Left to right) Homecoming Candidates Emily Knight and Robert McNutt were selected homecoming queen and king.

# Pawsitivity on MHS Twitter

What is wildcat positivity? If you log on to your Twitter account and search @WPAWsitvity, you will find the page. Wildcat Positivity is all about positive messages from students to other students.

"I like Twitter better than emails, because since you can only use a small amount of characters per post, it makes reading tweets faster than emails," stated Mr. Wedel, MHS Principal.

Superintendent Higgins said that when he first checked out the account it reminded him of the motivation book *The Energy Burst*. The book is all about having a positive attitude.

"It's a great thing when kids come up with these things on their own, without being told to do it," Higgins said.

Senior Kaylie Penner was inspired by Newton High School's Twitter page. She explained that @WPAWsitvity can make a difference once tweet at a time.

"I am hoping that this will make students feel more welcome [at MHS]."

Since most students, and even some adults, have a Twitter account, it's a great way for people to help out others that may be feeling down.

One tweet said, "Pep band sounded quite alright, tonight!"

Another complimented, "Good gracious, the cheer squad is doing good this year!"

And yet another tweet was a quote from Nelson Mandela, which stated, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."



Moundridge High School's positivity page on Twitter.

Penner, the creator, is hoping that soon there will be a jar in the high school office where students can write down things they would like the account to post. The ideas from the jar will be collected at the end of every week, so students who do not have Twitter can still play part in this positive experience. If you are wanting to tweet as the page, you have to direct message the page and the page will tweet your inspirational thoughts.

If you were to ask, most people would likely tell you that this is a great way to boost students up. We don't want our fellow classmates to be down all the time, do we? No, we don't. We, as a school, need to make sure that we are being positive not only to others but also to ourselves.

That way our school remains a positive learning environment and not a negative one. No one wants to be around negativity; it just kills the happy vibe.

So the next time you're walking in the halls or in class and see someone

that maybe isn't having the best day, try saying something nice to them. Cheer them up.

I'm not saying we all have to be best friends or anything, but don't you think school would be a better place if it's a happy place?

You might be thinking, 'How would doing this help people feel better?' or 'Why does it matter if I do or say anything?' Think about this. If you were having a bad day and someone came up to you and complimented you, or even just came up to talk, wouldn't that make you feel even the slightest bit better?

I'm not saying that by doing something like this it would make someone super happy all of a sudden, but it would help.

Positivity has to start somewhere. Kaylie Penner decided it should start now @WPAWsitvity.

Jasmine Walls

## Moundridge High School



Senior Cade Graber (left) stands next to senior Rebecca Ullom-Minnich (right).

# National Merit Semifinalists

Seniors Cade Graber and Rebecca Ullom-Minnich have been selected as National Merit Semifinalists.

To become a semifinalist, a student must take the PSAT his or her junior year and receive a score in the 99th percentile.

"The PSAT is a hard test, and this is a big honor for these students," Moundridge High School principal Clark Wedel said.

Moundridge has had National Merit semifinalists four years in a row. Previous students who have also been National Merit semi-finalists include Debra Dipenbrock, RJ Clark, Devin Clark, and Sarah Ullom-Minnich.

There are only around 20 semifinalists in the Wichita area, and 16,000 semifinalists in the whole nation. To become a finalist, a student must take the SAT and score well, fill out an application describing his/her activities and academic records, write an essay, and have letters of recommendation sent by Mr. Wedel and Mrs. Fast.

"I feel honored [to have been selected]," Graber said.

He studied a little before taking the test. Graber plans to attend K-State and major in architecture.

Rebecca Ullom-Minnich is the other semifinalist. Her sister, Sarah Ullom-Minnich, was a previous national

merit semifinalist.

"The pressure was really on for me to receive this award too," Ullom-Minnich said.

She got a PSAT practice book and studied that to prepare for the test. Ullom-Minnich said it felt pretty great to be given this award. She plans on attending a four year liberal arts college out of state.

Bryn Lintecum

# The First Year

Going into kindergarten can be a scary thing, but can also be very exciting.

We interviewed four students from Moundridge Elementary about how they feel about their switch from Preschool to Elementary School.

Aspen Blaylock (daughter of Tim and Melissa Blaylock) said her favorite part of kindergarten so far is "going outside and doing centers".

When we asked her what her favorite activity that the kindergarteners have done so far this year, Blaylock said she loves "drawing pictures". She also said that she enjoys going to school all day now, instead of just half a day.

Isabelle Durst (daughter of Vonn and Casey Durst) enjoys kindergarten "much more than Preschool".

Durst's favorite part of kindergarten so far is going outside. She loves taking "Clifford the big red dog" home for the weekend, and that it is her favorite activity of the year so far.

Along with all the other three students, Durst said that she liked going all day better than just half a day.

Andrew and Gavin Porter (sons of Dan Porter and Kristi Strausz), are twin brothers in Mrs. Beasley's class. G. Porter said that he enjoyed Kindergarten better than Preschool.

He also said that going outside is the "best part of the day" for him, and mentioned that climbing the rock wall in P.E. is a favorite of his this year.

To no surprise both of the Porter twins said that they loved being in the same class together, and being able to enjoy all the fun that kindergarten has to offer, together!

A. Porter likes playing outside, and gym class the best so far. Making a school bus out of paper is his favorite activity. All four of the kids say that the change is fun and way better than Pre-school.

Samantha Blaylock and Jaida Wheatley



Photo by Jaida Wheatley

(Left to right) Aspen Blaylock and Isabelle Durst are students in Mrs. Modelmogg's Kindergarten class.

## MES Oct. Events

Oct. 8th- 10:30 the fire department will be here to do the smoke house and other fire safety things. Join us!

Oct. 16th- the MKC is coming to do a presentation to the 4th graders. It is Co-op Month.

Oct. 17- Kindergarten is going to P & M Pumpkin Ranch on.

Book Fair is the week of Oct. 27-Nov. 3rd.

Grandparent Day is Wednesday, Oct. 29th from 4-6.

For more upcoming visit the MES Facebook page: Moundridge Elementary, and on the USD 423 website under "Elementary".

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Wedel graduated from Halstead High School. For college, Wedel attended and graduated from Emporia State University, and later got his masters degree from Wichita State university.

Before coming to Moundridge, Wedel was assistant principal at Galena High school for one year, and then assisted at Halstead High School for 6 years. Wedel has been the principal in Moundridge for 10 years now.

Wedel watches baseball and follows the Kansas City Royals. He has also been a KU fan for a very long time. His favorite color is green, though he doesn't know why besides he's always liked the color.

Rylie Dyck

# September Wildcat Spotlight



Photo by Bylee Dyck

Bryn Lintecum hard at work in Journalism.

## Wildcat Words

**"I like the interaction and the competition among other schools."**

**-Mason Dyck, fr.**

**"I've always enjoyed supporting people, so cheer is just another way to support the school and sports along with pep club,"**

**-Bryn Lintecum, so.**

**"I'm excited for the musical, and I think it'll be a lot of fun,"**

**-Sky Creed, jr.**

**"High school goes by fast, enjoy every moment of it."**

**-Erin Miller, sr.**

**"I like the fact that you never know what's going to happen on a daily bases,"**

**-Mr. Wedel, principal**

The September Students of the Month are Mason Dyck, Bryn Lintecum, Sky Creed, and Erin Miller, and the Staff of the Month is principal Clark Wedel.

Mason Dyck was chosen for the student of the month for September by Kenroy Wilson. Dyck is involved in track and field and football. He is enjoying high school, but he also says it's a big change.

Dyck is also involved in the musical, *The Music Man*. In the musical, Dyck will be portraying a salesman.

Dyck also enjoys lifting weights, whether it is for sports, preparation for sports, or just for something to do. He also likes to listen to music in his spare time.

Bryn Lintecum is the sophomore student of the month for September as nominated by Melanie Krehbiel. Bryn is involved in cheerleading, pep club, FCCLA, and FCA. Her favorite part of cheer is being able to support the school and the sports teams.

She enjoys the cheers with crowd participation the best.

Lintecum's favorite animal is an elephant. She likes them because to her

they are interesting and cool. She also likes that they're grey.

Sky Creed is the September student of the month for the junior class as nominated by Kenroy Wilson. Sky is involved in volleyball, cheer, scholars bowl, and Cole Street Singers.

Creed is also involved in the musical this year, *The Music Man*. Creed will be portraying Mrs. Paroo, the mother of Marian the librarian.

Creed is also a member of the Youth Leadership Committee.

Erin Miller is the Senior student of the month for September as nominated by Kelsi Chisholm. Erin is involved in Volleyball, youth group, FCA, pep club, StuCo, and National Honors Society.

Miller is one of the nominees for Fall Homecoming. Miller is excited to be nominated for Homecoming, and the other candidates happen to be her best friends.

"I like the way everyone knows each other and nobody is afraid to be themselves," says Miller about her favorite part of going to Moundridge.

Clark Wedel, principal of Moundridge High School, was nominated for September Staff of the Month.

Continued on Page 9



Photo by Caleb Allen

(Left to right) Students and Staff of the month are Principal Clark Wedel, senior Erin Miller, junior Sky Creed, sophomore Bryn Lintecum, and freshman Mason Dyck.

The MHS volleyball has started, Ms. Kelsi Chisolm, coach of the Varsity team, had a few words to say:

**Q:** What were your expectations before the season started, and what are your expectations now?

**A:** “Before the season started my concern was the leadership on our team. We have qualified people this year but three seniors who left last year had been part of the program for four years, and I just wanted to see who was going to step up and fill those positions and be providing the leadership in pressure situations. Our seniors this year have done a really good job replacing them, so I’m proud of that.”

**Q:** Who would you place as the “key” players on Varsity?

**A:** “This year we are playing all ten players. Everybody has a distinct role on the team, and in some ways that is really good, because we are really balanced. But in other ways it is not that good, because if anyone has an off night, we miss whatever they provide to our team.”

**Q:** What good and bad things would you stand out from the team?

**A:** “The good thing on our team is that we are very aggressive at serving, but the bad is that due to this we miss more often than what I would like.”

In conclusion, the volleyball team is having a good season so far, they have formed a solid and competitive team, and we wish all the best for them this 2014/15 season.



Photo by Caleb Allen

Sophomore Anthony Otte carrying the ball against three Marion opponents in a home game.

## Moundridge Football & Volleyball

On the other hand, the football season has started and our Junior Varsity team beat the Bulldogs on a really equaled game (15-14) This result was our first positive result of the season.

Today, we are going to interview the coach of the Varsity team, Mr. Moddelmog, who has a big chance this year to make the team improve and form a family.

**Q:** What were your expectations before the season began, and what are your expectations now?

**A:** “ My expectations were for us to be competitive, week in and week out, and it’s not always about winning or loosing, but the big thing is to improve from week to week”

**Q:** Who would you place as the “key” players on Varsity?

**A:** “Our leaders as far as being in

the program the longest would definitely be DeShawn Pfeiff and Nick Vogts. They are two seniors who have done a nice job committing themselves in the weight room and being leaders both verbally and by action”

**Q:** What good and bad things would you say stand out from the team?

**A:**” We work hard every day of practice for the most part and then we come out and we play hard every friday night but the bad thing of that is mentally we’ve made a lot of errors that have costed us chances to get the win.”

Alejandro Jimenez



# Elementary Starts New School Year

## Update From Mrs. Browne

Principal JoAnn Browne of the Moundridge Elementary School, talked to us about all the changes in the Elementary school this year.

With the 5th grade moving to the middle school, she mentioned that it was a bit weird at times, stating that, "Sometimes I find myself calling the 4th graders 5th graders, because I'm not quite used to it yet!"

Browne also explained that now there is a separate art and science room for the kids, which is very nice, and they love it!

Even though MES lost a whole grade this year, there was not much of a significant change in number of students. Last year there was a total of one hundred and seventy-eight students, and this year there are one hundred and seventy-five, which is only a five-student difference.

The new teachers this year in the Elementary include: Brian Holloway (P.E.) and Lauryn Morris (4th grade special education).

Samantha Blaylock and Jaida Wheatley

## Homecoming

This year the Homecoming ball carrier and crown bearer from first grade were Ella Schrag, from Mrs. Brandewiede's class, and Fynn Burge, from Mrs. Robb's.

When asked why they were excited, Schrag said she was excited to, "wear a



Photo by Caleb Allen

First graders Fynn Burge and Ella Schrag pose before Friday night's ceremony.

pretty dress with a rose on it!"

Burge was, "excited that I get to carry the football!"

Burge also said that he was nervous, because he did not want to get hit with the ball while the

game was going on, but Schrag said that she was "not one bit nervous"!

Samantha Blaylock and Jaida Wheatley

It's almost that time of year! Students are auditioning and getting ready for *The Music Man*.

Director Kim Kellum has "been spending most of my time preparing by revising and reading the musical and also collaborating with the students to make sure everyone knows their lines, parts, and roles".

"It's a lot of memorization and rehearsing," Kellum said.

This musical was originally written in 1957 by Meredith Wilson.

"Being a part of this musical is a big excitement for anyone. You put in all this time, effort and work to memorize and perfect your role and then get to show all of that to your school, community, everyone! Opening night brings many emotions but when you're done and see all the greatness you've accomplished, it's a great feeling," Kellum said.

Many students agree that *The Music Man* is an exciting moment because it really sets the year off to a great start.

"I love being in the play because it's like a family. We all work together so hard to perfect it and give the community a good show," Senior Kalyah Sebrant said.

Although many of the students in the musical have been involved in choir or a Moundridge High School Production before, Kellum said that "new students should definitely give it a try. Even if you're shy or have never been in this atmosphere before, TRY! There's always someone loud



*Music Man* will be performed by the Moundridge High School students.

## Music Man Kick-Off

that will help you get out of your comfort zone and make it a great experience."

The play is meant for everyone. There are many different types of roles or even just being behind the scenes. You never know what you'll like or be interested in so students are encouraged to give everything a try.

"For parents, siblings, family, or anyone coming to watch, I'd say it's a feeling of pride to get to see this awesome piece of work that people close to you have put together," Kellum said.

As a new student, it is definitely exciting to be a part of all this and watch from behind the scenes to see all of the work and effort put into a musical production.

Kellum loves the rock island scene where the salesmen are speaking rhythmically on the train

to make it look like it is moving.

"I love this part because it's very challenging, but if it's practiced and done right, it's fantastic," Kellum said.

**Friday**  
**November 14**  
**7:00 pm**  
**Moundridge**  
**High School**  
**Auditorium**

Jasmine O'Quinn

# Moundridge Middle School: "The Wildcat Way"

Photo by Kadie Carrell



(Left to right) Landon Stephan, Miguel Sanchez, and Cassidy Finley

## Wildcat Words

**"One difference between elementary and middle school is that there are more books."**

-Landon Stephan, 6th gr.

**"The difference between 7th and 6th grade is [that] it gets harder."**

-Miguel Sanchez, 7th gr.

**"In social studies we are doing a town hall meeting."**

-Cassidy Finley, 8th gr.

**"In my class this year there will be more writing."**

-Mr. Scheef, 6-8 Social Studies

**"We have new after school program [which is] designed so that students can get their work done, and there have been good results so far."**

-Mr. Clark, MMS principal

I interviewed three teachers from the middle school.

First I interviewed Mr. Clark I asked him what was new at Moundridge Middle School this year. "We have a new system it's called the after school program which is designed so that students can get their work done. There have been good results so far."

He also says there will be a talent show in February. This year's theme is "The Wildcat Way."

In November there will be a food drive so students are encouraged to bring some food for this. The middle school would really appreciate it, but remember that classes get points for this.

"We are also looking for a way to connect the middle school to Pine Village" Clark said.

Next I interviewed Mr. Sheef. Did you know that he is a coach for the middle school football team? He says

that he likes football so far mostly because he likes getting to know the students better outside of school.

Sheef also said that in his class this year there will be more writing and notes are required. There will be more analyzing of sources.

At the end of the year there will be another 8th grade field trip. There will be a wax museum trip this year as well.

Then I interviewed Mrs. Huxman She said that the main thing for her this year is a topic called "Minute To Win It." Huxman is excited about this new theme.

So to the middle school I say good luck and have a great year.

Kadie Carrell

## Middle Schoolers Comment

Three students from the middle school agreed for me to ask them a few questions.

Landon Stephan is a 6th grader.

"I like the after school program" said Stephan. The after school program is good for students to catch up on homework.

Stephan said that his favorite teacher is Mrs. Chisholm.

"I also like the seminar challenges," Stephan said.

"One difference between elementary and middle school is that there are more books," Stephan said.

Miguel Sanchez is a 7th grader. He plays football.

Sanchez said, "The difference between 7th and 6th grade is it gets harder."

"Current events is the best thing out of the whole school," said Sanchez.

Sanchez also said that his "favorite teacher is Ms. Strausz."

Cassidy Finley is an 8th grader. She also plays volleyball.

"I feel tall compared to sixth graders!" said Finley.

Finley said "It's nice that the sixth graders look up to me right now."

"In social studies we are doing a town hall meeting," Finley said.

Jessica McKay

Continued from page 1

Krehbiel teaches English I, English IV, 21st Century Journalism, and proctors one German II student.

"I was ready for a change and Moundridge had an opening for an English teacher," Krehbiel said. "I was looking for a more academically challenging environment."

Krehbiel previously taught at Flinthills High School in Rosalia and Sedgwick High School for a total of ten years.

"The support from the staff and the energy I see from the students [has been awesome]," Krehbiel said.

Krehbiel lives in Newton with her husband, two dogs and two teenagers that she and her husband adopted from foster care.

In 2011 Krehbiel received the German Embassy Teacher of Excellence Award. The award is presented to up-and-coming German teachers who show excellence in teaching, creativity, dedication, and enthusiasm. Recipients of the award were given a travel grant to visit Germany.

"I partook in a two week seminar for elementary German teachers from around the world," Krehbiel said. "I chose to go with elementary teachers because I thought that their teaching methods would better match mine since I teach beginning German."

Krehbiel stayed with a host family in Schwäbisch-Hall, Germany.

McDaniel is the new fifth grade teacher. This is McDaniel's fifth year of teaching fifth grade.

"Moundridge is great so far. The staff is very friendly, sincere, and always willing to lend a hand," McDaniel said.

McDaniel previously taught in Carbondale, Kansas, for four years.

"My wife and I decided that we wanted to be closer to family. She is from the Wichita area and my family lives in the Halstead area," McDaniel said.

McDaniel now lives in Halstead with his wife and son.

Allison Jasso



Photo by Kaylie Penner

(Clockwise from top) Moundridge debate team members Jessica Ullom-Minnich, Allison Jasso, Kaylie Penner, Christain Walls, and Bayard Bell-Martinez recieved henna tattoos at the Kansas State Fair.

## Debate Tradition Continues

Moundridge High School has a long-standing history of success in the world of debate. Every year the team travels to the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson to watch three practice rounds. This year's resolution is: The United States Federal Government should substantially increase its non-military exploration and/or development of the world's oceans.

This year Moundridge Debate also boasts a new coach, Tammy Duvanel Unruh. She trained under Mark Stucky, the legendary debate coach who retired two years ago. She has some exciting new tactics to offer the team. Duvanel Unruh debated three years in high school and three more in college but has coached debate for eight years in high school and college each. She is very excited to teach at Moundridge.

"[I] like the people here. The staff, students, etc. I've taught at a few places where it's not much fun to go to work because the people aren't very fun and it's the opposite here. In addition, I'm both excited and nervous to take on the legacy of such a successful regime of debaters. Everybody knows the legacy of how often the teams here in Moundridge win."

She said she wants this program to be respected and she wants more students

to be a part of it. With only seven members on this season's team, Duvanel Unruh definitely hopes for more next year. Debate and forensics both offer great experiences for participants.

The Moundridge debate team includes third-year debater and senior Kaylie Penner, third-year junior Courtney Huff, sophomore second-year debaters Bayard Bell-Martinez and Dylan Juhnke, and sophomore novice Allison Jasso, and freshmen novices Christian Walls and Jessica Ullom-Minnich. Penner is the president with Huff presiding as vice-president. The Student Council representative and treasurer is Bayard Bell-Martinez and secretary is Allison Jasso.

Saturday, September 20 was the team's first tournament at Nickerson. JV team Juhnke and Ullom-Minnich went 3 and 2, placing 7th.

"The first round, I was a bit nervous. I had been all week. But once I got into it, it was rather fun. It felt like it was a good indicator of how I did when I placed but it definitely set the bar for the next tournament," Ullom-Minnich said.

The next tournament is on October 4th in El Dorado. Teams are to be announced.

Bayard Bell-Martinez