

PROGRAM FEATURE  
MUSIC AT DAYTON CREEK P.10

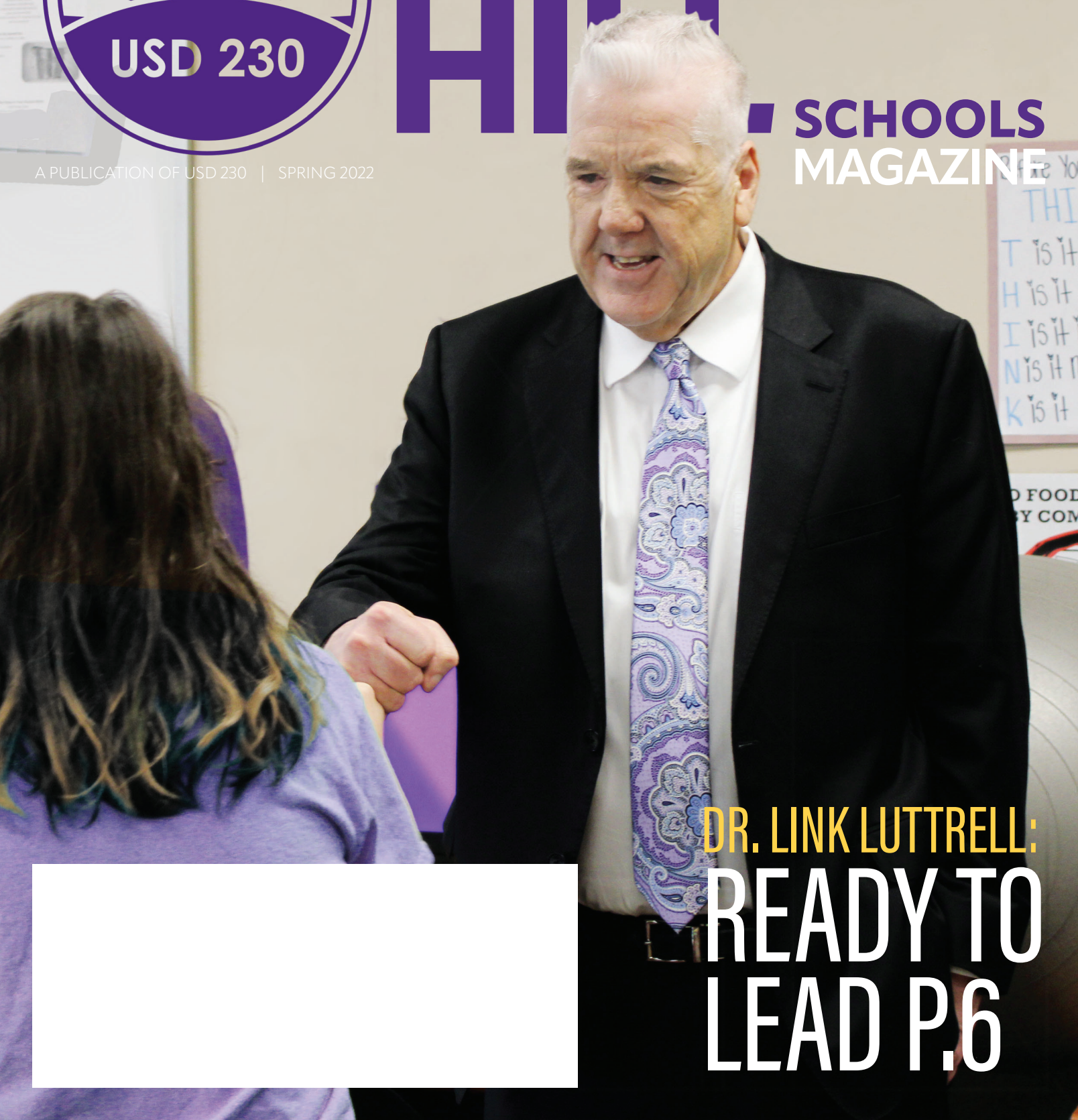
BEHIND THE SCENES  
THE LIFE OF TEACHERS P.16

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT  
CLASS OF 2006 P.18



A PUBLICATION OF USD 230 | SPRING 2022

# SPRING HILL SCHOOLS MAGAZINE



DR. LINK LUTTRELL:  
READY TO  
LEAD P.6



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# FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

With the end of the 2021-22 school year, I want to take this opportunity to thank some incredible groups for their efforts this year.

First, thank you to our students. Each and every one of you are rock stars. You've proven over and over that you can handle adversity and continue to learn regardless of the environment you are in. The adults underestimate how tough you really are. We're finishing a great year where our academic pursuits, athletic teams, and activities were very successful. One great thing about our district that you won't ever see on the news is this: 95-98% of our students came to school every day and did the right thing for the right reasons. We have fantastic students in Spring Hill School District.

I want to thank all of our staff members. You've proven over and over that no matter what obstacles are put in your way, you continue to find a way to educate our students. With all the rhetoric and other distractions, you continue to put the needs of our students first. We continue to strive to implement our school district's Strategic Plan of academic achievement and personal development. We believe we were able to show improvement every day. None of this would be possible without our outstanding teachers and our support staff. These staff members continue to go above and beyond for our students. We are very fortunate and blessed to have such an incredible staff working in our school district.

Thank you to the supportive parents and community members. You understand how important an education for all of our students is. Learning and education are the great equalizers in providing opportunity for the future. While many other districts in the state of Kansas saw a dip in enrollment, our



district continues to grow at a fast rate. We continue to be blessed with outstanding community support of our district. Our community support of past bonds has made our building of new schools like Dayton Creek Elementary (opened 2021) and Forest Spring Middle (opening 2023) possible so we could stay ahead of growth. We certainly appreciate our community and we will continue to work to provide the best educational opportunities possible for our students knowing our staff will receive support from our stakeholders.

It is with great sadness that I write this final letter from the Superintendent. Spring Hill School District has been home to my family for twenty-two years. My wife and I selected Spring Hill because we believed and continue to believe it is a great place to go to school, work, and live. Both of my children received a great education and graduated from Spring Hill High School. We've made so many great friends over the years and we certainly appreciate their support during the good times and the bad. We are so thankful we've been a part of this great community. Our memories of Spring Hill School District will always be positive.

Regards,

*Dr. Wayne Burke*  
Dr. Wayne Burke, Superintendent

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## SPRING 2022

VOL. 8, NO. 3

Cover Photo:  
Olivia Lister, SHHS Student Journalist

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# #LEARN230

## SOCIAL MEDIA ROUNDUP



**Spring Hill Early Learning Academy @SHEarlyLearningAcademy**  
10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, Blast off! Ms. Garnett's class went to outer space to try astronaut ice cream. Yum! [#Learn230](#)



**Dayton Creek Elementary School @DCESCavaliers**  
Mrs. Daniels' class harvested the tower garden! They tasted different lettuce and herbs, then made a personal salad. Bon Appétit! [#Learn230](#)



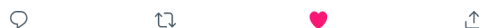
**Prairie Creek Elementary School @PCESMustangs**  
First grade is using observations from a nearby park they visited to create a plan for an inclusive playground of their own design! [#Learn230](#)



**Spring Hill Elementary School @SHESColts**  
We celebrated the Winter Olympics with students competing in fun events like bobsled, downhill skiing, ice skating, and more! [#Learn230](#)



**Timber Sage Elementary School @TSESRangers**  
Mrs. Beyer is helping the fifth graders get excited about middle school by practicing the tricky combination lock! [#Learn230](#)



**Wolf Creek Elementary School @WCESWranglers**  
Fourth grade students presented their Famous Kansans reports at the Biography Wax Museum! [#Learn230](#)



**Spring Hill Middle School @SHMSMavericks**  
Mr. Maples' sixth grade social studies had a surprise guest for a lesson: Principal Goertzen joined the Ancient Civilizations classes! [#Learn230](#)



**Woodland Spring Middle School @WSMSSallions**  
Mrs. Weaver's seventh grade science learned about how to determine the relative age of rock strata with a fun, hands-on activity! [#Learn230](#)



**Spring Hill High School @SHHS\_Broncos**  
Thank you social studies teachers for taking our juniors to see the Auschwitz exhibit at Union Station! [#Learn230](#)





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A full-page photograph of Dr. Link Luttrell, a man with white hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a purple patterned tie. He is smiling and standing in a modern school hallway with large windows and a blue recycling bin in the background.

# READY TO LEAD

*By Annabelle Davis, SHHS Student Journalist*

**Dr. Link Luttrell has lived in Missouri his entire life.**

**All of that is about to change when he moves to Kansas to begin in his role as superintendent of Spring Hill School District.**

His family started in St. Louis, where Luttrell was born, and then moved down to a small town off of the Arkansas border in southeast Missouri. Growing up in a small town, he graduated from a high school with a total of 37 students in his graduating class. Luttrell described himself as a student growing up in a small town.

*Dr. Link Luttrell at Spring Hill High School.  
Photo: Olivia Lister, SHHS Student Journalist*





*Link Luttrell, fourth grade.*

"I was a pretty typical [student]. Back then, there weren't many options, and it was basically just your general curriculum. We didn't have any sports, but I was in band and played the clarinet. I was also involved in the forensics team, but was more involved in speaking. I really enjoy that. Being a small school, I tried to grab onto as many activities as possible. I was [also] involved in the small student council we had to gain some experience," said Luttrell.

After Luttrell graduated high school, he received his teaching certificate and began coaching. He was a middle school and freshman boy's basketball coach, a varsity cross country coach, and a varsity track coach. His passion for coaching cross country and track was strong because he did both in high school and ran track in college.

Aside from Luttrell's professional life, he enjoys spending time with his family. Luttrell and his wife, Carrie, have two sons, Alex and Reid. His oldest son, Alex, graduated high school in 2007 and went to University of Central Missouri to get his accounting degree. Today, Alex is a certified accountant and works for KPMG in downtown Kansas City, Mo. A few years ago, Alex got married to his wife, Madison, who is a kindergarten teacher in the Blue Springs School District. Luttrell's youngest son, Reid, graduated in 2012 and is now a logistics manager for a contractor. Reid also got married a couple of years ago to his wife, Austin. Austin works for a pharmaceutical company.

Luttrell's wife, Carrie, also previously worked in education. Carrie was a middle school teacher for several years; she then became an instructional coach, and later became an assistant superintendent. Carrie finished her education career as an elementary principal with the Parkway School District.

"[We have both] had a lot of experience in education. We each tried to teach the importance of education to our children. [We taught] the importance of hard work and



*Dr. Luttrell meets with current administrators to prepare for next school year.*

giving your best effort to set goals. It's always important to remember to take advantage of the opportunities given to you from others," Luttrell explained.

The main influence that brought Luttrell to Spring Hill was the location. By working in the Spring Hill area, Luttrell will be closer to his sons. Because he currently lives in Festus, Mo., he is roughly three hours away from his sons. "Our sons are both in the KC region; one is in Lee's Summit, and the other is in Lenexa. This opportunity gives us a chance to be closer to both of our sons and their spouses," Luttrell said.

As soon as Luttrell comes into office, he said he plans to really listen to the community and do his best to make his peers happy. Luttrell has big plans for his days in office.

"I will just learn as much as I can," said Luttrell. "I will listen to everyone and figure out what's good, where are some areas of improvement, and ask a lot of questions. After about 90 to 100 days, I will sit down and look at the picture."



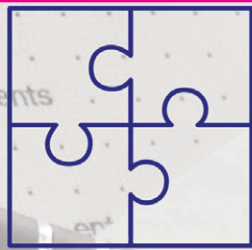
**SCAN HERE FOR  
DR. LUTTRELL'S  
INTRO VIDEO!**



### **ABOUT THE JOURNALIST**

*Hi! I'm Annabelle Davis, and I am a current senior at SHHS. I am involved in Student Publications, Student Council, NHS, Volunteer Club, and Hype Squad. Currently, I am the online Editor in Chief for SPUB. I have loved taking on this responsibility and plan to use it in my future at Baker University where I plan to major in criminal justice!*

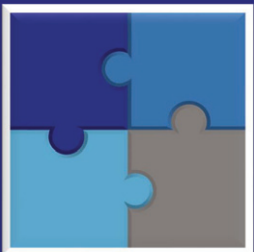




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Dayton Creek Elementary School students in second grade perform "Bremen Town Jam!"  
Photo: Remington White, SHHS Student Journalist

# LEARNING LIFE LESSONS THROUGH MUSIC

*By Remington White, SHHS Student Journalist*

As the 6 p.m. call time drew closer, a crowd of parents, grandparents, cousins, and students gathered outside the doors of Dayton Creek Elementary. Kids ran and played. Others quizzed each other on their lines. The spring program would be the first that the Dayton Creek second grade class would ever put on, and would be the first second grade program of the new school.

Elementary school music programs serve to show parents what their kids have learned in class. "It's like giving the public a snapshot of what we've worked on," Elise Luce, Dayton Creek music teacher said. "I wish there could be somehow more to that, that they could see all of the little pieces that go into it."

Luce spent seven weeks preparing the second grade class for their performance of "Bremen Town Jam!" She took this time to ensure her students would have a good time, and that they wouldn't have that deer-in-the-headlights look. "In every decision that's made, that's my goal. It's to help them have a good time and be successful," said Luce.

Luce was met with some challenges in accomplishing this due to her unfamiliarity with some of the kids. Because of this, she spent a lot of time finding a show that could



appeal to anyone. "It's picking a program that your kids can be successful with and allowing enough class time to help them be successful. I love [seeing] that. That's just my jam."

This goal of teaching larger lessons extends to the classroom, where singing is just a small part of what is taught. "A lot of people think that in elementary music we're just singing 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star' every day, sitting in a circle, everything's hunky-dory. But we do so much more than that."

Through the programs, Luce aims to teach her students how to work as a group, and understand the importance of fulfilling your job within that group. "I feel like it does help them to learn how to work together in a group," said Luce. "It's a group activity - a really large group activity in some cases. So I think it does prepare them to understand even little things. Sometimes I can do everything right, and if someone else hasn't learned their part, it could still go wrong. That's a hard concept for kids."

Elementary school music classes set the stage for how students will encounter music for much of their lives. "No one can really avoid music, you know? It's everywhere. So I want them to have an understanding of what they hear, and I want it to be fun for them. I think it's so important that they understand the sounds that they encounter in the world and I love that we give them that opportunity to explore that," said Luce.

Most importantly, music classes give kids the opportunity to be creative and have fun. "I believe in the innate musicality of children," said Luce. "Kids are so awesome because they're so creative, and no one has squashed that creativity yet. I just love that. I have a chance to let them explore and I think that that's so important for kids to have that opportunity to explore and encounter music kind of on their own, but guided."



Elise Luce, DCES music teacher, shares a poster from her classroom.

**Kids are so awesome because they're so creative, and no one has squashed that creativity yet. I just love that.**



DCES students in second grade perform "Bremen Town Jam!"  
Photo: Remington White, SHHS Student Journalist



#### ABOUT THE JOURNALIST

Hey, I'm Remington White, and I am currently a junior at SHHS. Other than being a design editor for the yearbook, I am part of the band and drumline, Thespians Society, in Student Council, NHS, and PALS. This is my third year in SPUB, and second year as a designer. I love being able to create products that immortalize the year and the people of our community.

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# GOERTZEN'S PURPOSE TAKES HIM TO FOREST SPRING

*By Jentry Hunt, SHMS Student Journalist*

"My core of who I am is...loving kids and loving people, and I feel like that translates to what I do, regardless of whether it's at school or just being the best I can be," Trevor Goertzen said when asked about his purpose. Goertzen is currently at Spring Hill Middle School, where he serves as the principal.

Although it may seem he was on the path to education from day one, in high school, Goertzen wanted to be a professional skater. "I was your skater emo kid in high school [which made me] have a soft spot for kids that like to do things differently, kind of step outside the norm."

In addition to professional skater, he considered being a preacher, youth minister, or educator. Coaching a soccer team while he was in high school ignited the spark that led him to teaching. As long as he was teaching others, he knew he would be happy. "I'll be in education for a long time. This is where I belong," said Goertzen.

In the 2023-24 school year, Goertzen will be moving to Forest Spring Middle School, but he plans on continuing to live the purpose he shared with SHMS. He wants to support the teachers and wants them to know that he trusts them to do the things that they want to do, which is teaching. Goertzen said, "I have an opportunity to be a part of establishing a culture in a new building with staff and kids from day one. I feel like my skills and personality help establish a real positive encouraging place for kids to come to school." He thinks that foundations are very important and is excited to create a foundation there.

"I guess the thing I've learned is there's no one way to do things, but ultimately, if you were able to lead with a caring heart and get to know people, that allows you to make better decisions and go slow," he says. With all that he does, he always strives to do it in love, and that is important.



## ABOUT THE JOURNALIST

Hey, I'm Jentry Hunt! I'm an eighth grader at Spring Hill Middle School and this is my first year on yearbook staff. Along with it, I'm in the orchestra. I play volleyball and basketball, and started my first year in track this year. I love writing stories and this is just a great example. It's a great way to show my skills and I love that people get to read stuff that I wrote.



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*Paul Young teaching social studies at Spring Hill High School.  
Photo: Katherine Bessman, SHHS Student Journalist*

# A CAREER UNLIKE OTHERS

*By Marissa Winkel, SHHS Student Journalist*

**Teachers, they are the reason that many people learn what they do. Teachers are around to coach a basketball team, they're around to teach people to drive, they're around to teach mathematics.**

There are countless types of teachers that help people around the world on a daily basis. Knowing that a teacher's task consists of many highs and lows, many people wonder what it is that is so captivating about this career.

"I became a teacher because I felt it was a calling for me," Morgan Abel, SHHS business teacher, said.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, high school teachers alone are anticipated to have an 8%

growth in employment between 2020 and 2030. There are many things about the teaching profession that stand as being very different compared to other careers in which this difference seems to be what attracts a lot of people to it.

Giving teachers the ability to make their job fun by bonding with others is one of many things that draws people to this profession. In a scenario of a boring job being found on the left to a potentially fun job being on the right, many would be drawn to the right side. While many teachers love the ability to gain relationships with their students, there are also teachers who love the concept of making a difference in the world and the lives of students.

"The reason why I became a teacher was to try to make a difference [and to] try to be an example. There's a right way and there's a wrong way to living," Paul Young, SHHS social studies teacher, said.

While many high school and middle school teachers enjoy the life of teaching and challenging older students, many teachers at the elementary schools and Early Learning Academy enjoy being involved with younger children which has other benefits in itself.

"I wanted to become a teacher simply because I loved





Jennifer Schmidtberger teaching at Spring Hill Early Learning Academy.  
Photo: Spring Hill Early Learning Academy



Morgan Abel coaching football at Spring Hill High School.  
Photo: Annabelle Davis, SHHS Student Journalist

children. I loved interacting with them and watching them get excited when they [learn] new things or accomplished something that may have been hard for them. I always thought working with kids is so fun, and I wanted to be a part of that process," Jennifer Schmidtberger, Early Learning Academy teacher, said.

Many teachers who have children at home also have the huge benefit of being able to share a summer vacation with their families.

"The interaction with the kids, the relationships that you get to build, the memories you have from those relationships [are some of the best parts about being a teacher]. It has its pluses and minuses, but we've always been able to do family vacations," said Young.

While these things stand, many people are aware that teaching holds a larger task than just that of teaching academics. Teachers are given a very important role in teaching hundreds of students in a way that is comprehensible.

The daily routine for a teacher varies depending on the level of learning taught by that teacher. As students advance through school, they experience this change in routine as they progress through up until high school. For teachers, one day will never be the same as the next, so it is important for teachers to be prepared for anything.

"We have AM and PM classes here at the Early Learning Academy, so I get to do this two times each day. During the break between classes we get the classroom ready for the next group of kids. The one thing about teaching

is that no day is exactly the same as the last, so there are many times you have to be flexible and fluid with your routine," said Schmidtberger.

While learning and paying attention to the material can be up to a student's individual discretion, teachers have a big responsibility of being able to deliver certain types of information to students in a way that students would be able to comprehend.

"I try to make my classes as interesting as possible to try and gain [the] trust [of students], gain their interest, and try to get them excited about learning to make it fun as much as I can," said Young.

At the end of the day, teachers love what they do because they have a passion for it. Many of them come home from work with a smile on their face knowing that they helped so many students. Without that, the world of knowledge would be undoubtedly different. Teaching as a career shows that one has to be passionate about their career in order to excel in that career. Without passion in any situation, all happiness, efficacies, and virtues would cease to exist.



## ABOUT THE JOURNALIST

Hi! My name is Marissa Winkel and I am currently a junior at SHHS. This is my first year being a reporter in our high school's Student Publications and I absolutely love what I do. I love to write and contribute to designs here and there for the yearbook. It's important that one does what they are passionate about in which, in this case, this is my passion!





# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT CLASS OF 2006

As 2022 marks Dr. Wayne Burke's last year as superintendent of Spring Hill School District, we asked alumni and valedictorians from the Spring Hill High School class of 2006 (Burke's last year as SHHS principal) to share their experience under Dr. Burke's leadership.



*"The administration, along with staff and parents, could not be more proud of our students and their accomplishments. Personally, I feel that Spring Hill students are the best in the state." Wayne Burke, principal*

*Excerpt from the 2006 volume of **The Bronco** yearbook.*



**RENEE  
RUTHERFORD**



I truly enjoyed my experience at SHHS. I appreciated the small school feel and all the classmates I graduated with. We were a close knit class with many supportive teachers and staff, Dr. Burke being one of them.

During my time at SHHS, Dr. Burke was kind and caring to all students. He was supportive of all clubs and activities. It was rare to not see him at a school event supporting his students. Dr. Burke was not just supportive of his student's school careers, he also showed interest in their lives outside of the school walls. He, like many other teachers, never faltered to acknowledge you in the hallways or make you feel important.

I was very lucky to grow up wearing Purple & Gold with very supportive staff and teachers at SHHS. I believe this positive environment partially reflects on who Dr. Burke is. Now, I find myself wearing Blazer Blue to support my own kids. That has been a challenge. Because of the positive influence I received from SHHS, I will always be a Bronco at heart.



**JENNIFER  
WILLIAMS**



Under Dr. Burke's leadership, I had the opportunity to be a part of winning sports programs, advance my foreign language skills beyond two years of coursework, cultivate leadership skills through so many opportunities, take AP classes and finish a year of college credits. I was allowed to develop as a young adult, make great lifelong friends, and was fully supported and pushed to reach my full potential by so many great educators! They helped shape me and gave me the confidence to challenge myself, pursue my own adventures and deepen my faith, and land my dream job.

This can all be attributed to Dr. Burke's leadership, vision, and cultivation of the right team of educators to grow and support the young people who needed them most! My senior year was one of the toughest of my life and in SHHS, I found all the support, encouragement, and direction I needed to succeed. I am forever grateful to Dr. Burke and his amazing staff for helping shape who I was going to be and how I was going to use my life to make a difference in the lives of others, a vision I still go to bed with and wake up to each new day.



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