

STUDENT PROFILES
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INTERNSHIP INSIGHT
THE PATH TO TEACHING P.12

TEACHER FEATURE
HISTORY & LIFE HACKS P.14



A PUBLICATION OF USD 230 | WINTER 2023

SPRING HILL SCHOOLS MAGAZINE



MORE THAN ROCKIN' ROBOTS P.10

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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Our first semester came and went in a flurry (no pun intended...ha) and now USD 230 is settling into the second half of our 2022-2023 school year.

During the first half of our school year, I had the opportunity to meet hundreds of stakeholders that included parents, students, staff, municipal and county officials, business leaders, etc. and from those interactions, I was able to surmise the central themes that individuals hold dear to their heart in regards to USD 230. From those conversations, I crafted a summary report which highlights the common themes that emerged. The summary report can be viewed at: usd230.org/Page/984.

However, the one common theme heard over and over was that stakeholders truly do feel the educational experiences and programming provided to our students are of high quality, and all recognize the outstanding efforts put forth each day from our staff.

At the same time, the educational experience for students extends well beyond the academics which are and shall remain a vital component. Yet, the educational experiences of students that complement the learning that occurs within the classroom, (i.e. field trips, clubs, theatre, athletics, etc.) are often the medium for which students can put into practice those skills and traits developed in the classroom.

This edition of *Spring Hill Schools Magazine* is devoted to the theme of academics. Within the magazine, there are several well written articles from our students.



Each story illustrates how young adolescents handle not only the academic side of the classroom, but also how they elect to balance that aspect with other responsibilities such as home, work, after school activities, etc. In addition, each story illustrates the role that academics and the outside-of-classroom experiences play in shaping their own view in choosing a career pursuit following graduation.

I truly have, in my brief tenure, come to know how talented our students within USD 230 school are, and I promise to continue leading efforts to ensure that their educational experiences are both high-quality and memorable.

Enjoy this edition of *Spring Hill Schools Magazine* and as always, feel free to reach out to me at anytime with thoughts or questions. I'm here to serve.

Going to be a busy, exciting, and great semester.

Talk to you again soon,

Link W. Luttrell, Ed.D
Superintendent
Twitter: @usd230supt

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Olivia Tarvin, SHHS Student Journalist

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SOCIAL MEDIA ROUNDUP



Spring Hill Early Learning Academy @SHEarlyLearningAcademy
Ms. Aly's afternoon class compared different type of planes and how they fly! [#Learn230](#)



Dayton Creek Elementary @DCESCavaliers
Mrs. Daniels' fourth graders have been working on geography skills through playing a game called Mystery Location with various schools across the U.S. [#Learn230](#)



Prairie Creek Elementary @PCESMustangs
Students were treated to an awesome experience as the Sky Dome set up in the gymnasium! They went on a tour of the universe in the mobile planetarium. [#Learn230](#)



Spring Hill Elementary @SHESColts
In a culminating activity to their unit about Ancient Greece, second graders had their first annual Potato Olympics! [#Learn230](#)



Timber Sage Elementary @TSES Rangers
Principal Macsen is having fun as principal for the day at TSES! His name was drawn from our Leader In Me night! [#Learn230](#)



Wolf Creek Elementary @WCESWranglers
Kindergartners enjoyed learning about animals with a special presentation from Ernie Miller Park & Nature Center! [#Learn230](#)



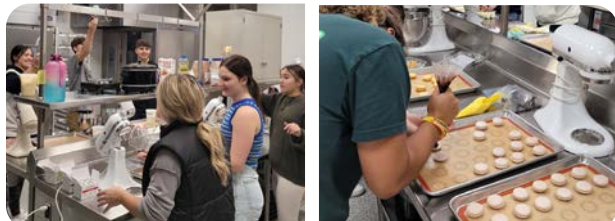
Spring Hill Middle @SHSM Mavericks
STEM students are making it happen! The Flying Mavericks Disc Golf Course is getting one step closer to finished! [#Learn230](#)



Woodland Spring Middle @WSMS Stallions
The WSMS Science Olympiad team competed in their first ever invitational! [#Learn230](#)



Spring Hill High @SHHS Broncos
Mrs. Good's Baking and Pastry 2 students worked with Kate Smith Soiree to learn how to make French Macarons at the district's Educational Support Center! [#Learn230](#)





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BUSY AS A BRONCO

Quorynn Harris by Faye Dent, SHHS Student Journalist

Aubrie Fuchs by Hannah King, SHHS Student Journalist

Delaney Hill by Lily Haney, SHHS Student Journalist

*L to R: Aubrie Fuchs, Quorynn Harris, and Delaney Hill
Photo: Lily Haney, SHHS Student Journalist*

High school students continuously figure out their different versions of success. It could very well be performing well in an extracurricular activity, getting a good grade on a test, or even making it through a tough week.

The following profiles provide a glimpse into the busy lives of some Spring Hill High School Broncos as they work to balance their hectic schedules and find success.

QUORYNN HARRIS, grade 9, does so much, ranging from maintaining straight A's to performing in the school's production of *Zombie Prom*, as well as securing the spot of Morticia Addams for the upcoming Madison Avenue Performing Arts (MAPA) production, *The Addams Family*. Over the summer, she gave a speech for the solar panels at Spring Hill High School. However, she manages to make it all look breathtakingly easy, due to the systems she puts into place to achieve success.

"I set alarms to get me through my mornings. I always end up right out the door around 7:35 to 7:40," Harris said. "I set alarms for just about anything. [I have] a few wake up alarms, then it's getting dressed, brushing my teeth, eating breakfast, packing my lunch."

Harris believes that involving yourself in as many extracurricular activities as possible while still maintaining grades is important for a successful high school career.

"I'm in StuCo, I'm in the book club, and theater. I'm going to be in forensics soon."

With the end of the semester approaching, Harris has enjoyed the musical the most throughout the first half of her freshman year. She especially enjoyed meeting new people that understood her more. She enjoyed meeting people who understood her niches.

"[I was] being involved in something that made me happy and focused more on my personal traits and successes."

Being involved in extracurricular activities is important. It helps regulate emotions, can relieve stress, and helps students to enjoy themselves outside of school.

"It keeps me involved, constantly moving, and looks good on college applications, which is always a bonus. I like to meet new people, and I tend to assume leadership positions. It's just me trying to get out there and have new experiences in order to be able to flourish in life and the future. Sometimes you've gotta step out of your comfort zone."

AUBRIE FUCHS, grade 10, is involved in everything from sports to AP classes. Though she is proud of her achievements, she is not afraid to face the realities of mental health challenges she has run into along the way.

"It can contribute to me being very moody and unmotivated at school. Since I'm so busy, I have to find time for myself whether that's watching a show, going on a walk, or things like that. It's important for me to find those times to be alone and decompress to prevent myself from overworking," Fuchs said.

It can be hard for students to find time to do all the things they are interested in. They are often encouraged to try out everything now so they can be more confident in their career choices after high school. Fuchs credits her success so far to the support of her teachers.

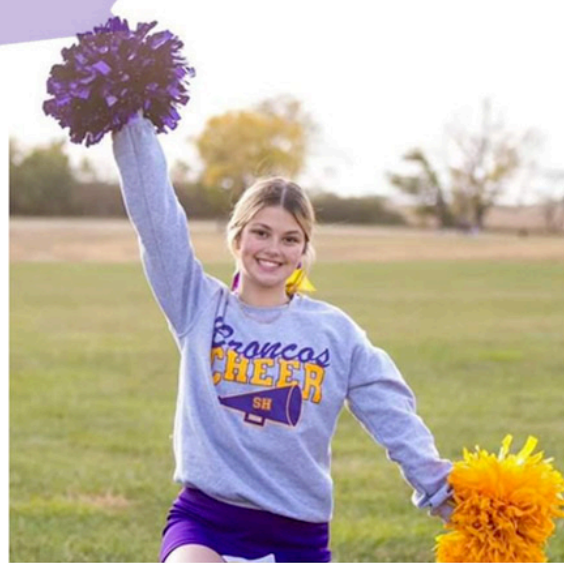
"My biggest supporters are my teachers. I never have to hesitate to ask them for some help or if I just need encouragement. Mr. Young, someone I know I can depend on. He can always tell if I'm stressed or if something is off and he knows exactly how to help me every time," Fuchs said.

As a cheerleader and sophomore class president, Fuchs gets to lead the crowd at every football game and pep assembly. She describes her experiences as validating and encouraging. The sweet moments of support from her peers makes the tight schedules and stress worth it.

"When the student section just gets so excited and so hype, I think to myself this is where I am meant to be. I'm meant to be a leader and when we are at STUCO and when we win a competition no matter what it is it reminds me that I can do this," Fuchs said.



Quorynn Harris performing in Zombie Prom.
Photo: Mollie McNally



Aubrie Fuchs cheering on the Broncos.
Photo: Hannah King, SHHS Student Journalist



Delaney Hill accepting the Pillar Award.
Photo: Remington White, SHHS Student Journalist

DELANEY HILL, grade 12, is the senior class president, the National Honor Society president, leader of hype squad, a part of the volunteer club, interns at the elementary school, plays both basketball and softball, is co chair of the Olathe teen council, and works for Kids Crew.

Hill found it challenging to balance everything when school first started up, but she's figured out a rhythm to keep her mental health at a high by finding time for herself.

"I have been getting better at giving myself free time because my mental health was slowly decreasing recently, so it got pretty hard," Hill said. "Now I definitely give myself a lot more time to just breathe."

Constantly going from school, to practice or games, to meetings twice a week, and still finding time to have a job, Hill has a busy schedule. Even with a busy schedule, Hill still finds time to manage her personal life.

"I find time to hangout with people, my friends are very important to me," Hill said.

Hill chooses to be involved in her community to meet new people and gain new experiences. This is

something she believes she will be able to carry with her throughout her life.

"I do everything I do because I want to. I wanted to get more involved and learn more about Spring Hill and what is happening around. I also love getting involved and getting to meet new people through everything I get to do," Hill said.

Hill constantly helps those around her and gets a majority of the school involved in all the festivities hosted throughout the year. These leadership qualities will be carried out with Hill for the rest of her life.

"I think that these activities will help me learn how to be more of a leader and help me then become more of a leader through the rest of my life," Hill said. "I also hope that it helps me network and learn about the city around me."



ABOUT THE JOURNALIST

My name is Faye Dent and I'm a junior at SHHS, and in addition to SPUB, I'm in Scholars Bowl, I was the costume designer for the musical at the high school, and I am currently in the Madison Avenue Performing Arts production of The Addams Family. While I enjoy writing for SPUB, I also really enjoy writing basically anything in my free time.



ABOUT THE JOURNALIST

My name is Hannah King and I am a sophomore at SHHS and in addition to SPUB, I participate in cheer, band, jazz band, and FFA, where I am the sentinel of our chapter! I love writing because I view it as an opportunity to bring people together in our community.



ABOUT THE JOURNALIST

Hey! My name is Lily Haney and I'm a senior at the high school. In addition to being the editor in chief for the Stampede News website for SPUB, I do StuCo, color guard, basketball, track, and National Honor Society. Writing has brought me lots of joy, and I can only hope my writing will do the same for others!

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more than rockin' robots

By Olivia Tarvin, SHHS Student Journalist

Mackenzie Tarvin is just one of 10 students chosen to be a part of the inaugural FIRST LEGO League team at Spring Hill Elementary. FLL is a nationwide organization set out to teach students team building skills, core values, and STEM. Students build a robot to code and program to do certain tasks that are worth points.

Tarvin spent time building the robot, working on the core values team, preparing to present their robot to the judges, and being one of the four members to assist the robot through its challenges at the table.

"I joined the team because it seemed interesting and I wanted to make some new friends," Tarvin said.

FLL allowed for interactions and connections between fourth and fifth graders. Students don't typically have these types of interactions between grades during the school day. FLL became a place

where students made new friends and even broke out of their shell.

"I've learned that working together is really important because if we don't work as a team some things can go crazy," Tarvin added.

While only four students can be at the table to assist the robot through his missions; during practices the team would sit around to watch and contribute ideas. Everyone worked on the core values board, the programming, the innovation board, and so much more. While not everyone was the main worker on a project, everyone contributed to the finished product.

Tarvin is one of those students who worked on a little bit of everything. She originally started by working on the core values board. The core values team worked to determine what they value the most and what they will fall back on when things start to get hard. The core values act as a kind of reminder



The Spring Hill Elementary Rockin' Robots at their very first FIRST Lego League team competition.



The Rockin' Robots testing out their robot during a team meeting.



The Rockin' Robots watch as their robot participates in the FIRST Lego League competition.

on what to do when times are rough. Some of these goals were to get the missions done and work as a team.

After working and helping with core values, Tarvin spent time putting together the robot, who the team named Bart. The team spent about three weeks building Bart. They built him in chunks so that they also had time to work on their code.

Wyatt Beauchamp is the main coder on the team. Every single time the program ran, Beauchamp spent time reconfiguring the code over and over until it was just about perfect. He spent time working on the code until the bitter end of the practice time before the third round.

This fall, SHES Rockin' Robots traveled to Olathe Northwest for their FLL competition. Before the rounds started, teams presented their robots, core values board, and innovation board to the judges. They were given scores based on their construction, their presentation, and their quality of work.

"The competition went well, although we didn't get the best place, I think we still did good," Tarvin added.

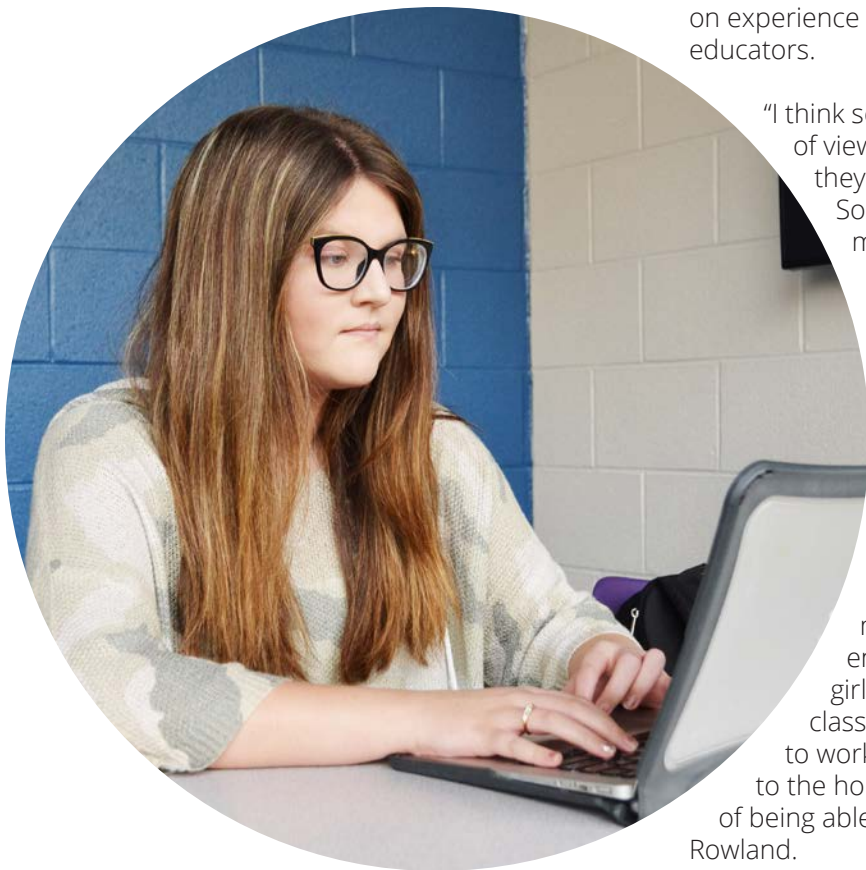
The Rockin' Robots did not walk away empty handed. They were awarded the Engineering Excellence Award. This award is given to the team with the most efficiently designed robot, an innovative project solution, and core values used in their team tasks.

"LEGO League is definitely something I would do again. I would recommend it to others too. I had a lot of fun with the team and at the competition and it's something I won't forget," Tarvin said.



ABOUT THE JOURNALIST

Hello! My name is Olivia Tarvin and I am a sophomore at SHHS! I am currently a reporter for the yearbook and stampedenews.net! I absolutely love writing and being on staff. When I'm not writing for SPUB, I'm in Band, camping, hiking, kayaking, volunteering, or spending time with the people I love!



on experience and learn directly from trained educators.

"I think seeing things from a teacher's point of view and understanding how much work they actually have to do is so important. Some of the kids don't realize how much they do. [Elementary school] is a bit more structured than in middle school and high school. It is scheduled, but you have to [be more flexible here]," she said.

Rowland has been pursuing the teaching field for a while now, and it has been her dream job ever since she was little.

"I am interested in teaching because my mom has run a home daycare my entire life and ever since I was a little girl I would pretend I was teaching a classroom in my bedroom. I was exposed to working with kids at a very young age due to the home daycare, and I just loved the idea of being able to help kids learn and grow," said Rowland.

The Path to Teaching

By Kathlyn Tran, SHHS Student Journalist

The teaching internship course has three students, and one of which is Sara Rowland, grade 12. Currently interning at Dayton Creek Elementary School, she is considering becoming a second or third grade teacher. The internship allows her to learn what an elementary school teacher does on a regular basis. The high school offers many resources to help students pursue a field of their choice. One of which is organized pathways to help guide them. Career and Technical Education pathways, otherwise referred to as CTE pathways, are tools that students can utilize to their own benefit.

"So far I have been doing reading level testing. [...] Sometimes I do lessons... I've been getting a lot of experience with how to grade and she gives me advice on how to teach the lessons," said Rowland.

Not only does a student learn the skills they need to be successful, but they also get to experience what their career's workplace is like. Teaching internship students get the chance to have hands-

While the application courses may be the main goal, one should not overlook the other classes within the pathway. Rowland had to work her way up the classes and she appreciates what they have taught her.

"I learned so much in the beginner course. I learned about how the whole workforce works. Teaching as a Career basically gives you advice on how to handle certain situations," she said.

Since these higher level classes prepare students for the real world, it can be as stressful as it is helpful. Getting hands-on experience of a workforce can be overwhelming for some students because it introduces them to a new and more professional work environment.

"I take [the course] with a grain of salt. It can be stressful at times, but I take it as it's helping me become a better teacher if I do take that path. I will also have more experience than other people would... I think it puts you under a lot of pressure. It shows you how to handle situations that you wouldn't normally know how to handle... I think the main stress is making sure I'm helping out the teacher as much as I can. I am a big over-thinker, so I take a deep breath and reassure myself that I am

doing the best I can," said Rowland.

Some students prefer not to stick to a designated pathway; instead, they choose to take courses more catered toward their interests or career choice.

"I've also thought about being a flight attendant, which is vastly different. Also, I really like interior design. So, maybe something with that," said Rowland. "I have been taking interior design this semester and so far I love it."

Rowland believes she has benefited from the teaching CTE pathway. She also stresses the importance of learning from the experiences that the pathway provides.

"I think that if you're looking into being a teacher, or anywhere in the education field, [CTE pathways] are a big help. It gives you insight on how to do things better and makes you a better teacher or educator," she said. "[Teaching Internship] shows you how to handle things under pressure and it's good to observe the classrooms because it shows you how much work your educators put in."



Rowland with the students she works with at Dayton Creek Elementary.



ABOUT THE JOURNALIST

Hello, my name is Kathlyn Tran and I am in my sophomore year of high school. I enjoy reading, listening to music, and hanging out with my friends and family. I love being on staff because it allows me to get more involved in the community and I get to write a variety of different stories!

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History & LIFE HACKS



Alex Winkler, Social Studies and Government teacher at Spring Hill High.

By Olivia LeBlanc, SHHS Student Journalist

Those who choose to continue their education through college have found out quite quickly that it's no walk in the park. Many students struggle in their first years of college due to the drastic change of pace and being unprepared. Unlike transitioning through grade levels, students get thrown into college life and it can be pretty overwhelming. However, a teacher from Spring Hill High School has found a way to help students get their footing and help navigate the difficult times in college.

Alex Winkler has been teaching at Spring Hill High School for six years as a Social Studies and Government teacher. The classes he offers are Government, AP U.S. History, American History, and has taught World History, History through Film, Contemporary U.S. Issues, and a class covering wars from the 1900s and after as well. Teaching around seven different classes since finishing his student teaching in 2015. Having taught so many classes, he was able to find a new way to go about teaching while also being able to connect on a more relatable level.

"In government class, the goal is to become a more well-rounded citizen. And obviously, we're



Winkler teaching his class a lesson on the Gettysburg Address.

going to do that through typical knowledge of the government, but also talking about life after high school," said Winkler.

Winkler has taken advantage of his required classes and found a way to make the most of it. Winkler began tying government and history to daily life, which led to expanding those ideas in a more relatable manner. Not only were these discussions helpful for the students, but Mr. Winkler enjoyed sharing and helping prepare the graduating seniors for their next journey.

Typically he will take about five minutes before the end of class to ask if anyone has questions for him. Though conversations may spark during class in which he will tie it back around to how it affects our everyday lives. These discussions don't happen daily or otherwise the time would be used for silly questions or just blank stares. Luckily for the students, Winkler takes these questions quite seriously and won't hesitate to expand on the topic at hand. One question Winkler had received was a student asking for ideas and life hacks for eating during college.

He would begin to explain that it depends on what is allowed in the dorms or housing, and then went to offer easy cheap meals to make on the fly.

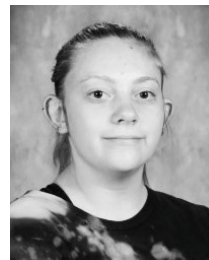
"Somebody asked me, 'well, how do you cook in your dorm room?' I said, that's an interesting question. So what that led into was what you need to look at what your college's rules and expectations are for life in the dorms. Compile that list because universities give you a list of what you can have when you go to college or can be in your dorm room," Winkler said.

However, informational class discussions aren't the only thing he has to offer. Winkler has established a "Coffee Corner" in his classroom not just for him but the students as well. Not only does he have K-cups for his Keurig machine, but has a variety of ground coffee available as well. Him being quite the fan of coffee, also understands its importance to the day. Winkler had brought this new aspect into class because it's a nice pick-me-up and also helps some students function better, even if it's in the middle of the day. Even though it may be a little

different from the basic classroom and not having much to do with history, it's just another helpful gesture to his students.

Winkler has brought so much joy and reassurance to his students everyday with his open discussion and some well needed coffee times. Though his required government class is only a semester, many students have made so many memories in that short time. No matter what the topic of discussion is, from barbeque techniques to all the tricks of college, it's all a part of his curriculum for being a well rounded citizen.

ABOUT THE JOURNALIST



I'm Olivia LeBlanc, a senior at SHHS, and I'm currently a Yearbook Designer for the Student Publications Class. I'm looking forward to college as I have been accepted for Criminology/ Criminal Justice at K-State.

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

CLASS OF 1992



With the help of two new Macintosh Classic computers and a laser printer, the word 'deadline' became somewhat easier to say around the yearbook and newspaper staff members. The program on the computer enabled journalists to make up pages on the screen and save them in the computer, rather than having to draw up the layouts by hand.

*Excerpt from the 1992 volume of **The Bronco** yearbook.*



**AMY
BELCHER**

As a graduate of Spring Hill High, I am grateful to continue being a part of the district as the administrative assistant at Spring Hill Elementary. I loved doing the yearbook, and I still do the yearbook here at SHES!

Technology was just starting to enter the classroom in the early 90's and the yearbook staff was so excited to have COMPUTERS to assemble our yearbook! Prior to obtaining the new computers, we had to draw up each yearbook page layout by hand. We used light tables, special rulers that measured in picas, and huge pieces of graph paper. We took all of the pictures with a traditional camera, manually cropping them with scissors and paper cutters. The work was fun, but tedious.

Graphic Arts has always been interesting to me, and the editorial knowledge I gained in high school I still use today when designing the yearbooks for SHES. I love taking pictures of the awesome events we have at SHES and showcasing our amazing staff and students in our yearbooks.

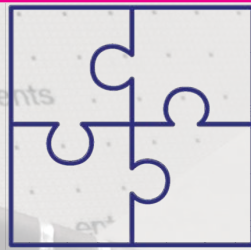


**MATT
RUTZ**

I currently live in Avinger, Texas and teach U.S. History at Jefferson Junior High School. I have been married to my wife for 15 years and have three kids. I received my bachelor's degree from Kansas Wesleyan University and a master's degree from Lamar University.

The use of the Windows program was a big game changer for us. Before Windows, we would have type our copy on a word processor, print, and then the editor and sponsor would have to manually do layouts. Our journalism teacher, Mrs. Leonard was good about encouraging us to really get in and play with the system. It was not just a matter of doing things perfectly, but learning to trust that mistakes were fixable and part of the process.

The publications classes gave me a creative outlet. I can not draw to save my life, but I can create or tell a story. One of my hobbies is to write and publications put me a little more at ease in pursuing this hobby. I was able to self publish a book ("Birthday Cards For Mom") on Amazon, and that has given me an outlet to share with others.



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