

October 2019

# the **Be**AT



## Iverson named Employee of the Month



Emily Iverson was the September employee of the month.

Iverson is a pro-active, consistent, structured, and caring teacher. Additionally, she continuously holds high standards for all of the students. She has displayed a great ability to create high quality lessons that promote higher-level thinking, student engagement and embrace co-teaching in ELA classes.

Emily is a phenomenal teacher. I have gotten the opportunity to co-teach with her during English class. Emily is able to demonstrate several Evidenced-Based Teaching Strategies with ease. For example, Emily is able to activate prior knowledge with kids from different backgrounds before stories in order to increase their comprehension. Emily uses active learning such as Escape rooms and goose chases engaging students with all different learning styles. These fun, yet challenging methods of learning have increased student engagement dramatically. Students are loving learning! Each one has excelled in the class because of her ability to teach to their level without compromising the entire group.



Emily has also received the Circle of Friends grant. This grant assists schools in providing and encouraging regular opportunities for students with Autism to socialize with peers in various settings. Not only do these activities have a positive impact on students with disabilities,

they have made a positive impact on their peer models at BHS. With each program, you need to make it “your own” in order to fit our culture #oneschoolonefamily. Emily has opened the eyes of all students to having friends who are different than them.

A recent adventure for Circle of Friends (COF) is the Kindness Kafe. Every Tuesday and Thursday morning before school, the COF group runs the Kindness Kafe at BHS. This has been a very rewarding experience for the entire school. Students are able to socialize in a real life café setting and they also learn valuable work skills which carry over into adult life.

Emily is a leader. When staff members are absent for different reasons, Emily steps in and calls the Special Ed



Emily Iverson motivates (above left) laughs (left) and explains to engage students. She uses a variety of fun, yet challenging, methods to increase student engagement.

team together to “rally” as well as to help complete paperwork. Staff members are able to leave to get better knowing that Emily and the SPED team had their back. Emily has been extremely helpful in my transition to the high school as a Speech Pathologist. Emily has gone the extra mile to make sure I know of events or paperwork to be completed without me asking.

Emily is a positive influence on all those she meets. She has a great attitude that is contagious. As we neared the end of the school year, Emily continues to move at the same pace as Emily did in the beginning of the year. Emily continues to build students and teachers up. Emily truly lives out #oneschool,onefamily. Beatrice Public Schools is fortunate to call her an Orangeman!

# Be

Keep track of what is going on in Beatrice Public Schools.

Go to <http://www.beatricepublicschools.org/vcalendar/>

Like us on Facebook

in the know

[www.beatricepublicschools.org](http://www.beatricepublicschools.org)

# Musical celebrates talent, creativity

Every fall since 1996 Beatrice has been treated to a production which celebrates the talent and showcases the creativity of Beatrice students. Vocal music instructor Kelly Meyer directs these productions.

His first musical was “Bye, Bye Birdie” in 1996 featuring Teresa Ellison, Chris Strader, and Matt Buttell. The Addams Family, starring Matt Price, Hannah Kassmeier, Tina Rowe, Holly Fischer, was Meyer’s nineteenth musical. From 2002 to 2006 he directed Madrigal Feasts.

“Students learn a variety of skills while in musicals including acting, expressive singing, and choreography,” said Meyer. In addition, students gain communication skills, enjoy beginning theatrical experiences, and musicals allow students to share their true passion for theatre, according to Meyer.

Hannah Kassmeier, who played Morticia Addams, agrees that musical theatre provides an outlet for creativity and joy. “All of the actors that took part in “The Addams Family” truly dedicated themselves to the success of the musical by stepping out of their comfort zone and performing a show,” said Kassmeier, “This show forced them to do abnormal things for a high schooler to do.”

“Everyone in the production has a love for music but by having the chance to elevate our performing skills by putting on a musical we get the chance to grow as musicians. A musical not only consists of the leads singing numerous solos and small group songs but the ensemble has many tricky pieces of music that helps them grow in their musicianship. I find so much joy in performing music, there is no better way to do it than through a musical,” said Kassmeier.

Both Meyer and Kassmeier said learning leadership skills is one of the benefits of musical theatre. “I think I learned more about leadership by being a lead in this musical. We did the musical a month earlier this year compared to any other production BHS has done. As soon as I got my script I knew that if I didn’t focus and learn my lines, it would affect the outcome of the whole musical. We had to stay on a very strict timeline in order to pull off a musical that lives up to Beatrice’s past shows,” said Kassmeier.

It is not only students that benefit from musicals but Meyer also has ways for parents to participate in musical theatre. “I think the most interesting thing about our productions are that they truly are a

Teach in ways that promote  
creativity, innovation,  
wonder, joy, and  
a passion for learning.

Ron Clark Academy Founding Principle

community production. We get community members to help with the orchestra, the acting, the choreography, the costume alterations, the makeup, just about everything that goes into the production has some assistance from members of the community,” said Meyer, “so that makes our productions unique.”

The process of selecting each year’s musical begins in the spring of the previous school year. “The process of selecting a musical begins with Concert Choir auditions in March of the previous year. After the choir is selected, I go through and take a look at what the auditions scored to see whom potentially could perform as a lead character. After giving that some thought and discussing it with band director Andrew Johnson, we announce the musical in late April, and collect audition materials for lead character auditions in May before school is out. The goal is to get a script in the lead character’s hands so they have the summer to learn it,” said Meyer.

Musical orchestra parts and vocal books come about two months prior to performances, and we start working the choir songs in class and the orchestra on Tuesdays prior to Beatrice Regional Orchestra rehearsals. In between that is the discussion of the sets, prop collecting, costuming, and lighting and sound cues. Then it is a matter of drafting a schedule to work individual scenes, then longer runs of the show, until we do dress rehearsals, according to Meyer.



# #One School, One Family

## Musicals by Meyer

**1996** *Bye Bye Birdie* (leads Teresa Ellison, Chris Strader, Matt Buttell)

**1997** *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* (leads Dave Claassen, Josh Erikson, Geoff Ramsey)

**1998** *Little Me* (leads Natalie Lueth, Ashley Gowen, Laura Butler)

**1999** *The Sound of Music* (lead Ashley Strader)

**2000** *Annie Get Your Gun* (lead Carissa Ramsey)

**2001** *Blame it On the Movies* (lead Missy Erikson)

**2007-08** *Oklahoma* (leads Anna Spilker, Ryan Rabstajnek, Bethany Randel, Creighton Carey, Evan Moore)

**2008-09** *Bye, Bye Birdie* (leads Ryan Rabstajnek, Anna Spilker)

**2009 -10** *The Music Man* (leads Ryan Rabstajnek, Anna Spilker)

**2010-11** *Grease* (leads Kayla Mabon, Mason Carey)

**2011-12** *Little Shop of Horrors* (leads Jason Shonerd)

**2012-13** *Fiddler on the Roof* (leads Jenny Christensen, Jason Shonerd)

**2013-14** *The Sound of Music* (leads Tanner Boesiger, Olivia Crandall)

**2014-15** *Wizard of Oz* (leads Allison Carothers, Heath Hovendick, Ian Doyle, Connor Husa)

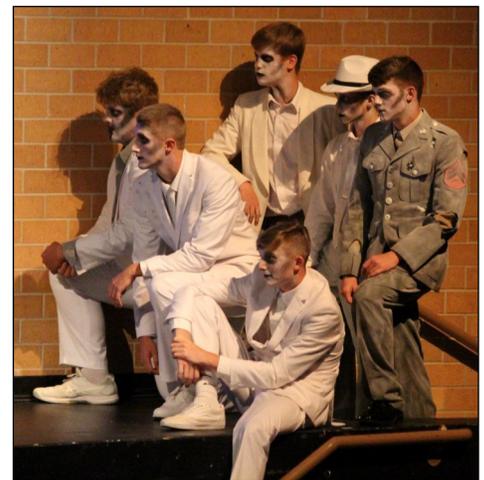
**2015-16** *Shrek the Musical* (leads Connor Husa, Natalie Doering Noah Snurr)

**2016-17** *Guys and Dolls* (leads Eli Hoefler, Noah Snurr, Will Crandall, Nathan Spilker)

**2017-18** *Beauty and the Beast* (leads Cole Crandall, Whitney Kleveland)

**2018-19** *Annie* (leads Tina Rowe, Hannah Kassmeier, Cole Crandall)

**2019-20** *The Addams Family* (leads Matt Price, Hannah Kassmeier, Tina Rowe, Holly Fischer)



(clockwise) Concert choir members produced *The Addams Family* on Sept. 28, 29 and 30 in the Hevelone Center. It was Kelly Meyer's nineteenth musical at Beatrice High School.

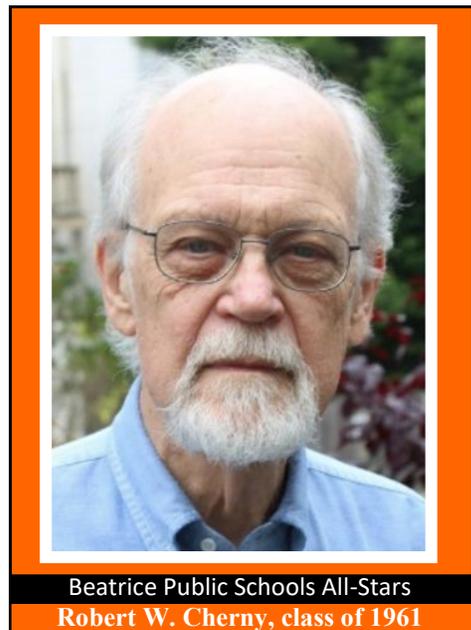
They first staked their claim with Beatrice Public Schools and are now making a difference every day

## Cherny authors ten books, multiple articles



*'As I look back, I think that the most important thing I learned in the Beatrice Public Schools was a love of learning and an appreciation of good teaching. My English teachers (especially Mesdames Holt, McCown, and Stevens, and Mr. Richmond) taught not only an appreciation of literature but also how to write effectively. Mr. Kaeding and Miss Peterson gave me important skills in quantitative reasoning. Miss Sturmer, Mr. Jones, and Mr. Tubbs taught the importance of the scientific method. Mr. Cottingham introduced me to world history, and Mr. Genzlinger gave me my first real experience with primary-source research in history. Mr. Gowens, the debate coach, emphasized the crucial skills of critical thinking, research, organization, and public speaking. Miss Sawyer's typing class gave me the most basic skill I've used for so much of my work--despite earning a D one semester! When I entered the University of Nebraska in Fall 1961, I was as well prepared as most and better than some.'*

**Robert W. Cherny**



Beatrice Public Schools All-Stars  
Robert W. Cherny, class of 1961

After graduating from the University of Nebraska in 1965 and then seven years of graduate work at Columbia University, Robert Cherny spent 41 years as a member of the history faculty at San Francisco State University, including serving as department chair, academic senate chair, and dean.

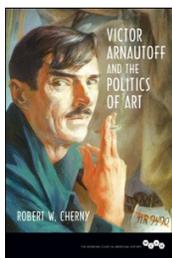
Before he retired in 2012, he had authored or co-authored five books, two college textbooks, and some 25 published articles, and was also co-editor of two anthologies.

He retired to have more time to write. Since 2012, he has completed twelve articles and two books, most of which he had started before retiring.

"I also self-published one book: a history of my family in Gage County and in Marshall County, Kansas; that research also produced an academic article on homesteading," said Cherny.

The other book, a biography of Victor Arnautoff, a San Francisco artist, published in 2017, attracted little attention at the time, but has since been mentioned in the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, and elsewhere after the San Francisco

*(right) Dr. Robert Cherny is interviewed about one of his many books.*



school board voted to destroy some of Arnautoff's murals, setting off a storm of criticism in the national and international news media.

He is now completing another book, the largest such project

he has ever done, a biography of Harry Bridges, a long-time leader of the West Coast longshore union. He hopes to complete it in early 2020. "After that, there may be one more book before I reach my 80th birthday," said Cherny.

He was named to the Beatrice Educational Foundation Hall of Fame in 2015.



# Board approves 2019-20 budget, property tax

Senior high special education teacher Emily Iverson was recognized as the September Employee of the Month. She received a plaque and \$50 in Chamber Bucks.

New middle school band instructor, Nick Thompson, introduced himself as the new fifth through eighth grade band teacher. He told the board he is a BHS graduate and is excited to be back. He will also be assisting with the high school band.

## Student Update

Student Representative Zack Zimmerman told the board there are many things happening at the high school including rehearsals for the upcoming musical. He said The Addams Family will take place the last weekend of September. He also said the Circle of Friends group is once again running Kafe Kindness, the coffee shop, and is open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the high school. He added this is a busy week for athletics as there is a home tennis meet on Tuesday, home softball, and the football team travels to Ralston on Thursday.

## Studying plant science



Beth Sederberg's science class is learning about plant life and are conducting research at the Central Administration Building. "We are excited to see how their research and hard work pays off," said Jason Alexander, superintendent.

## Committee of the Whole

Doris Martin, board vice-president, said the following topics were discussed: summer project update by Terry Brethouwer, director of buildings and grounds; policy update, a preview of the 2019-20 budget and request from the city by Jason Alexander, superintendent; transportation update by Dr. Jackie Nielsen, assistant superintendent of schools; and a discussion on the administrator evaluation tool by Alexander and Nielsen.

## Discussion Items

Discussion was held on the first reading of 4210 Work Day for Classified Personnel. Alexander shared the recommended revisions to Policy 6315.1 on Athletic Dismissal. He said there is a Title IX concern with the current language of this policy so the proposed language gives discretion to the administration to make determinations on dismissal. He added the proposed new policy has also been revised to reelect the term "activity" and not specific to athletics.

## Action Items

The board approved the 2019-20 budget and the property tax request.

The Administrator's Performance Appraisal Instrument was also approved. Alexander said it now needs to be on file at the state level. The revised tool will be used for evaluation for the current school year.

The board approved a one-time community improvement stipend of \$5,000 to the city of Beatrice for tennis court resurfacing.

## Superintendent's Report

Alexander gave an update on the technology budget and the loss of the tech bond. He added that he has been in communication with Dave Koch, technology coordinator, on this and the topic will be brought to the Board for further discussion on possible options in the future.

As a result of one of the requirements of LB399, the new Americanism bill, and

some conversations with high school principal Jason Sutter, he suggested that the Board consider moving the October meeting out to the Hevelone center and host it sometime in the morning. He added that Senator Slama and Dorn would be invited as well, but that the final decision would be a result of board members' availability.

Next, he reminded the Board of the upcoming state school board conference in November. He asked the Board to let Danielle know if they plan to attend.

Finally, he informed the Board that due to personnel changes at Dana F. Cole, the audit date has not been set yet and that STANCE meetings begin next week.

## Next Meetings

The next meeting of the Committee of the Whole will be on Oct. 29 at 6 p.m. in the Central Administration Building. The next board meeting will be on Nov. 11 at 7 p.m.

## Beatrice Public Schools Board of Education

Janet Byars

Erin Chadwick

Doris Martin, Vice-President

Lisa Pieper

Eric Trusty

Steve Winter

Jon Zimmerman, President

## Board of Education Meetings

Oct. 29, 6 p.m.

Committee of the Whole Meeting

Nov. 11, 7 p.m.

Board of Education Meeting