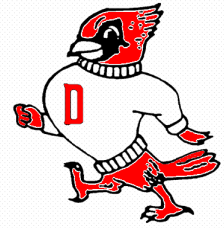


Medicine Lodge Team (The Extraordinary Electives)



A big Cardinal welcome from
The Medicine Lodge Team

The medicine Lodge team is a unique team in that the teachers have contact with virtually every student in the building and all of the other teams. The members of this wonderfully unique team teach the exploratory classes. Those classes that give the students experiences in art, music, drama, life skills, video production, health, physical activities, computer technology and much more.

The curriculum for these courses gives students an opportunity to explore new ideas and concepts that would not be addressed in the core classes but they also give real life application of core standards and indicators. We are very proud to introduce the members of this team. We hope to meet all of the families of our students in the months to come through conferences and activities. Feel free to call us at the school if you have questions. Our team planning time is 12:10 – 12:40 p.m. and we would welcome a visit any time.

Here we are:

Kristin Herndon...is one of our visual arts teachers. She has a BA degree in Art Education and a Masters degree in Technology.

Paula Sellens...teaches Life Skills with Technology. This is her 7th year at DCMS. Prior to coming to Dodge City, she taught English in Japan for 13 years.

Brian Steib...is the Gifted teacher at DCMS. He graduated from Central Michigan University and loves to travel.

Katie Szymczak...teaches Climbing Higher and Lifetime Activities. She loves spending time with friends and family and playing sports.

Linda Holeman...teaches 7th and 8th grade Guitar and one class of 6th grade Orchestra at Soule. She is starting her 13th year at DCMS and her 24th year as an educator. She says she is extremely excited to be working with middle level students...her favorite.

Sarah Schaeffer...is our Library/Media Specialist. A former art and video production teacher, she is happy to now be the one who can hook you up with a great book.

Craig Smith...is the 7th grade Health and 8th grade Strength and Conditioning teacher. This is his 2nd year here at DCMS. He is a graduate of Pittsburg State University where he is currently working on his Masters in Human Performance.

Patricia Ahern... directs the DCMS Cardinal Choir and teaches MIE keyboard classes. She is originally from North Dakota, graduated from K-State, lived in Europe for eight years and most recently has been teaching for USD443 for 8 years. She is married to Michael and has two children, Katie, 10 and Emily, 3.

Jesse West...is the Technology Education teacher. This is his first year in that position. He previously taught 7th & 8th grade CONNECT, Video Production & Internet Communications. He received both his bachelors and masters degrees from Fort Hays State University, GO TIGERS! He says he is excited to work and learn with our students this year.

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Matt Legg...teaches Video Production and Web 2.0. This is his 7th year in the district. He is also the 8th grade head Volleyball, 8th grade boys and 7th grade girls head Basketball coach. He says the year has started off great and looks forward to a great year.

Kirsten Larsen... is returning as the Career and Technology Education for the 7th grade. She will also be teaching a 7th and 8th grade Social Studies class. She says she is looking forward to a successful school year!

Danna Weil...teaches Speech and Drama on the Medicine Lodge Team. She is a first year teacher and excited to be an employee of DCMS!

Rebecca Stateler...teaches Sculpture and 7th grade art at DCMS. She has been a visual arts teacher at DCMS for 8 years.

Jason Richins... teaches 7th and 8th grade band at DCMS. He will be starting his 7th year teaching at Dodge City Middle School. He also runs the DCHS Drumline and Front Ensemble, conducts the DCHS Symphonic Band and assists with the DCHS Marching Band.

Nick Barnes...teaches 7th grade Health and also teaches our Bodyworks classes. He is currently a high school football coach and baseball coach. He is married to his wife Shannon and enjoys anything outdoors, especially hunting!

Jennifer Pacifico... is an assistant band director for Dodge City Public schools. This is Mrs. Pacifico's 4th year team-teaching band with Mr. Richins at DCMS. She also teaches DCMS Cardinal Jazz Band, DCHS Jazz Band and assists with the DCHS marching band and concert bands.

Whitney VanDerKamp...is our Orchestra teacher here at DCMS. This is her first year teaching and she splits her time between, DCMS, Soule and the High School. She is also a high school tennis coach.
