

Another school year is ready to begin and we are fortunate that we have very little turnover of staff compared to many districts. In the elementary, Ms. Taylor Hand will be teaching Early Childhood/4K as Mrs. Kari Koenig will be a PK-12 Principal/Mental Health Navigator. Ms. Hand taught “K” in Greenwood last year. Also, with Mrs. Sharla Bauch departing as a paraprofessional, Mrs. Glenda Rablin will take her duties and Mrs. Allana Theesen has been hired as a new paraprofessional.

At the MS/HS we had two retirements last spring of long serving employees. Mr. David Elliott was replaced by Mr. Craig Braaten as the 6-12 Principal/Athletic Director. Mr. Braaten has been an Art teacher, Coach, Assistant Principal/Mental Health Navigator/Grant Writer, etc. for many years in Cornell. English teacher Mrs. Caroline Hickethier was replaced by Maricel Namacpacan who has a Master’s in English and has taught English in the Philippines for 15 years.

With the departure of both of our P.E. teachers, Mr. Greg Sonnentag and Miss Courtney Yanko, we have hired Mr. Zach Person who taught in Medford last year and Mrs. Amanda Gudis, who has been a paraprofessional, substitute and coach. We also have a new School Psychologist after Ms. Lynda Lacina decided to move on. Lili Vehrs is returning to WI after just graduating from Ball State in Muncie, Indiana.

You can learn more about these new employees as they are highlighted in the newspaper. The Cornell School District has been fortunate to not only fill all of our open positions, but to fill many of them with experienced employees. This is the result of the Cornell School Board providing a very competitive salary and benefit package along with the Cornell School District building a strong reputation for academic excellence and a positive working and learning culture. All of you help with this positivity and support of the school district and I thank you for doing so.