

Board Report  
August 12, 2024

Jim Knott - Principal  
Douglas County West High School

**Wow...ready or not, here we GO!** As always, the new school year brings a renewed excitement for students, staff, and parents. From the recent ground breaking at the new outdoor athletic complex, to fall sports practices officially starting, to new course offerings at the High School, and meeting new staff, administrators, and students, it is a GREAT time to be a Falcon!

Every new school year also brings new faces to our team. This year at the high school, we will have seven new employees or DC West veterans in new positions. Their names and bios are listed below. Please stop by and meet them at open house on Monday, August 12, from 6:30-8:00.

**Mekenna Haahr** – Mrs. Haahr is from originally from Milford, Nebraska, earned her education degree from Northwest Missouri State University, and taught special education at DC West Elementary School from 2017-2023. She is coming back half-time to teach special education at the high school this year.

**Jacob Gagner** – Mr. Gagner is originally from Sitka, Alaska and earned a math degree at Midland University. He taught Middle school STEM at DC West last year. This year, he will be teaching Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, and Algebra I Support at the High School.

**Logan Johanson** – Mr. Johanson is originally from Utica, Nebraska and attended the University of Nebraska Kearney earning degrees in International Studies and Spanish Education. He spent the past year in Spain teaching the English language to native Spanish speaking students. This year, Mr. Johanson will be teaching high school Spanish at DC West.

**Lisa Masters** – Mrs. Masters earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Arkansas and her master's degree from University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Before coming to DC West, she was the Special Education Department Leader at Papillion LaVista Middle School and taught at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany for one year. Mrs. Masters has taught middle school special education at DC West since 2022. Next year, she will teach half time special education at the middle school and half time at the high school.

**Katie Richards** – Ms. Richards is originally from Ashland, Nebraska and earned her education degrees from the University of Nebraska Lincoln and Kearney. She taught Family and Consumer Science at Giltner Public School from 2019-2023 and was the Middle School Counselor at DC West last year. This year she will be taking over as the High School Counselor at DC West.

**Jeremy Travis** – Mr. Travis is originally from Sidney, Iowa and is the long-time Middle School Principal at DC West. Starting in August, he will be taking over the Activities Director duties at the Middle and High Schools.

**Shawna Younghans** – Mrs. Younghans is originally from Oxford, Nebraska and earned her education degrees from the University of Nebraska Omaha. She was the Director of Special Education at Boystown from 2016-2021 and most recently, the Dean of Students at Ralston High School. She will be starting at DC West High School in August as the Administrative Facilitator.