FIND ME IN THE PAPER

- This picture will be hidden in the Blue Ink somewhere.
- Look for it throughout the issue as you read the articles and browse the pictures.
- Thank you Mrs. Granberg for creating the Blue Ink dragon

WORTH MENTIONING

- Homecoming is next week!!!
- No school on Monday, Sept. 7
- School Picture day is Sept. 15

WOULD YOU RATHER

- Find out that the Tooth Fairy is real or that Santa Claus is real?

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Garretson, SD

GARRETSON
BLUE DRAGONS

Blue Ink



First week is in the books

Blue Dragons complete their first full week of school amid multiple events

by **Blue Ink staff**
staff writers

The first full week of the school year is officially in the books and there are the excitement is palpable. From new teachers and students to activities in the classroom to sports kicking off, there are multiple reasons as to why the 2026-2027 school year is going to be one to remember.

1ST WEEK IN SPORTS
by Colton Buchholz

Soccer (1-4) was the first to kick off and began their season with a 6-1 victory over Belle Fourche, but have dropped the last four straight. Their next game is this Saturday at Worthington @1:00.

Football (1-0) was the second sport to start this year and took care of the Baltic Bulldogs 35-7. Seniors Collin Olson and Ty Van Holland both were a big part of the team by each scoring a touchdown on defense. Along with Tanner Baatz recording three sacks. The next game is tonight in Bridgewater at 7:00.





Above: Lydia Frerk bodies up the ball and redirects working her way down field. Frerk and the Blue Dragons were able to put up six points in their season opener.
Below: Amaya Millwood has taken on the task of goalkeeper for this year's team once again and has been able to keep her team viably in games protecting the net.





Above Left: Carter Siemonsma keeps a strong pace up the hill as he works to gain ground on the SF Christian runner ahead of him. Siemonsma placed 11th running over a minute faster than his time at this meet last year.
Above Right: Cooper Smith took a jump this year as he has stepped up his running game and finished third for Blue Dragon harriers during the 5K race in Beresford.
Photos by Mrs. Siemonsma

The volleyball team opened their season this past Tuesday with a loss 0-3 against region rival Tri-Valley but rebounded against Beresford in the Blue Dragons' home opener last night with a 3-1 over Beresford. The Lady Dragons are sitting at an even 1-1 record going into next week where they will host Dell Rapids St. Mary and then travel to Baltic.

The last sport to start their season was cross country. Yesterday they traveled to Beresford for their first meet of the year with Carter Siemonsma leading the Blue Dragons taking 13th place with a time of 17:20.2. Rounding out the top four runners were Ethan McGregor (32nd - 18:19.4), Cooper Smith (59th - 19:56.5), and Miles Sievers (62nd - 20:10.3).

Overall, the Garretson sports program is on the uprise with the football team looking the best they have in over four years, the cross country looking to make a return to the state meet and marked improvement for both soccer and volleyball, there is a lot to look forward to in Garretson sports.



Above: Jackson Arend pushes past the Baltic defenders as Cade Risty gives an added block to extend Arend's run. Garretson defeated Baltic 35-7 last Friday night.
Below: Tanner Baatz lines up as nose tackle, ready to push through the Bulldog line. Baatz was able to put on multiple pressures and tally three sacks on the night.



Right: Annalise Hoeck serves in Tri-Valley as the Blue Dragons try to go on a run and inch closer to the Mustangs. While Garretson did show promise, they were unable to complete the win but did secure their first win of the season last night against Beresford.
Below: Maddie Waltman paced the team in kills, putting down 15.
Photo by Cece Fiegen





GARRETSON
BLUE DRAGONS

Look in this issue for more perspectives from the first week of school

1st week as a ... sixth grader

In their first moments of middle school, a sampling of sixth graders were asked about their feelings on the first experiences.

Answers gathered by Lukas Ludewig

QUESTION: Do you feel like there are some changes in class expectations now that you are in middle school?
RESULT: 83% Yes

QUESTION: Do you like that you can move around to different rooms for different classes?
RESULT: 100% Yes

QUESTION: Do you like having multiple teachers throughout the day?
RESULT: 100% Yes

QUESTION: Do you like that you are able to choose some of your elective classes like art and music?
RESULT: 100% Yes

Thank you to the following sixth graders for sharing their opinions: Levi Christensen, Adelyn Hoppe, Allison Qualm, Coyer Buchholz, Gracelyn Koob, Collin Whitley



Infographic created by Brielle Weir



Earlier this week, the seniors voted for their classmates as to who would represent them on the homecoming court. This year's king candidates are Ty VanHolland, Isaiah Coburn, Michael Hanisch, Carter Siemonsma, and Collin Olson. The queen candidates are Maddie Waltman, Emma Wolf, Anna Ebbing, Alexis Christensen, and Ella Frerk.

Then, today, the high school voted for who they would like to see crowned king and queen. Coronation will take place on Monday at the Athletic Complex

This Week's Need to Know

Upcoming Events

Friday, August 28
- Football @ Bridgewater-Emery (7:00)

Saturday, August 29
- JH/JV Football @ Alcester-Hudson (8:00)
- Soccer @ Huron (1:00)

Monday, August 31
- DRESS UP: Color Day
- Ruff 'n' Tuff @ Dragon's Lair (2:00)
- JH Football vs. Bridgewater-Emery @ Baltic (4:00)
- JV Football vs. Bridgewater-Emery (4:00)
- Coronation @ Athletic Complex (7:00)
- PowderPuff @ Athletic Complex (~7:45)

Tuesday, September 1
- DRESS UP: Back To The Future Day
- XC @ MCM (4:00)
- JH VB @ DRSM (4:00)
- VB @ DRSM (6:00/7:15)

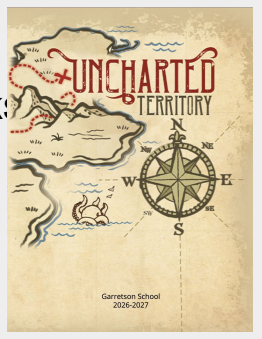
Wednesday, September 2
- DRESS UP: USA Day

Thursday, September 3
- DRESS UP: Character Day
- JH VB @ Baltic (4:00)
- VB @ Baltic (6:00/7:15)
- Soccer @ Lennox (7:00)

Friday, September 4
- DRESS UP: Spirit Day
- Football v. Hanson (7:00)

Worth Mentioning

NEXT WEEK is homecoming. Please take a look at your email for information on dress up days, special events, and celebrations throughout the week. Go Blue Dragons!.



ORDER YOUR '26-'27 YEARBOOK today. They are $30 each, a steal for the millions of memories made this year. You can order online at ybpay.lifetouch.com. Please come find Dr. Buchholz if you have any Questions. If you still want a yearbook from last school year there are a couple left, buy yours before it's gone.

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1st week in the school house...

For teachers...

by Cece Fiegen

Teachers return from their own summer break after much planning to make the school year the best it can be for students. They give insight on *their* first full week and what they expect the rest of the year to look like.

What are you looking forward to teaching?

"The big novel studies, honestly. I'm really excited. I got a couple new books for the kids that are different from Mr. TerWee, so I'm kind of excited to try those." -Mrs. Ageson

What was the move to middle school from elementary like?

"It's definitely an adjustment, because it's a bunch of different kids over and over, whereas in elementary, you just have the same group of students. So that's different, but it's been fun and exciting." -Mrs. Christensen

What has the beginning of school been like?

"The custodial staff, we've been experiencing some changes, some good, and some have been roadblocks, but we've overcome them. We are down a staff member. We had someone retire last year, and we had to move somebody into that position because it was more important. It was the day shift. So that's Ben Jensen…. Even though it is a roadblock for us, I feel that we've been able to work together and move things around and overcome them." -Melissa Jensen

What are you excited for this year?

"I'm doing two new things this year. I'm reading Everything is Tuberculosis by John Green and Microbiology every Wednesday. It's really awesome. And in consumer math only, say, we're playing the game of life. And that's been really cool. That's really cool." -Mr. Ehrisman

Are you doing anything new this year?

"For my government class, I'm having them teach classes, for the first part. Some peer to peer learning, which I think is cool, because then they give their presentations, kind of like I do every single day, and they make quizzes for their peers." -Mr. Moehlenbrink

For new students...







by Autumn Genzler

Starting at a new school can be both exciting yet challenging, especially for new students. This year, a few new faces have joined Garretson High School and are beginning to find their flow in the school.

Being new to Garretson, junior Kylie Peterson said, "Something that has stuck out to me the most is how everyone is friends with each other in some sort of way, almost like a family and I love that."

Students have also already discovered which classes they enjoy the most. Sophomore Luke Danielson shared, "My favorite class is English with Hughes, he's also my favorite teacher." when asked about his favorite class so far.

Of course, school food is close to the most important part of school. When comparing Garretson's food to their old school, Junior Amanda Panning shared, "Well I was homeschooled so the food doesn't quite compare to being able to eat whatever I wanted but I do think Garretson's food is pretty good."

Outside of the classroom, new students are also getting involved in activities. Danielson shared, "I don't do any fall sports but I do wrestle."

As they continue adjusting to a new school, students have already found a favorite teacher in a few short days. Panning stated, "Mr. Heumiller is my favorite teacher, he's so easy to talk to and connect with. I also really like his class, he makes it fun."

Aside from high school, Garretson has many more new students in middle school and elementary!

For seniors...

Seniors have their first full week of school under their belts as they continue to set their sights on spring graduation.

There have been plenty of events and opportunities in and out of class to keep seniors excited and energized.

So far some of the favorite experiences seniors have had so far are the following:

- Beating Baltic in football according to Ty VanHolland & Jacoby Costello
- Having senior privileges for Austin Graff, Trevor James, Meieh Olson, and Jackson Collins

Others have had great experiences in the classroom. Amaya Millwood said, "I like the teachers, trust." Autumn Genzler specifically noted that she has really enjoyed Mr. Heumiller's anatomy class so far.

Emma Wolf commented that with the combination of less stress and privs the school day feels shorter as a senior than it has in previous years.

With homecoming around the corner, many more memories will be made and smiles will be shared as the seniors continue to relish in all of their "lasts."







The class of 2027 has taken full advantage of opportunities and experiences leading up to their senior year. Now they are able to really be present in the moment and soak in the fun of being seniors.