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

- Happy last day of school! Hope you have a safe and happy summer.
- There are lots of opportunities for athletic and music camps this summer. Reach out to your coaches and directors for more.

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GARRETSON
BLUE DRAGONS

Blue Ink



A year in review

That's a wrap for the 2025-2026 school year



by **Blue Ink staff**
staff writers

In the blink of an eye, the 2025-2026 school year is officially over. It felt like just yesterday we were walking through the halls excited to see familiar faces and ready to see what the year would bring.

Through all the ups and downs of the school year, questioning if May could come any sooner, we still managed to make a lot of memories through it all. With all that being said, let's take a look back at the 2025-2026 school year.

AUGUST *by Chase Arend*

As the first day of school on August 22 the 2025-2026 school year kicked off. The seniors brought in the kids bags like Bluey and Spider Man. Seeing all your friends from the summer ready to start off your year strong.

Students say they are ready for the school year and they had fun this summer. Blake Benson says “He is excited for the weekend and seeing friends in school”.

Over summer the Chouse was made and word started to spread around school about how cool this place was. “It was a dream of a big group of high schoolers to do something fun for the summer and they had a plan.Originally they wanted to renovate a bus and travel around the states,but they realized that was too big for their teenage money.Then the group thought about making a tree house but couldn’t find any good trees on anyone’s land.That's when they stumbled upon little red shack, and that’s how the Chouse began on March 13”. Blake Benson and Bence Bonte.



Dragon football team played Hanson the first game keeping it close at half 21-7 with Collin Olson's 57-yard rushing touchdown. Then they got cold at half and lost 50-7. Volleyball started off 0-2, and the soccer team in the first 4 games went 1-4.

SEPTEMBER *by Zach Hermanson*

September started off with Garretson winning their first football game against DeSmet at home ending with a score of 35-24, this was our first win in over 10 games. A couple weeks later, the Blue Dragons beat Canistota 35 - 14 during the Hawks’ homecoming game.

The week after was our homecoming. To start off that week, Monday, was class color day Ruff ‘n Tuff volleyball, and at night coronation and Powder Puff football. Powder Puff football took a wild turn with the freshman beating out the reigning seniors champions, and winning the whole thing. For Ruff ‘n Tuff the juniors took the win and went back to back.

On Tuesday it was Disney day. Wednesday was fantasy football vs fantasy. Thursday was game night. Finally on Friday, it was spirit day and packed with action, with dragon olympics, kickball, float building, parade, and lastly at night football.

OCTOBER *by Cade Risty*

In October, lots of interesting events occurred. Halloween, the end of the football season, and more.

English teacher Mr.s Buchholz made her debut on “The Floor” and was in the lead at one point. She was unable to win, but had a great time and made an impression for Garretson.

At this time, the mobile game “Clash Royale” was extremely popular and was loved by students around the world. Chase Arend said even though he doesn’t play anymore “Clash Royale will forever be the greatest mobile game of all time.” Students would clash against each other and have immeasurable amounts of fun.

Garretson football also got ready for their last game of the regular season. Where they beat the Chester Flyers 42-22 to end with a 3-5 record. When The Blue Dragons went on to play the one seed Freeman/Marion, the Garretson lost, but made their first playoff game since 2021.

October was a fun-packed month, cross country was also great, with the whole varsity team making state and the JV squad winning almost every meet.



October Collage created by Cade Risty

Thank you to Emma Wolf for the Bathroom Bits (and intro & conclusion on this issue) and Gracie Fiegen as editor.

Year in review... continued

NOVEMBER *by Harper Hanisch*

November started off with showcasing Nathanael Roberts', a highly accomplished GHS cross country runner. He managed to place 24th at state in Huron, earning all state honors. Other runners such as Carter Siemonsma, Shea Smidt, Ethan Mcgregor, and Michael Hanisch competed after qualifying in regions with a team second place. In state, they earned themselves seventh place as a team.

Later on, volleyball grabbed the attention of many as the GHS team faced Baltic. Although the ladies put up a fight for the first round of regions, they were defeated.

Also, there was a lot of talk surrounding our school mascot and whether it was time for a change.

Garretson's National Honor Society welcomed 13 new members.

Also, FFA students attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. Furthermore, an Oral Interpretation Showcase took place in Garretson School.

Winter sports started gaining momentum as the season was about to begin. Also, Ms. Werkmiester was inducted as the JH volleyball and basketball coach in place of Ms. Hanson. Next, Clash Royale, a popular game amongst teens, faced its downfall.

The busy month of November ended with Mr. Hughes' powerlifting team in the spotlight. The total team was composed of almost 15 kids…most went on to compete in state. GHS football came to an end, and many positives were highlighted. Lastly, FFA members competed in District LDEs, many earning a spot at state.

From football, FFA, and oral interp, to volleyball and cross country, it was packed. Overall, November was an activity-filled month.



November Collage created by Harper Hanisch
Full Year Collage created by Emma Wolf



This Week's Need to Know

Upcoming Events

Thursday, May 21
- Golf @ Region in Dell Rapids (9:00)
- Track @ Tri-Valley (10:00)

Saturday, May 23
- JV Golf @ Chester (9:00)
- Softball @ BEC Tourney in Beresford (10:00/12:00/2:00)

Tuesday, May 26
- Softball @ SoDak16 (TBD)

Thursday, May 28
- Track @ State in Sioux Falls (10:00)

Friday, May 29
- Track @ State in Sioux Falls (9:00)

Saturday, May 30
- Track @ State in Sioux Falls (9:30)

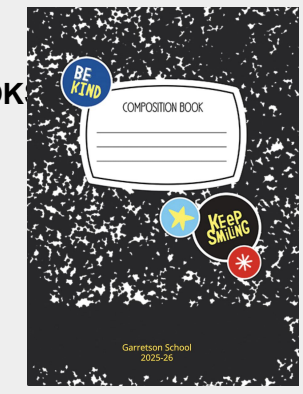
Monday, June 1
- Golf @ State in Brookings (TBD)

Tuesday, June 2
- Golf @ State in Brookings (TBD)

Worth Mentioning

END OF SCHOOL is today. Thank you for a great year Blue Dragons! Enjoy your summer and see you back in the building for the first day of the '26-'27 school year on August 20.

ORDER YOUR '25-'26 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.



Year in review...continued



Cole Schleuter wrestling a Howard wrestler at regionals in Elk Point.

Captions by Bence Bonte
Wrestling photo by Lucie Frewaldt
Basketball photo by yearbook staff

Brecken Weir taking the ball up to absolutely destroy Dell Rapids St. Mary.



DECEMBER *by Bence Bonte*

The month of December started talking about the backpack program, which is to help the less fortunate with food and other necessities like that. There was also a long article about the new stranger things season, crazy to think that was already 5 months ago. The start of the basketball season started in December too.

The second week of December started talking about how we could go to E-Learning on days that we don't have school like snow days and other things like that. Colton had an article on club sports and how it opens opportunities for out of school sports and things people actually enjoy. Taking a risk was an awesome informative article about getting out of your comfort zone to push your limits.

Cade had an amazing article on last minute gift ideas, conveniently it was 6 days before Christmas. Blake made an article on how Christmas is the best holiday, and how the break is amazing and it helps people relax. Had an article about the college football playoffs starting up and the best picks to win it all.

That was a wrap up of December between all the sports and other things happening, December was a great month of happiness and joy.

JANUARY *by Cece Fiegen*

Students returned from winter break, with post holiday blues being felt all over the school. The awaited Stranger Things finale arrived over the break, which left many fans disappointed in what they believed to be a poorly written end. Boys and girls basketball had vastly different seasons happening at the mid way point in January. The boys team was doing fairly well and the girls team was struggling to secure a win. Coyer Buchholz secured first at the spelling bee, after getting second the past two years.

Cabin Fever week was yet again a success. With dress up days like Hawaiian day and activities like pickleball, the week was perfect for cheering up students and leading up to Winter Formal. The dance was Great Gatsby themed, which gave it a classy touch.

Garretson's beloved foreign exchange student, Johanna, returned to her home in Germany. The mobile game, Among Us, made an unexpected return from 2020, drawing many students together to play. The cold weather certainly didn't stop Garretson from creating new memories this year in January.



January Collage created by Cece Fiegen



February Collage created by Chase Costello

FEBRUARY *by Chase Costello*

February was a month to remember, it started out with the Olympics taking place in Northern Italy. With spring starting in February the city has open position such as, Lifeguard, seasonal maintenance, and visitor center/ concession. The NFL Super Bowl was also played in February, the Seahawks beat the Patriots.

The second week in February was filled with articles. Valentine's day was covered this week. The middle school had their science fair, with multiple groups qualifying to regions. Powerlifting had a meet in dells that week doing well being their first year. The bad bunny halftime show in the Super Bowl was a big talk around the school.

The third week wasn't very long but it was informational. The danger of AI was covered that week. The Olympics were super exciting with a top figure skater not doing as well as people expected During this time the NBA started fining teams for purposefully tanking their season.

The last week in February was full of events. Starting with state wrestling, Garretson had five qualifiers with a few of them close the placing.

National FFA week was also going on this week, every day was a dress up day plus the petting zoo was one of the big event the FFA put on. Powerlifting also had their biggest meet with all most all of them winning their weight classes.

MARCH *by Blake Benson*

The month of March for the 2026 school year was a great one. With state wrestling and state powerlifting finishing up. Other sports like softball, golf, and track began. To end off the month of March, there were lots of musical talents and achievements.

Garretson wrestling traveled to Sioux Falls for state wrestling. For the boys, Garretson's only senior Cole Schleuter and sophomores Chase Arend, and Blake Benson made it to state. For the girls side, Amaya Millwood and Macie Miller made it to state. Everyone had fun and were excited to have made it to state but unfortunately no one placed.

The powerlifting team went to Baltic and had a great tournament. Led by Coach Hughes, Ava Peters got 3rd, Delilah Johnson got 5th, Jordan Graff got 5th, Amaya Millwood got 5th, and finally Tanner Baatz got 5th.

The third week of March brought a lot of excitement, with Michigan winning March Madness, and students also took part in National History Day activities.

To finally end March, Band and choir members had chances to perform and show their talent throughout the month. Students also shared opinions on school schedule changes. Overall, it was a busy month with lots of students participating in sports and getting a lot of achievements.



Tanner Baatz uses all of his energy to squat his most during State Powerlifting.

Caption by Blake Benson

Year in review...continued

APRIL *by Colton Buchholz*

April 2026 was headlined by a couple key events: The Band & Choir trip to L.A., Prom, Benton Howe memorial, The Masters, and school sports staying strong.

The month was kicked off by the L.A. trip where 38 band and choir students traveled to Los Angeles for a one week trip to visit Disney, Universal, Hollywood, and to play at The Grove. This trip is the first time our school has taken a trip to L.A. and the first trip in four years.

Prom this year went with a Tangled theme that was very unique from past years. This is the first year ever that our school has done prom with a Disney theme.

Benton Howe's Memorial Day was honored by the whole school wearing a Benton shirt.

The Masters this year was one to remember. Rory McIlroy won for the second consecutive year becoming the fourth golfer ever to do so. First since Tiger Woods in 2001-2002.



April Collage created by Colton Buchholz

Lastly, our school sports have been off to an amazing start. With multiple records set in track (Carter Siemonsma and the Medley Relay team), and golf staying hot, there has been plenty of success in Garretson's athletic program.

MAY *by Shea Smidt*

The month of May started off talking about Mr. TerWee and his retirement. The Howard Wood meet was happening also, along with the NBA Playoffs starting.

Week two began with the sport managers and how helpful they have been all year. The Met Gala was stirring the news as many celebrities showed up with spectacular outfits. The seniors also made a splash in the news with the senior splash in game; this game gives the seniors their target and they must eliminate the target with a water gun. The week finished off with the MLB showing promise in its first six weeks.

The final full week of school began on a sad note. The Seniors graduating brought mixed emotions and Gracie Feigen started the paper off with a sentimental note. The Hantavirus gave some of the students old quarantine flashbacks and how to be an outstanding member of the public. The track team continued to break records and the music keeps getting better with Drake not producing one album, not releasing two, but three albums in one night. Finally hacky sack on the rise to begin the summer.





Far Left: Tori Steineke, Garretson's teacher of the year, delivers the main address.

Left: Brecken Weir poses for the photo on graduation day before the ceremony began.
Caption by Shea Smidt

Right: The class of 2026 turned their tassels and began to throw their hats as they had finally graduated.
Caption by Shea Smidt

Below: The Class of 2026 gathers for one last official class photo before the graduation ceremony.





BAMMMMMM and the year is over! See you next year!

CONGRATULATIONS and GOOD LUCK

Mrs. McGee
MS and HS Workplace & Technology Teacher

Mr. TerWee
MS Reading Teacher

Mr. Johnson
Superintendent

Mr. Steckler
Activities Director

Tim Nelson
Transportation Director

Mike Gray
Custodian

Thank you for your dedication to the district.

Once a Blue Dragon, Always a Blue Dragon