

Back to School GUIDE



Featuring School Supplies,
Calendars & New Teachers
Tipton, St. Andrew's, Clarksburg, Latham

Thursday, July 27, 2023
The Tipton Times

Hopes to start FFA alumni group

Although she isn't a Tipton native, Amanda Twenter said this community with priorities that align closely with her own has become home.

Twenter joins her husband, Jason, as a vocational agriculture teacher and FFA advisor at Tipton High School. One of her goals for the new school year is to begin a Tipton FFA Alumni group.

The Rolla native received her bachelor of science in education from the University of Missouri in 2016 and went on to get her masters in agricultural education from Texas Tech University in 2021.

She taught high school for four years in Columbia at Hickman High School and then transitioned to industry, working remotely for an agricultural chemical company, Valent USA. Her background also includes many internships in education during college, and she is excited about bringing the connections she made in those experiences to her students at Tipton.

Twenter said she chose to go into a career in education because her high school agricultural teacher opened doors for which she is very thankful. "I wouldn't be where I am today without his guidance," she said. "I am passionate about opening doors for all students that walk into my classroom. Agriculture is a vast industry and there is a seat at the table for all kinds of people. I excited to be able to help young people be able to find their voice and help feed, clothe and sustainably grow our population."

Jason Twenter is from Pilot Grove and many of his extended family live at Tipton. Being closer to her own family drew Amanda to seeking a job with the Tipton R-VI School District.

"We have fallen in love with the community, the people and the way of life," she said. "Tipton's our home and where we have chosen to raise our children. I sought the opportunity at Tipton because I know my priorities align with the community and school district. I am passionate about making a difference in the lives of students and preparing them for bright futures."

Twenter said her goal of starting an alumni group is the result of seeing a strong base of successful members of the community who would love to give back and help make the high school chapter better. "Be on the lookout for more information on this!" she said.

A second goal is to start an ag communications course. "This course will work on public relations for the organization in a student centered fashion," she said. "There is so much the program does for the community and it is the student's job to share that infor-



Ag education family

Amanda Twenter joins her husband Jason in vocational agriculture education at Tipton High School. They are shown with their children, Harrison, 4, and Ruth, 5

mation. They can be rewarded for that in the form of proficiencies or career development achievements as well.

Twenter also would like to see a higher level of career development success. "Even if this means we look at quality over quantity, I think it is important," she said. "We want to focus on taking students who want to achieve at a high level and showcase what our school has to offer."

When not helping Jason at school or with their two children in tow, Amanda enjoys running or watching sports. "I have ran many half marathons and am hoping to run a half marathon this fall with my running partner, Heather Doyle. I am aspiring to run a full marathon this spring, but we will see how that plays out."

She said the Twenter family are huge Kansas City Chiefs fans. "Most Sundays you can find us barbecuing and watching the games at our house with our sweet family," said Amanda. "Family is very, very important to us. We start Sundays off at Mass at St. Andrew Catholic

Church and then spend the afternoon with family. That time is precious to us and that's where we make some of our favorite memories!"

Amanda and Jason have two children, son Harrison, 4, and daughter Ruth, 2.



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Sanders joins R-VI staff as science teacher

Donald Sanders joins the Tipton High School staff as a science teacher this year.

Sanders, of Fortuna, earned a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Colorado Technical University. He decided to seek a career in education because he feels like he would be well suited to teaching and knows teachers are needed in today's community. Applying at Tipton R-VI, he said, was the best fit for him.

Sanders' goal for the year is to become a great first year teacher.

In his spare time Sanders enjoys time on the farm, outdoor sports, camping and off road sports.

He has three children, Emma Sanders, 23, Lauren Sanders, 21, and Jacob Sanders, 18.



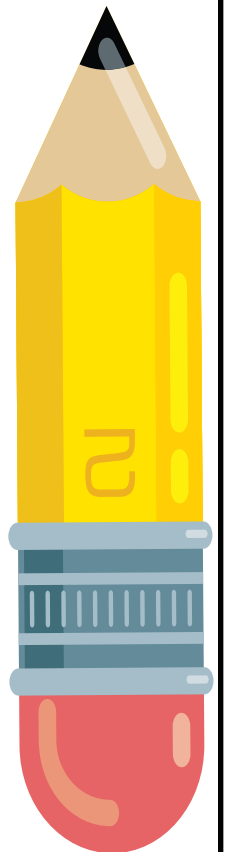
Donald Sanders

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2023-2024 SCHOOL SUPPLIES



TIPTON R-VI

KINDERGARTEN: 1 book bag; 1 bath towel or small blanket; Velcro gym shoes; 4 Crayola brand crayons, regular, 24 count; 10 pencils, yellow #2 regular size, not decorative; 2 erasers, standard white or pink; 4 Expo dry erase markers, black, wide-tip only; 2 containers of anti-bacterial wipes; 1 box Ziploc bags; 2 Elmer's glue sticks; 1 Crayola washable markers, set of 10 classic colors; 5x8 art box; 2 boxes of Kleenex; 2 bottles Germ-X. Label book bag, gym shoes, coat/jacket. Helpful extras: Play-Doh, Bingo daubers, sidewalk chalk, watercolor paint sets.

1ST GRADE: NO INDIVIDUAL PENCIL SHARPENERS; gym shoes; 3 Crayola brand Crayons, regular, 24 count; 24 pencils, yellow #2 regular size, not decorative; 2 erasers; 4 Expo dry erase markers, black; container of anti-bacterial wipes; 1 4 oz. bottle Elmer's glue; 8 glue sticks; Boys, Crayola colored pencils; Girls, Crayola markers; 5x8 school box; 1 large box Kleenex; 1 bottle of Germ-X.

2ND GRADE: Back pack, no gym bags; pencil pouch; gym shoes; Crayola brand crayons, regular, 24 count; 36 pencils, yellow #2 regular size, not decorative; 2 pink erasers; 1 pack Expo dry erase markers, black; Girls, 1 container anti-bacterial wipes; Boys, 2 large boxes Kleenex; Fiskar scissors; 2 glue sticks; Crayola markers; 5x8 school box; 1 spiral notebook; 1 folder with 3 prongs; 4 pocket folders without prongs (1 yellow, 1 blue, 1 red, 1 green), NO plastic.

3RD GRADE: Backpack, no gym bags; headphones or earbuds; gym shoes; Crayola brand Crayons, regular, 24 count; 24 yellow #2 pencils; 2 pink erasers; 4 Expo dry erase markers, black; 2 containers of anti-bacterial wipes; Fiskar scissors; 2 glue sticks; NO COLORED PENCILS; 1 art box, spacemaker, small; 2 boxes Kleenex; 1 composition notebook; 2 wide ruled notebooks; 2 tri-folds. NO TRAPPER KEEPERS OR PENCIL SHARPENERS.

4TH GRADE: 1 pencil pouch; headphones or earbuds; gym shoes; Crayola brand Crayons, regular, 24 count; 2 boxes #2 pencils, 24 count, no mechanical; 2 white erasers; 1 pack Expo dry erase markers, black; 1 container of anti-bacterial wipes; 1 pair scissors; 2 glue sticks; 1 set colored pencils; 5x8 school box; 1 box Kleenex; 1 composition notebook; clipboard; 1 set of markers; highlighter; 1/2" 3-ring binder; pack of binder tab dividers.

5TH GRADE: Package loose leaf paper; roll paper towels; gym shoes; set markers; 2 boxes of #2 pencils, 24 count, no mechanical; 1 bottle Germ-X; 1 pack Expo dry erase markers, black; container of anti-bacterial wipes; 5 folders (yellow, red, blue, green, orange); 2 glue sticks; set of colored pencils; art box; 2 boxes Kleenex; 4 lined composition notebooks, no spiral; 1 tri-fold.

All Students Art supplies: Boys, 1 box of tissues; Girls 1 box of baby wipes.



St. ANDREW SCHOOL

PRE-K: 1 plastic covered rest mat (small red/blue; not large blue/green), please label with child's name; 6 Elmer's glue sticks; 1 Elmer's school glue bottle; 4 boxes Crayola brand 24-count crayons, regular size; 1 Crayola brand washable markers; 4 Expo dry erase markers, wide-tip; 12 pencils, no mechanical; 2 white erasers, Sanford or Staedtler brand; 1 green 2-pocket folder, no prongs, plastic preferred; 1 scissor (5-inch round Fiskar or Durasharp); 5x8 school box; Clorox wipes, any brand; 2 boxes of tissues, any brand; 1 hand sanitizer; Girls, 1 gallon size zip closure bags, any brand; Boys, 1 quart zip closure bags, any brand; Small Blanket for rest time; water bottle; Extra uniform zip closure bag.

KINDERGARTEN: 6 glue sticks; 5 boxes Crayola brand, regular size, 24 count crayons; 6 Expo dry erase markers, black, wide tip only; 0 pencils (I have plenty); 2-4 white erasers, Sanford or Staedtler; 8 1/2 x 11 clip board; 1 red folder w/pockets; scissors, round Fiskar or Durasharp, 5"; 5x8 school box; Boys,

quart Ziploc bags; Girls, gallon Ziploc bags; Girls, Germ-X; Boys, 1 big box Kleenex; 1 disinfectant wipes, any brand; plastic covered rest mat (small red/blue; not large blue/green). FOR ART: Markers; 2 glue sticks; 1 box Crayola skin color crayons. LABEL rest mat, art box, clipboard, scissors and folder.

1ST GRADE: 6 glue sticks, 1 bottle Elmer's glue; 15 pencils, #2 yellow; 2 boxes 24 count regular size crayons; colored pencils; markers, 1 set; 2 white erasers, Sanford or Staedtler; scissors, round Fiskar or DuraSharp, 5"; 2 big boxes Kleenex; 5x8 school box; 4 Expo dry erase markers, black, wide tip; 1 book cover; 2 folders with pockets, 1 red, 1 choice; 1 container disinfectant wipes; 8 1/2 x 11 clipboard; Girls, 1 gallon size Ziploc bags; Boys, 1 sandwich size Ziploc bags. FOR ART: Markers (1 set that stays in art room); 2 glue sticks; 1 box Crayola skin color crayons.

2ND GRADE: 6 glue sticks; 15 pencils, #2 yellow; 2 boxes 24-count regular size crayons; colored pencils; 2 red grading pens; 2 sets markers; 2 white erasers, Sanford or Staedtler; 2 folders with pockets; 2 spiral notebooks; scissors, round Fiskar or Dura Sharp, 5"; 4 big boxes Kleenex; 5x8 art box; set of 4 or 6 dry erase markers, fine tip; 1 book cover. FOR ART: Markers, 1 set that stays in art room; 2 glue sticks; 1 box Crayola skin colored crayons.

3RD GRADE: 6 glue sticks; 1 highlighters; 20 pencils, non-mechanical; 24-count regular size crayons; colored pencils; 1 folder with fasteners; 2 sets markers (1 is for art); 1 package loose leaf paper, wide rule; 2 white erasers, Sanford or Staedtler; 2 two-pocket folders; 2 one-subject spiral notebooks; 12-inch ruler w/ standard and metric, clear plastic; scissors, round Fiskar or Dura Sharp, 5"; 4 large boxes tissues; 5x8 art box; Expo dry erase markers, set of 4 fine tip; 1 jumbo book cover; Girls, 1 quart size Ziploc bags; Boys, 1 gallon Ziploc bags; Germ-X and Clorox wipes. FOR ART: 2 glue sticks; 1 bottle glue.

4TH GRADE: 3 glue sticks; 20 pencils, non-mechanical; crayons; colored pencils, we will use these often; markers, 1 set; 2 white erasers, Sanford or Staedtler; 3 folders w/pockets; 2 pkg. wide lined loose leaf pa-

per; 3 spiral notebooks; 12-inch ruler w/standard and metric, clear plastic; scissors, precise cutting, Fiskar or DuraSharp, 5"; 3 big boxes Kleenex; 1 pkg. ruled index cards, 3x5; 2 highlighters; Girls, 1 box gallon size Ziplocks; Expo dry erase markers, 6; 3 jumbo book covers, 1 regular size book cover; clipboard; small pencil sharpener; 5x8 art box; Clorox wipes.

5TH GRADE: 3 glue sticks; 20 pencils; 2 red grading pens; colored pencils, we will use these often; markers, 1 set, we will use these often; 2 white erasers, Sanford or Staedtler; 2 wide-ruled composition notebooks; 4 folders w/pockets; 2 pkg. wide-lined loose leaf paper; 2 spiral notebooks; 12-inch ruler w/standard and metric, clear plastic; small pencil sharpener; scissors, precise cutting, Fiskar or Dura Sharp, 5"; 3 big boxes Kleenex; 2 pkg. ruled index cards, 3x5; 2 highlighters; Expo dry erase markers, 1 set of 4 or 6; 2 book covers; 5x8 art box. FOR ART: 2 glue sticks; non-mechanical pencils, white erasers, Clorox wipes.

6TH - 8TH GRADE: 1 3-ring 2" or larger binder/organizer w/zipper; 1 3-ring binder zipper pencil pouch; 6 3-hole punch folders w/pockets; 10 #2 pencils; 1 pkg. mechanical pencils (or extra #2s); colored pencils, 10-color pack; markers, 1 set, 10 colors; 6 red grading pens; 3 highlighters (1 yellow, 1 orange, 1 green); 1 white eraser, Sanford or Staedtler; scissors, precise cutting, Fiskar or DuraSharp, 5"; 2 glue sticks, 4 canisters disinfectant wipes; 6 big boxes Kleenex.

ALL STUDENTS: Tennis shoes for gym (Pre-K and kindergarten must be Velcro, label Pre-K); book bag; old sock to erase dry erase boards.

7TH & 8TH GRADE ONLY: Calculator, TI-30XA or TI-30XIIS.

JR. HIGH ART: 2 glue sticks; 4 #2 pencils; 1 white eraser, Sanford or Staedtler; 5"x8" sketchpad/notebook; water color colored pencils.



LATHAM R-V

KINDERGARTEN/1ST GRADE: Backpack; art box; skinny dry erase markers; highlighter; eraser; 4 glue sticks; 1 composition or spiral note-

book; 1 rest mat; 1 folder
2ND GRADE: Backpack, art box, 4 glue sticks; 24 pencils; eraser; 1 box of Crayola crayons; 1 box of markers; scissors; 2 skinny dry erase markers; 2 highlighters; 1 box Ziploc sandwich bags; 1 Composition notebook.

3RD & 4TH GRADES: Backpack; 1 box of colored pencils; 1 box of markers; 1 box of 24 Crayola crayons; 2 highlighters; 1 white Magic eraser; 3 vinyl 2-pocket folders (red, green, blue); 1 clipboard; scissors; 24 #2 lead pencils; 1 red ink pen; 2 Expo skinny markers; 4 glue sticks; pointed scissors; 2 spiral notebooks, wide-ruled; 1 pack of wide-ruled loose leaf paper; 1 pack of index cards; 2 pads of Post-it Notes; no art boxes, please.

5TH & 6TH GRADES: Backpack; pencils; 1 box of markers; compass; protractor; 2 bottles Elmer's glue; 1 box of colored pencils; scissors; erasers; pens; 1 4-pack of highlighters, any color; 4 two-pocket folders; 1 composition notebook; 2 spiral notebooks; 1 pack of lined index cards; 1 box of Ziploc sandwich bags; 4 Expo dry erase markers, black; 1 2" 3-ring binder; Post-it Notes; basic calculator, 6th grade only.

7TH & 8TH GRADES: Backpack; art box; pencils, mechanical #2 w/ extra lead; 1 box of markers; basic calculator; compass; protractor; 2 glue sticks; 1 box of colored pencils; scissors; erasers; pens; 1 4-pack of highlighters, any color; 3 spiral notebooks; 1 clipboard.

ALL STUDENTS: Water bottle; tissues; Clorox wipes; 1 roll of paper towels; headphones or earbuds; pair of tennis shoes (that stay at school) for P.E.



CLARKSBURG C-II

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R-VI welcomes new history teacher Elementary counselor enjoys helping students grow

Tipton High School students will see a new face in their history classroom this fall as Bronc Woodruff takes on the duties as high school social studies teacher. He is also a new assistant high school boys basketball coach.

Woodruff earned a bachelor of arts degree in pastoral ministries from Nebraska Christian College in May 2005, and a bachelor of science in sociology and psychology from Columbia College in May 2015. He received his master of arts in educational leadership from William Woods University in May 2021.

He taught high school social studies from 2015 until 2021 at Community R-VI, Laddonia, where he also was the high school boys assistant and head junior high boys basketball coach. He served as assistant softball coach in 2015, and as assistant football coach from 2016-2018.

He comes to Tipton from Montrose High School where he taught business and social studies, served as head high school basketball coach and one season as head softball coach.

Other experience he says helped prepare him for a career in education is 15 years as a youth pastor.

Woodruff said he decided to switch careers because, "I have always loved interacting and helping young people discover who they are. It is always an amazing moment when they finally realize what

everyone else around them has always believed, come to fruition. After spending time in the youth ministry and waiting for students to enter into my territory, I wanted to be able to help them right where life happens for them, and in the classroom or on the court was the best place for that to happen."

As for seeking a job with the R-VI District, Woodruff said, "We moved to Missouri 14 years ago to Mexico. Tipton has been one of those schools that every time we drove by it, I commented on what a great school it was and the tradition in which the sport teams showed. When opportunity knocked on my door to come coach and teach, it was an opportunity I knew I could not pass up. I am excited to be part of the Cardinal family!"

Woodruff said he will have several little goals for his first year at

Tipton. "My goals are to get to know all of the students and what goes on in their lives, to cheer on the excellent sports teams, and to learn the traditions of the community. Accomplishing a small part of these would be a successful first year."

Bronc and his wife of 27 years, Tisha, live at California. They have two daughters, Ashlie who is 26, and Zoie, 17.

As a family, Bronc said they love sports, from watching basketball or softball games to the television, living on college football on Saturdays during the fall. During the summer, if not at a ball diamond watching and/or playing softball they can be found at the Lake of the Ozarks. "Regardless of where we go we always love to try new restaurants," he said. "Eating out is probably one of our biggest hobbies!"



Bronc Woodruff

"I chose a career in education because it is so rewarding to work with students each day," said Sara J. Moon who is joining the Tipton R-VI staff as the elementary counselor this year. "Each day is a brand new adventure. I also love to see their growth, no matter if it's academic, personal or social."

Moon, of Versailles, has been an elementary counselor for 12 years. She graduated from Stephens College, Columbia, with a bachelor's degree in human development with an emphasis in child studies and psychology. She earned a masters of school counseling, K-8, also from Stephens College.

"I am so excited to work with like-minded professionals who put students' needs first," she said. "I loved having the opportunity to meet students and teachers during summer school. The family-like atmosphere was so very welcoming."

Moon said her goals for this school year are to support students and staff in any way that she can. "I am eager to work with students and help them develop skills they need to succeed socially, emotionally



Sara Moon

and academically."

Sara and her husband, Jason, have two sons, Cole, 11, and Coy, 6.

In her free time she enjoys growing flowers and gardening, reading, antique hunting for treasures, finding seashells and travelling with family and friends.

Have a great 2023-2024 school year!

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Diggs transitions into new role as teacher

A familiar face in Tipton R-VI Schools will find an easy fit in special education as a teacher in the new school year, having served as a paraprofessional in the department for the last 13 years.

Anna Diggs will be teaching junior high and high school life skills classes. She will also be coached the Special Olympic teams in flag football, basketball and track.

Diggs, a 1991 graduate of Tipton High School, started her educational journey as a paraprofessional 26 years ago. She received her para certification through the University of Central Missouri, and is currently working on a bachelor of science in elementary education and special education through Grand Canyon University.

She started as a special education para at Clarksburg C-II in the early 1990s. While there she also held the athletic director position and coached softball, volleyball, basketball and track. She also spent a few years as assistant to the superintendent.

She moved to the Tipton R-VI District in 2009 as a Title I reading paraprofessional for kindergarten through sixth grades. Over the years she also has coached junior high girls basketball and volleyball, and high school girls volleyball and softball. In 2020 the seventh grade

joined her teams.

In 2022, Diggs was offered the life skills

paraprofessional position at the junior high and high school levels.

"In 2022-23, with the help of some great people we were able to establish a Special

Olympics sports program here at Tipton where I have become a certified coach," said Diggs. "This was an unexpected move, but a move I felt came from God."

Diggs said she has several family members who have needed special education and others who have intellectual disabilities. She helps local families with care of their special needs children when needed, adding to her experience that supplements her skills as a public school special education professional.

"The main reason I do what I do



Anna Diggs

is simply for the kids," said Diggs. "I feel children with intellectual disabilities deserve everything other students have within the education system. They deserve inclusion and to feel like they are contributing to their school and community. They

are capable learners and I want everyone to see that. My goal is to bring awareness to our school and our community for the sake of my students. I want everyone to see them through my eyes. I want everyone to see how intelligent they are and how much these students can contribute to our community even after they graduate here at Tipton High School."

Diggs said she sought a job in the R-VI school system because this is her home. "I graduated from Tipton in 1991 and I have never left. I want to give back what this com-

munity has done for me," she said. "I want the students to have the same experiences I did being a student at Tipton R-VI. I want to instill that same pride into all of my students."

Her classroom goals for the year are to get the Cardinal Kids Cafe up and running within a few weeks of the start of the school year. She wants to see her students in a routine with their classes and within her class. "I want my students to become more independent as the year moves along," she said. "For my Special Olympics team, my goal is to get everyone working together as a team and pushing towards healthier lifestyles with a new health and fitness program."

Anna is married to fellow THS graduate Aaron Diggs and they just celebrated their 31st wedding an-

niversary. They have two daughters, Logan DuBois and her husband of six years, Quinton, and Graci Diggs who recently graduated from THS. They have one grandson, Bradley DuBois who will be an eighth grader at Tipton R-VI this year.

In her spare time she loves to kayak and fish with her husband, and when not doing that she hosts family game nights with her children. She also enjoys cooking on her Blackstone griddle and spending Saturday mornings with her mother, Rose James, in Dutch country. This year, as an avid sports fan, she will be watching Bradly participating in whatever sport is in season. Finally, she enjoys reading her daily devotional and journaling when she can find time in her busy schedule.



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Wood joins history staff at Tipton R-VI

Danielle Wood is one of two new social studies teachers joining the middle school and high school staff for the Tipton R-VI School District.

Wood is in her fourth year teaching, dually certified in elementary education as well as social studies grades five through nine.

She obtained her bachelor's degree from Central Methodist University and this month graduated with a master's in education, instructional design from Western Governor's University.

Wood's experience includes working as a full time substitute teacher for School of the Osage in 2018-2019, and as a paraprofessional there in 2019-2020. She was a reading teacher at California Mid-



Danielle Wood

dle School 2021-22, and a middle school social studies teacher at Tuscumbia 2022-23. She also served as a Sunday school teacher

for three years.

"Since I was in fourth grade I knew I wanted to be a teacher," said Wood of her decision to pursue a career in education. "My fourth grade teacher was a real big influence in this. She went above and beyond for her students, me included. She instilled not only a love for learning but the desire to share that with others."

Wood applied at Tipton R-VI when her desired teaching position opened up. "I absolutely love history, it's not everyone's cup of tea," she said. "I want to instill my love for it into others."

A main goal for Wood's first year at Tipton is to build positive relationships with the students and staff of Tipton High School.

In her spare time, Wood enjoys playing video games, spending time outdoors with her family and working puzzles of all sorts.

Wood has three children, London, 16, Cassidy, 15, and Bella-Marie, 11.



New classroom

Tiffany Huhmann gets her classroom ready to welcome the first class of preschoolers at St. Andrew School.

Looking forward to seeing first class of preschoolers

Tiffany Huhmann is helping St. Andrew School embark on a new adventure in learning as its first preschool teacher.

"I am so excited to be teaching preschool at St. Andrew's this year. It is going to be a fun year of new beginnings and lots of learning," she said as she introduced herself.

Huhmann and her family moved to Tipton almost two years ago. Her husband, Quinn, was raised here and now they feel fortunate to be raising their children here. Elie attends Ball State University in Muncie, Ind., with plans to graduate in the spring. Ethan will be a senior at Tipton High School, and Porter will be in the third grade at St. Andrew School where Cici will be in kindergarten and Hayden will be in the inaugural preschool class. The baby of the family, Steele, was recently adopted. In addition to their six children they have also been foster parents for the last five years.

Before moving to Tipton, the Huhmanns lived in Plainfield, Ind., where Tiffany was born and raised. She worked at St. Michael and St. Gabriel Catholic Schools where she held many different roles, from librarian, secretary, teaching assistant to preschool teacher.

"Teaching preschool was by far my favorite position," Huhmann said. "It is truly rewarding to watch little minds grow!"

The new opportunity is very sim-

ilar to her past teaching experience in Indiana. "With both schools, I will be involved with getting the preschool program started and established," Huhmann said. "Though starting anything has its challenges, I am fortunate to be able to not only draw on past experiences, but also the amazing support from the St. Andrew's parish community."

Huhmann said she and her family feel blessed to be a part of St. Andrew's parish for the past several years and know firsthand what an amazing church and school it is.

"I am looking forward to growing and learning as a parishioner," Tiffany said. "I appreciate this opportunity and will strive to give back as much as I've been fortunate enough to receive from this amazing parish family!"

Best wishes for a great 2023-24 School Year!

Great Western Dining

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TIPTON R-VI SCHOOL DISTRICT

The 2023-2024 School Year Begins Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023

Tipton Elementary, Middle School & High School Daily Schedule: 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

All children entering kindergarten must be 5 years of age by Aug. 1, 2023.

All children entering first grade must be 6 years of age by Aug. 1, 2023.

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Activity/Athletic Director Districtwide
Ashlee Pettigrew Elementary Principal

Central Office 660-433-5520
Jr. High/High School Office 660-433-5528
Elementary Office 660-433-2213
Website <http://tipton.k12.mo.us>

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

Hannah Ashley MS Math
Trisha Bailey Marketing
Julie Brown Special Education
Ricky Capestro Special Education
Janeil Cliburn Special Education
McGwire Dean Physical Education
Anna Diggs Special Education
Genee Fischer Business/Journalism
Karen Gentges Math
Summer Helton History
Regina Hunsburger Science
Alyssa Jeffcoat English
Regina Kempker Special Education
Sylvia Kubli English
Andrew Maddux Band
Carolyn Melton Intervention Educator
Zachary Overbeck Math
Samantha Price English
Michael Reeves Physical Education
Donald Sanders Science/Health
Kimberly Scheidt MS Art
Risharra Stulc Science
Amanda Twenter Agriculture
Jason Twenter Agriculture
Haley Willoughby Art
Mary Jane (MJ) Wilson Choir
Danielle Wood History
Bronc Woodruff History

FACULTY & STAFF

Lindsey Smith Grade 2
Shanna Henderson Grade 2
Bobbi Jo Hagerman Grade 3
Bailey Nichols Grade 3
Elizabeth Cotten Grade 4
Jordan Clevenger Grade 4
Charlee Huhmann Grade 5
Rebecca McCarty Grade 5

SPECIAL ELEMENTARY TEACHERS

Kimberly Scheidt Art
Mary Jane (MJ) Wilson Vocal Music
Annie Moon P.E.
Amy Edwards Special Education
Robin Martonfi Special Education
Ronxanne Whitworth Special Education
Ashli Wood Speech Pathologist
Stacey Crane Title I Reading
Manda Simon Title I Reading
Hannah Sanders Title I Math
Debra Hirst Title I Math

COUNSELORS

Bridget Bestgen MS/High School
Jolene Garber Advisor High School
Sara Moon Elementary

NURSE

Molly Thye Districtwide

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

Bobbi Sansbury Parents As Teachers Coord.

PARAPROFESSIONALS

Lacey Cochran Graci Diggs
Tawnia Flora Melissa Hays
Amy Huhmann Lisa Rugen
Michael Stock Tara Wolf
Tisha Woodruff

SECRETARIES

Lisa Bixler Central Office
Amy Stover Central Office
Hailey Cobb MS/High School
Leslie Rumans Elementary
Kerry Uptergrove Data Coordinator,
F & R Lunch/Cashier

MAINTENANCE STAFF

Daniel Cochran Maintenance Supervisor
Lee-Ann Drennan Custodian
Catherine Hayes Custodian
Paul James Custodian

TIPTON ELEMENTARY (GRADES K-5)

Kamryn Hirst Kindergarten
Krystal Millan Kindergarten
Paige Baker Grade 1
Amanda Rentel Grade 1

LIBRARY

Deann Lawson Elementary Librarian

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Tipton R-VI

August		February	
15	New Teachers Training	5	No School, Teachers PD Day
16, 22	All Teachers Professional Development	19	No School, Presidents Day
17	Back to School Bash, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.	March	
23	First Day of School	4	No School, Teachers PD Day
September		14	No School, Showcase of Student Work; Community Event, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
4	No School, Labor Day Holiday	15	No School
October		29	No School, Spring Break
2	No School, Teachers PD Day	April	
26	No School, Parent-Teacher Conferences 10 a.m.-6 p.m.	1-5	No School, Spring Break
27	No School, Fall Break	27	Prom
November		May	
6	No School, Teachers PD Day	15	Last Day of School, Full Day
22-24	No School, Thanksgiving Break	16	No School, Teacher Check Out Day
December		19	Graduation
Dec. 20-Jan. 1	No School, Holiday Break	20-26	Break before Summer School
January		27	Memorial Day, No School
2	No School, PD Day	28	First day of Summer Session (19 days)
15	No School, Martin Luther King Day	No Half Days	All Snow Days Built In

St. Andrew School

August		3	No School, Local Teacher PD Day
9	Diocesan PD Day	15	No School
16, 17	Local Teacher PD Days	28-Feb. 2	Catholic Schools Week
20	Mass, Open House	February	
23	First Day of School	2	Early Dismissal, 12:30 p.m., CSW
September		19	No School
4	No School, Labor Day	March	
22	Local PD Day	8	No School, Diocesan PD Day
October		22	No School
26	Parent/Teacher Conferences	29	No School
26-27	No School	April	
November		1-2	No School, Easter
22-24	No School, Thanksgiving Break	May	
27	No School, Local Teacher PD Day	15	8 th Grade Graduation
December		16	Last Day of School, Dismiss at 11 a.m.
21-29	No School, Christmas Break	January	
1-2	No School, Christmas Break		

Latham R-V

NOTE: School will be in session from Tuesday-Friday, 7:50 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Breakfast served from 7:30 a.m.-7:50 a.m. Snow make-up dates: Jan. 29, Feb. 12, March 4. Any other Mondays or additional days at the end of the year may be used as needed.

August		23-25	No School, Thanksgiving Break
18-19	Teacher Professional Development	December	
19	Back to School Night, 6-7 p.m.	8	Christmas Program, 6:30 p.m.
23	First day of school	19	School in Session
September		21	End of Second Quarter
15	Grandparent's Breakfast, 7:40 a.m.	Dec. 22-Jan. 4	Christmas Break, No School
19	Teacher Professional Development	February	
19	Title I Literacy Night, 6 p.m.	6	Teacher Professional Development
27	Mid-Quarter Reports Go Home	14	Mid-Quarter Reports Go Home
October		March	
19	End of First Quarter	8	End of Third Quarter
24	Parent Teacher Conferences, 3-7 p.m.	20	Parent Teacher Conferences, 3-7 p.m.
28	Halloween Parade, 2 p.m.	April	
November		3	Teacher Professional Development
7	Teacher Professional Development	18	Mid-Quarter Reports Go Home
11	Veteran's Breakfast, 7:40 a.m.	24	Spring Literacy Night, 6:30 p.m.
21	School in Session	May	
22	Mid-Quarter Reports Go Home	4	Spring Concert/Art Show, 6:30 p.m.
		17	Graduation, 6:30 p.m.
		18	End of Fourth Quarter
			Last Day of school
			Early Dismissal, 12:05 p.m.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL TIME

Clarksburg C-II

August		January	
21	First Day of School	1-2	No School, Christmas Break
September		15	No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
1	Half Day	February	
4	No School, Labor Day	16	Half Day
October		19	No School, Presidents Day
26	Parent-Teacher Conferences, Half Day	March	
27	No School	28-29	No School, Easter Break
November		April	
21	Half Day	1-2	No School, Easter Break
21-24	No School, Thanksgiving Break	May	
December		10	Half Day
19	Half Day	All Snow Days Built In	
20-29	No School, Christmas Break	8:05 a.m.-3:05 p.m. Bell Schedule	

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Stulc combines love of math, coaching to embark on 10-year teaching career

Risharra Stulc is a new science teacher for the Tipton R-VI School District where she will teach sixth and seven grade science along with physical science.

Stulc started coaching soccer when she was 16 years old and continued from the next 10 years. She also loved math and everything about it and always wanted a career where she could do math everyday. That led to put the best of both worlds together and become a teacher.

She received a bachelor's degree in applied mathematics with an emphasis in statistics from the University of Northern Colorado in 2006. She earned a post graduate teacher's certificate from Western State University in 2009, and in 2019 completed more than 24 credits at Texas A & M University towards a master's in statistics.

Stulc taught math at Grand Junction High School from 2007-12 and 2019-22. She also taught math and statistics at Colorado Mesa University from 2009-19. She was an intervention specialist in math and reading for K-12 in the Mesa County School District from 2021-22, and special education CWC mathematics teacher at Smith-Cotton Junior High last year year. She also coached high school girls soccer at Grand Junction 2008-09.

Stulc said after the family moved to Missouri from Colorado, she heard nothing but wonderful things about Tipton and decided she wanted to be part of this school.

Her primary goal for the year are to help students develop a love for learning, investigating, experimenting and questioning.

She and her husband of 12 years,



Bonding time

Risharra Stulc, a new middle school science teacher at for the Tipton R-VI School District, enjoys time with her daughter, Rya, 9, one of her five children.

James, have six children. The five boys are Camden, 11, Grayson, 8, Braxton, 6, Everett, 4, and Carter, 2, and Rya, 9, is their daughter.

She enjoys attending her children's sporting events, planting flowers and spending time with family. She likes to go for hikes and explore all the wonderful places in Missouri.

Moniteau County native returns home, teaching religion at St. Andrew's

St. Andrew School welcomes a new junior high religion teacher this year. Gloria Heinen, a native of Moniteau County who has returned home after several years away, joins the staff as a part-time teacher of sixth, seventh and eighth grade.

Heinen, who resides at California, graduated from Central Missouri State University in 1980 with a bachelor of science degree in education. She attended the University of Wyoming working toward elementary certification.

She taught at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Sedalia from 1980-81, Rock Springs Catholic School in Rock Springs, Wyo., 1985-1994, St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Kemmerer, Wyo., 1994-1998, and St. Mary's Catholic Church in Pittsfield, Ill., 1998-2023.

Heinen said it was the example of former teachers who influenced her own decision to pursue a career in education. "After a break from teaching, I realized I missed working with the children," she said.

"I missed teaching in the Catholic school environment, and I love teaching this age level," Heinen said of her desire to teach at St. Andrew's. "Teaching religion is my passion, so it seemed a perfect fit."



Gloria Heinen

She said her goal for the year is, "To assist our students in learning, living and loving the Catholic faith so that they will appreciate the great gift that it is."

In her spare time, Heinen said she loves animals and has three cats and one dog. "If I ever get unpacked and organized, I hope to do some canning and next year start a garden."

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What parents can do to be more involved at school

Parents can make every effort to encourage children to make the most of the school experience, including academics and extracurricular activities. Though students' level of engagement is ultimately up to them, parental involvement at school can be crucial for students' success.

According to the National Education Council, when parents get involved in their children's education, those children are more likely to do better in school and be more positive about the school experience. They also may be well-behaved. Parents wondering what they can do to assist at the school level can consider these possibilities.

Getting through the year

The term "senioritis" refers to a common condition reflecting a lack of motivation by students who are reaching the end of their coursework.

How students can avoid 'senioritis'

Senior year of high school can be a whirlwind of activity. The early months are spent wrapping up standardized testing and applying to college. Since many colleges and universities ask for mid-year transcripts for students to aid with class placement and/or make final admissions decisions, students also need to maintain their studies and grades throughout the fall and winter.

Come the spring, when graduating seniors have already picked a college, students with their eyes on the finish line may feel like pulling back a bit. According to Southern New Hampshire University, the term "senioritis" refers to a common condition reflecting a lack of motivation by students who are reaching the end of their coursework. While it occurs in high school seniors and college seniors, those in trade schools or other programs also can experience senioritis. Students hope that they can simply coast until the end of school. It's important not to let senioritis set in to the point that students' academic futures are suddenly compromised.

• Consider the repercussions. According to the University of the People, many colleges have a policy that incoming freshmen must maintain a certain GPA to become students at their institutions. Letting grades slip can ruin chances of attending the school you worked hard to get into, even if you've already been accepted. Dartmouth College, for example, notes that they reserve the right to rescind an offer if "the student's final academic record has lowered significantly." A similar policy is enforced by Stanford University.

• Schedule breaks. Take advantage of time off from school and on the weekends to engage in fun activities. Respite from school work

can help you return to studies fresh and ready to engage anew.

- Plan your senior courses wisely. Work with your guidance counselor to schedule courses throughout your time at school so your senior year schedule features few rigorous classes and includes more enjoyable electives.

- Hold each other accountable. Get together with a close group of classmates to inspire one another to continue to study and maintain good grades. Accountability to another person can serve as motivation.

- Ask for help and support. It's common for seniors to want to slack off if they're feeling overwhelmed and stressed. If various factors in your life are causing you anxiety, reach out to your parents and friends for help.

- Establish strong habits. Learning to stay focused even throughout the spring of senior year can help set the course for good habits that spill over into college, like time management and focus.

Avoiding a case of senioritis can be challenging, but it is in students' best interests to stay focused on their work until they don their caps and gowns.

Attend school board meetings

Many community school boards are comprised entirely of volunteers who work with superintendents and other personnel to advocate for policies and procedures for students. Decisions typically are up for vote, and parents can run for school board positions or simply attend meetings each month and let their voices be heard about various issues.

Attend open houses and conferences

Parents can make every effort to get to know teachers and other staff. Putting faces to names can help parents develop a connection to teachers and vice versa. Most schools have back to school nights, meet the coaches opportunities, open houses, and parent-teacher conferences. Parents can take part in these events.

Open lines of communication

Parents can ask teachers and other staff how they prefer to communicate. Some teachers want students



Helping school

Parents wondering what they can do to assist at the school level can consider these possibilities.

to take the lead and reach out first, with parents providing support if need be. Adults can be responsive when teachers reach out.

Attend school events

Families can make it a point to support students in all endeavors. Whenever the opportunity to visit the school comes up — whether for a concert, sports game, trivia night, or fundraiser — parents can make an effort to attend.

Volunteer

When parents want to be involved even further, they can head committees at school or volunteer with the PTA or PTO. They also can help out in the cafeteria, library or in the main office. Parents who have particular skills may volunteer to provide tutoring or mentoring as needed. Furthermore, parents can volunteer in school-sanctioned extracurriculars, such as Scouts BSA or as sports coaches. Involvement in school is part of being an informed and supportive parent.

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THS alum returning to teach K-6 art

Kimberly Higgins Scheidt will return to the Tipton R-VI School District to teach kindergarten through sixth grade art this school year.

Scheidt graduated from Tipton High School in 2000 and received her interior design degree from the University of Central Missouri in 2005. She received her elementary teaching and early childhood certification in 2018, and master's in early childhood special education earlier this year. She is currently working on getting certification in art.

Scheidt's background includes working as a substitute teacher in 2014, a pre-kindergarten paraprofessional from 2015-18, and a pre-kindergarten teacher from 2018-23.

Other experience she feels have been important to her preparation for a job as an art teacher in service as a YMCA Kids Club teacher and art club director.

Scheidt said she decided to go into a career in education to make a difference and provide a positive support system for children. "Every child deserves someone who believes in them and helps them find their talents and set them up for success!"

She applied for the opening in the R-VI District because, "Tipton has the best positive, encouraging and rewarding atmosphere and I am blessed to be a part of it! It is a



Kimberly Scheidt

breath of fresh air to have a voice and be an advocate for our students and families."

Scheidt said her goals for this first year at Tipton Elementary include providing fun and engaging activities for students while learning all the ways art impacts the world. "Creativity is one of our greatest tools of expression and comes in many forms," she said.

Kimberly and her husband, Wesley, have three children, Everley, 14, Rowyn, 12, and Braxten, 5. She enjoys being outside with her family, working on house projects and designing spaces and furniture along with repurposing and painting furniture.

Reeves takes on coaching duties at THS

Bryon Michael Reeves said seeing the successes of both the girls and boys basketball programs at Tipton High School made him want to be a part of that. He comes to THS as the new physical education teacher, boys basketball and cross country coach.

The Sedalia resident received a bachelor's degree in general studies in December 2014, but a career in education was not his first choice.

"It wasn't even an option I was considering," he said. "My old high school basketball coach had moved from Clever to Glendale and we're still close and communicate with each other. He asked me to come to Glendale and be his varsity assistant. Working at Glendale and helping kids in the classroom and on the basketball court was a very rewarding experience, when you would see kids go through obstacles to succeed. From that moment I knew I would like to stay within the education field."

He taught at Glendale High School from 2014-17, at Brashear High School 2017-19, and comes to Tipton at Golden City where he was employed since 2019.

As for applying for an opening in the R-VI District, Reeves said, "I had heard of Tipton from when



Bryon Michael Reeves

Golden City when to the final four and the girls went to their first one in 2020. We then played the boys at a summer camp a few months later and I continued to follow them since. I've seen the great success the teams have been having and how they have been working to make themselves better to have those successes. It was something that I definitely wanted to be a part of and am

very excited for the opportunity. The community support I have already seen is something you don't see at many schools and has been truly amazing in the short amount of time I've been here as well."

Reeves has goals for each of his assignments. As a physical education teacher, he wants to make P.E. a class that students like to come to and improve on their physical health each day. With cross country in the fall, he said he hopes to see individual runners improve throughout the season. "I would like to have all runners create new personal best times and have a season they count as a success," he said. And for basketball, Reeves said, "My goal each year is to win a district championship and make a run in the playoffs. The team for this year, and the next few years, has what it takes to do just that. I want to see each player take ownership in their roles this year and to play as a team with multiple leaders."

Going to or watching sporting events top Reeves' list of spare time activities, with basketball and football being at the forefront with some baseball as well. He also enjoys float trips with friends, and said in the last few years he has started enjoying barbecues with cornhole after meeting some alumni in Golden City who like doing those things regularly.

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Brown moves into special ed teaching position at Tipton R-VI

Julie Brown recognized an opportunity to not only help her employer but also further her career. She will be moving up from being a paraprofessional with the Tipton R-VI School District the past four years to teaching in the middle school and high school special education department.

She spent one year as a substitute teacher with the district prior to taking a job as a paraprofessional.

"My son has dyslexia and went through school in the special education classes at Tipton," said Brown. "I learned a lot about helping my son succeed and advocating for him, so now I have an opportunity to help other students and advocate for them."

By moving up she fills a gap in the teacher shortage the R-VI District experienced as it tried to fill positions, and is also furthering her own education and career.

She obtained a bachelor of science in business administration in management from Central Missouri State University, now known as the University of Central Missouri. She is currently working on a master's degree in special education, grades 6 through 12, from Grand Canyon University with an anticipated graduation date of May 2024.

Brown looks forward to helping students find their voice and confi-



Julie Brown

dence with school by developing communication skills and confidence in expressing themselves.

Julie and her children, Dylan, 19, and Paige, 16, and their bulldog, Oakley, live at Tipton. In her spare time she enjoys traveling, gardening, and spending time with family and friends.

Excited to be in first classroom

Alyssa Jeffcoat is a new English and language arts teacher at the middle school and high school levels for The Tipton R-VI School District and she is excited to be settling in to her first classroom.

Jeffcoat attended Morgan County R-I, Stover, graduating in 2019. She went on to earn an associate's degree from State Fair Community College in 2021, and then in May 2023 received her bachelor's degree in education.

"This is my first year in my own classroom and I am very excited," said Jeffcoat.

She previously worked as a substitute teacher for two years and was active in Parents as Teachers.

"Working as a substitute allowed my many options in regard to working with difference grade levels and subjects," Jeffcoat said. "I got a chance to meet so many great teachers and faculty to learn from. That experience has been the most helpful in the transition into the next chapter of my life."

The most influential people in her life along the way have been teachers, Jeffcoat said. "They



Alyssa Jeffcoat

helped guide me and build me into the person I am today. I want to be

a part of molding the future generations."

The "tight-knit community" of the Tipton R-VI School District drew Jeffcoat to seeking a job here. "And it is dedicated to the success of its students as well as its staff," she said. "The environment the faculty contributes to is positive and nurturing for all to grow in."

Her goals for her first year of teaching are "to have fun, learn and survive."

In her spare time, Jeffcoat loves to read. "I have been a big reader my whole life and I could not imagine life without books," she said.

Besides reading, she also enjoys painting and rewatching favorite series on television.

She and her husband, Layton, live at Gravois Mills with their two dogs and three cats.

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New teacher inspired by own teachers

Rebecca McCarty began her career with the Tipton R-VI School District as a substitute teacher last year and taught second and third grade during the recent session of summer school. This year she is moving into her own fifth grade classroom at Tipton Elementary.

Becca graduated from Tipton High school in 2019 and received her associate of arts from State Fair Community College, Sedalia, in 2020. She is on track to graduate in December with a bachelor of science in elementary education from Central Methodist University, Fayette.

She said she was inspired by several of her own teachers while growing up, and she hopes to have the same impact with her own students.

"I wanted to teach in the community I live in and grew up in," Becca said. "Through substitute teaching, I got to know all of the students, teachers and routines. I absolutely love the environment of the school - it is so positive."

Her goals for her first year are to build relationships with students and learn as much as she can from her fellow teachers.

In her free time, Becca enjoys spending time with family and friends, shopping and taking walks.



McCarty family

New fifth grade teacher, Rebecca McCarty, is shown with her family, husband Jered, and their sons, Jace, 7 months, and Nolan, almost 2.

She and her husband, Jered, live Nolan, soon to be 2 years old, and at Tipton with their two sons, Jace, 7 months.



Josh and Gina Hunsburger

Hunsburger teaching science, coaching cheer at Tipton R-VI

"While working with the Medical Reserve Corps, I was able to partner with HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America)," said Gina Hunsburger. "The program is an asset to many schools and it inspired me to bring my passion for science and healthcare to education."

Hunsburger is the new middle school and high school science teacher and cheer coach in Tipton R-VI Schools, bringing experience as a substitute teacher for the Tipton R-VI and St. Andrew School.

She received a bachelor of science from the University of Central

Missouri in crisis and disaster management and business continuity.

Hunsburger previously worked at Capital Region Medical Center for 10 years and the Missouri Department of Public Safety, State Emergency Management Agency in the medical field.

Gina and her husband, Josh, have five children, Leila, 14, Elizabeth, 10, Lorna, 8, Annika, 5, and August, 3.

She enjoys spending time with her family and traveling as much as possible.

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Returning as a teacher fulfills THS grad's dream

Samantha Price, the new English and broadcasting teacher at Tipton High School and middle school volleyball coach, said returning to her alma mater as a teacher is a dream come true.

The daughter of Mike and Denise Wise, she was raised at Tipton.

"Tipton is my hometown and I've always wanted to come back and be a part of the community again," said Price. "I was able to become a part of the community when I moved closer to town and became a member of St. Andrew Church again."

She said she decided to pursue a career in education while coaching all of her daughter's rec sports, combined with life as a working mother coming home to her children and foster children.

"I want to help kids grow educationally and throughout their lives," she said. "I want to give them that stepping stone and confidence to achieve their goals."

Price earned a bachelor of science in business administration and sports management, and is completing her master of arts in teaching.

Her goal for the year is to help students achieve their own academic goals and to create a wonderful broadcasting community at Tipton High School.



Samantha Price

ton High School.

She and her husband, Anthony, have four children, Kumanii, 10, Akenih, 8, Ruth, 7, and Necie, 4.

In her spare time she enjoys playing court and sand volleyball with a rec team at the YMCA. She also enjoys coaching her children in their sports, helping with gardening at a local food pantry, singing in the church choir and spending time with her family.

Second grade teacher looks forward to positive things

Shanna Henderson is moving down from third grade to second grade and as a new teacher at Tipton Elementary is anticipating building positive relationships with fellow teachers, students and families.

She said she also has a goal of pushing her students to be the very best they can be while providing a safe and fun learning environment.

Henderson, a native of Prairie Home and now living at Bunceton, said she sought a job at Tipton because she loves the size of the community and the school is known to be a great school to work in. "Tipton fosters the learning of children and provides a safe and happy environment for them to excel," she said.

Always with a love for helping people, Henderson said she saw herself as a teacher from a young age.



Shanna Henderson

and excelled in softball while in high school. She started a family, and then continued her own education, graduating from Lincoln University at Jefferson City. She later earned her master's degree from William Wood University, Fulton. She is certified in early childhood education, elementary education and cross categorical K-12 special education. She also holds a master's degree in curriculum and instruction.

Henderson taught one year at California, 10 years at New Franklin and one year in Boonville, all in third grade. Her experience while in college also includes being a special education aide in both Prairie Home and California schools.

In addition to teaching second grade she will be the new assistant high school softball coach.

Henderson's family includes her husband, Stacy, and sons Austin Alpers, 22, and Dillon Alpers, 21.

In her spare time she enjoys watching sports, fishing, hunting, boating, camping and crafting.

She was raised in a farm family

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Recognizing when it's time to call in a tutor

Busy schedules, hybrid learning and demanding coursework have affected students' academic performance over the last year-plus. The months since a pandemic was declared in March of 2020 have been unlike any other, and confronting the academic challenges of the pandemic may have adversely affected some students' grades.

A recent report from the Fairfax County Public Schools Office of Research and Strategic Improvement in Virginia found the number of middle and high school students with two or more failing marks increased by 83 percent in the first quarter of the 2020-2021 school year compared to the year prior. But students' grades may slide or they may find certain school work overly challenging even in normal years. Since many parents have not seen a periodic table or had to solve high school math problems in decades, tutors may be just what students need to regain their academic footing.

Failing grades are not necessarily the most notable indicator that students can benefit from the services of a tutor. The Princeton Review says 25 percent of high school students say homework is their biggest source of stress, and homework progress can help parents determine if it's time to call in a tutor. Students who find their homework is taking too long, particularly double or triple the amount of time it once required, may need some extra help. Here are some additional indicators that a tutor may be

needed.

- Declining test scores: Some students are simply poor test takers, but a gradual or sudden decline in test scores may indicate students are having trouble mastering material. Teachers can pinpoint if certain concepts are overly challenging to students and notify parents if there are any problem areas.

- Poor time management or focus: Students who are struggling may have their attention drift or they put off doing tasks because they don't grasp the assignments.

- Lack of homework help at home: Parents may have prior commitments during the times of day when their children are doing homework. Even when parents are home, they may discover that the concepts covered in school are not being taught in the ways parents learned them and they may have difficulty assisting their children. Tutors can step in and help students when parents cannot.

- Learning disorder: Certain stu-

dents learn differently from others due to a diagnosed or undiagnosed learning disorder. A child who is struggling with reading, phonics, spelling, and writing may have dyslexia, according to the tutoring experts at Dyslexia Practitioner NJ. Tutors who specialize in learning disorders can assess and address learning conflicts and tailor instructions in ways that can help students overcome those challenges.

- Students "shut down" or say they "hate" school: Disinterest in school or expressions of hating going to school may be indicative of academic struggles in the classroom. Some students get so frustrated they simply give up. Tutors can solve learning puzzles and help get students back on track and reignite their interest in school.

Tutors can be valuable resources for students who need some one-on-one attention to master general learning concepts or reinforce skills for key tests or projects.



Help is here

Here are some indicators that a tutor may be needed.

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