

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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## They're ready to teach.



Shop: Bryson Kennedy



Art: Katie Berglund



Music: Kallie Bush

Photos courtesy of art class

By Janet Larreau

Art -- shop - music. They are all very difficult teaching positions to fill. Arnold Schools had a challenge ahead last year as three long-time teachers - Julie and Clay Mohr and Chrysanne Bailey - retired. The school met the challenge, hiring three excellent candidates who were drawn here by what APS - and the community - has to offer them.

### The Perfect Match

Bryson Kennedy is the new shop teacher. He graduated from Callaway High School in 2005. He then received his associates degree from Mid-Plains College in North Platte and moved on to graduate from Chadron State College in 2010 with his teaching degree. Before coming to Arnold, he taught industrial tech and coached in Maywood for six years. The past three years, he has been teaching industrial tech in Gothenburg.

He said he chose Arnold for several reasons.

“First, I have heard great things about the school and a program like School House Graphics is something I have always wanted to do in my past positions, but could never get

enough interest to get it off the ground. Second, my wife, Traci, is the Kindergarten teacher and it will be great to be on the same schedule again. Lastly, living between Arnold and Callaway, I had a drive that was just short of an hour to Gothenburg every day. I will not be missing that,” he said.

Most of Mr. Kennedy's classes will remain the same. He has added a class that focuses on woodworking and cabinetry. He plans to still be involved with School House Graphics, as Mr. Mohr steps down.

“We are working our way through, figuring everything out right now. The plan is not to drastically change the program because it has been ran successfully and is depended on by a number of businesses and individuals in the area,” he said.

Both Mr. Kennedy and his wife are from Callaway, so he said it is good to be back in a familiar area.

“Most of our family is within an hour, so it is nice to be able to get together. We have a daughter, Ruby, who is going to turn 4 in the next couple of weeks and keeps us busy most of the time. She just started preschool and is really enjoying

going to school,” he said.

### Her Own Classroom

After teaching K-5 art in North Platte at all nine elementary schools for the last three years, Arnold Public School's new art teacher, Katie Berglund, has her very own room and she is excited about that.

“I was ready for a change. I wanted to teach at a school that was smaller so I could get to know the kids more and build relationships with them. I also wanted to be able to teach upper grades as well as elementary,” said Ms. Berglund.

A graduate of North Platte High School, she attended Mid-Plains Community College for two years, graduating with an associate of arts degree. She then transferred to UNL, where she studied film and fashion design for a short period of time. Her final transfer was to UNK where she received her bachelor of arts degree in Studio Art with a minor in Visual Communications. Later, she enrolled in the transitional certification program at UNK where she received her endorsement in K-12 Art Education.

“I actually never wanted to teach until I worked as a para. I enjoyed working with the stu-

dents and getting to know them,” she said.

The biggest change that Ms. Berglund has made since starting at APS is the classroom. She said she's never had her own room before, so she had a lot of fun putting her own touches on things. She will also have students add to the design of the room by doing an acrylic pour on the countertops and making individually designed tiles to place on another counter in the room.

As far as her favorite medium, she said it's hard for her to choose just one.

“I'm a dabbler. I love experimenting with anything and everything,” she said.

She also plans to be involved with School House Graphic Products, as former art teacher Julie Mohr was. She has been researching and experimenting with how to use all of the equipment.

“A few students are comfortable enough with things to show me how they work. It's also a great way for them to learn because they are sharing their knowledge with the younger students, as well,” she said.

Ms. Berglund has a little girl, Loxley, who will be 1-year-old next month. She attends daycare in Arnold while mom is working. For now, they are making the best of the long commute between North Platte and Arnold, and she is hoping they can make the move to Arnold soon.

“I love getting to work every day knowing I'll see smiling faces. Everyone is so kind and welcoming,” she said.

### Passionate About Music

Kallie Bush is the new music teacher. She graduated from Kimball High School in 2015 and attended Chadron State

College, graduating in May of 2020 with a bachelor of science degree in K-12 Music Education.

“I chose teaching because it's always called to me!” she said. “My mom was a teacher my whole life and I saw how she worked with the students and I fell in love with the idea of shaping young minds. I have been involved with music, pretty much before I could walk and it is something that I am passionate about, that I want to share with children. I chose APS and Arnold because I come from a small community and I love how everyone works together to achieve a single goal. Arnold is small, but it's not lonely. I also fell in love with the school and how everything runs here. It is honestly perfect for my first job.”

Her favorite part of music is to teach anything to do with music history, referring to herself as a “huge history nerd,” especially for music. Eventually, she would like to be a professor of music history.

Enrollment in the high school music program is really low, but Ms. Bush said that the students that are involved want to be there and are working very hard.

“I plan to teach guitar with all of these guitars! They are amazing! I can't wait to do really fun and exciting things with the students,” she said.

Ms. Bush is not married, but is in a serious relationship. For now, it's just her and her cats. She has been staying with friends in Merna since July and plans to move to Arnold as soon as she starts renting a house.

“I am so excited to be here and be a positive role model for the students! I love music more than anything in the world and my primary goal is the students having fun and being passionate about music,” she said.



## Stopping traffic

It's John Deere green, sports a flag wrap, a flag pole with the U.S. flag waving overhead and a couple of happy passengers who don't mind the August heat. A combine sitting in Robbi and Shelley Smith's driveway is drawing a lot of attention; so much so, that vehicles traveling on Highway 92 are stopping and turning around to get a closer look while snapping some photos. “The giant dog and the monkey are usually sitting in our downstairs garage. We decided to put them in the combine, with the monkey sitting in the buddy seat,” said Shelley. It's hard to tell just how many people have stopped. “I was mowing the other day and three vehicles passed by, stopped, turned around and got out to walk around and take a picture. One was on a motorcycle. I didn't know who any of them were. It's kind of fun,” she said.

## Nebraska Voters to Receive Early Ballot Request Applications

Lincoln- Secretary of State Bob Evnen has decided to mail an early ballot application to every registered voter whose county did not already do so. The effect will be every registered voter in Nebraska will receive an early ballot request application in the mail. “For voters who have concerns about voting at the polls in November, an early ballot request for a mail-in ballot is a good option,” said Secretary of State Bob Evnen. “Anyone who wishes to vote early should request their ballot as soon as possible.”

• The first ballots will be mailed out September 28.

• The deadline to request an early ballot to be mailed to you is October 23.

• USPS recommendation for returning your early ballot by

mail is October 27.

• The deadline for early voting in person in the County Clerk/Election Commissioner's office is November 2.

• Voters who requested early ballots must return them to the County Clerk/Election Commissioner's office by the close of the polls November 3.

Voters also have the option of going to the polls to vote. The polls will be open for the General Election, November 3. County officials and the Secretary of State are taking precautions to protect the safety of voters and poll workers.

For information regarding early voting, visit the Secretary of State website.

<https://sos.nebraska.gov/elections/early-voting>