

# Meet YSD's New Teachers For 2015-16

Here are profiles on the new teachers in the Yankton School District for the 2015-16 school year:

## ABIGAIL BENSON

**Marital Status:** Married Eight years to Brian Benson  
**Number and ages of children:** Two- Willa (5) and Finn (2)  
**College or University where you received your Bachelor Degree:** Peru State College  
**Date Bachelor Degree Received:** 2003  
**College or University where you received your Graduate Degree:** Peru State College  
**Date Graduate Degree Received:** 2008  
**Grade or Subject you will be teaching in Yankton:** First  
**In which school will you be teaching?** Lincoln Elementary

**Teacher Experience:** Omaha Public School, Kindergarten, 2004-2006, Nebraska City Public, Kindergarten, 2006-2010 and 2nd grade, 2010-2013  
**List any college or teaching honors:** Undergraduate- Magna Cum Laude and Graduate-with honors  
**Hobbies:** I enjoy reading, crafting, biking and walking

## MEGAN Balfany

**Marital Status:** Single  
**Number and ages of children:** One, Pria (2)  
**College or University where you received your Bachelor Degree:** Arizona State University  
**Date Bachelor Degree Received:** December 2010  
**Grade or Subject you will be teaching in Yankton:** Preschool  
**In which school will you be teaching?** Webster Elementary  
**Teacher Experience:** Yankton, 4th grade, one year  
**Hobbies:** Boating, snowboarding and traveling

## BRITTANIE BLASEG

**Marital Status:** Single  
**Number and ages of children:** None  
**College or University where you received your Bachelor Degree:** University of South Dakota  
**Date Bachelor Degree Received:** May 2015  
**List any college or teaching honors:** Graduated Summa Cum Laude, President of Pi Mu Epsilon and member of Golden Key Honor Society  
**Hobbies:** Relaxing on the river, baking and knitting

## MELANIE DUCHSCHER

**Marital Status:** Married to Michael Duchscher  
**Number and ages of children:** Three, Trystan (4), Dominic(2) and Quinn (1)  
**College or University where you received your Bachelor Degree:** University of South Dakota  
**Date Bachelor Degree Received:** Biology-2005 and ELED-2011  
**Grade or Subject you will be teaching in Yankton:** JrK.  
**In which school will you be teaching?** Webster  
**Teacher Experience:** Gayville-Volin, Preschool/JrK, 3 years



Pictured are, front from left: Georgia Powell, Kelsey Thury, Melanie Duchscher, Jayna Wagner, Anne Kinsley and Brittanie Blaseg; back row: Cody Garvey, Cierra Voeltz, Gwen Wenisch, Megan Balfany, Brittany Sudbeck, Abigail Benson, Brandon Wagner and Sam Matzke.

**List any college or teaching honors:** Graduated Cum Laude in ELED at USD  
**Hobbies:** Playing volleyball- sand and league  
**Organizations to which you belong:** Vermillion Valley Reading Council

## CODY GARVEY

**Marital Status:** Married  
**Number and ages of children:** One, Bexxley Jo Garvey(12 weeks)  
**College or University where you received your Bachelor Degree:** Mount Marty College  
**Date Bachelor Degree Received:** May 2013  
**Grade or Subject you will be teaching in Yankton:** 4th grade  
**In which school will you be teaching?** Beadle  
**Teacher Experience:** Menno School Dist., 3rd grade, 2 years  
**Organizations to which you belong:** Yankton Morning Optimist Club

## ANNE KINSLEY

**Marital Status:** Single  
**College or University where you received your Bachelor Degree:** University of South Dakota  
**Date Bachelor Degree Received:** Dec. 14, 2013-Bachelor of Science in Biology  
**Grade or Subject you will be teaching in Yankton:** 9th Grade Physical Science  
**In which school will you be teaching?** Yankton High School  
**Teacher Experience:** Mitchell School District, 7th & 8th Life and Earth Science, 2014-2015  
**Student Taught:** Irene-Wakonda, 7th, 10th, 11th, Fall 2013, half a year  
**List any college or teaching honors:** Delzell School of Education-Excellence has a name and USD Deans List Graduated Cum Laude  
**Hobbies:** Running, biking, yoga and reading  
**Organizations to which you belong:** National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) and South Dakota Education Association/NEA (SDEA)

## SAM MATZKE

**Marital Status:** I am married to

Ashley Matzke

**College or University where you received your Bachelor Degree:** University of South Dakota  
**Date Bachelor Degree Received:** May 2014  
**Grade or Subject you will be teaching in Yankton:** 6th & 7th Social Studies  
**In which school will you be teaching?** Middle School  
**Teacher Experience:** Santee Community School, Elementary Recovery Room, one year  
**Hobbies:** Football, camping and woodworking

## CIERRA VOELTZ

**Marital Status:** Married, Aug. 8, 2015  
**College or University where you received your Bachelor Degree:** Dakota State University  
**Date Bachelor Degree Received:** Dec. 13, 2014  
**Grade or Subject you will be teaching in Yankton:** Middle School Art  
**In which school will you be teaching?** Yankton Middle School  
**Teacher Experience:** Madison Middle School, 6-8/Art, half a year  
**List any college or teaching honors:** Honor roll every semester at DSU  
**Hobbies:** Travel, painting and board games  
**Organizations to which you belong:** Currently none but I would like to belong to AET, TCEA and NAEA

## GEORGIA POWELL

**Marital Status:** Married  
**Number and ages of children:** Two sons, ages 1 and 3  
**College or University where you received your Bachelor Degree:** Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NE  
**Date Bachelor Degree Received:** May 2009  
**College or University where you received your Graduate Degree:** USD in Vermillion, SD  
**Date Graduate Degree Received:** May 2011  
**Grade or Subject you will be teaching in Yankton:** High School

English/Language art

**In which school will you be teaching?** Yankton High School  
**Teacher Experience:** Crofton School District, 7-12 English & Speech, 3.5 years  
**List any college or teaching honors:** Graduated Skidmore College Cum Laude; multiple semesters on honor roll; member of Periclean Honor Society  
**Hobbies:** Reading, running, traveling and doing yoga  
**Organizations to which you belong:** National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)

## BRITTANY SUDBECK

**Marital Status:** Married to Grant Nielsen  
**Number and ages of children:** None  
**College or University where you received your Bachelor Degree:** University of South Dakota  
**Date Bachelor Degree Received:** May 2014  
**Grade or Subject you will be teaching in Yankton:** High School English  
**In which school will you be teaching?** Yankton High School  
**Teacher Experience:** Ponca High School, High School, Spring semester and Ponca, NE, Spanish-Student Teacher 2015  
**List any college or teaching honors:** Dean's List 2010-2015 & Praxis Award of Excellence for scores on the English Language, Literature and Content Knowledge Test  
**Hobbies:** Knitting, reading and spending time with my dog

## KELSEY THURY

**Marital Status:** Single  
**Number and ages of children:** None  
**College or University where you received your Bachelor Degree:** Mount Marty College  
**Date Bachelor Degree Received:** May 2015  
**Grade or Subject you will be teaching in Yankton:** Math  
**In which school will you be teaching?** Yankton High School

**List any college or teaching honors:** Dean's list

## BRANDON WAGNER

**Marital Status:** Married to Ashley  
**College or University where you received your Bachelor Degree:** University of South Dakota  
**Date Bachelor Degree Received:** 2009  
**College or University where you received your Graduate Degree:** University of South Dakota  
**Date Graduate Degree Received:** 2010  
**Grade or Subject you will be teaching in Yankton:** High School CTE  
**In which school will you be teaching?** Yankton High School  
**Teacher Experience:** Scotland, HS Special Education, Four years  
**Hobbies:** Farming, hunting and fishing

## JAYNA WAGNER

**Marital Status:** Married to Justin Wagner  
**Number and ages of children:** Three boys: Ethan (5), Sutton (3) and Griffin (1)  
**College or University where you received your Bachelor Degree:** Dakota State University  
**Date Bachelor Degree Received:** December 2007  
**Grade or Subject you will be teaching in Yankton:** Special Education  
**In which school will you be teaching?** Stewart Elementary  
**Teacher Experience:** Yankton School District, Elementary Special Education, Two years  
**List any college or teaching honors:** I taught Special Education at Websters Elementary in Yankton  
**Hobbies:** Running, camping and spending time with family and friends  
**Organizations to which you belong:** Bon Homme PTA and Sunday School teacher

## GWEN WENISCH

**Marital Status:** Married to Brian Wenisch  
**Number and ages of children:** Two boys: Jonathan (12) and Regan (9)  
**College or University where you received your Bachelor Degree:** South Dakota State University  
**Date Bachelor Degree Received:** 1999  
**Grade or Subject you will be teaching in Yankton:** Band-MS, Freshmen Band/Marching Band  
**In which school will you be teaching?** Mostly at middle school and high school periods one and two  
**Teacher Experience:** Menno School, Band, 15 years  
**List any college or teaching honors:** 32 students selected for middle school all state band, marching earned 30 1st and 2nd place trophies since 2008, Band received a Superior rating at large group contest since 2007  
**Hobbies:** Reading, camping and playing trumpet  
**Organizations to which you belong:** SDMEA, SDBA, Phi Beta Mu and board member for Yankton Ice Association

## Upcoming Opportunities!

The following special promotions/sections are coming in the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan:

- **Labor Day Salute**, deadlines August 31, publishes September 4
- **Bridal Directory**, deadlines, August 31, publishes September 3
- **YHS Homecoming**, deadlines September 8, publishes September 15
- **Citywide Rummages**, deadlines September 4, publishes September 9 and 12
- **Heritage Edition**, deadlines September 16, publishes September 28
- **Home Improvement**, deadlines September 17, publishes September 24
- **Health & Medical Directory**, deadlines September 23, distribution starts October 23

Please watch for these upcoming promotions or if you would like your business or service featured please call 665-7811 today.

YANKTON DAILY  
**PRESS & DAKOTAN**  
 319 Walnut, Yankton  
 www.yankton.net



## Yankton School District

Yankton School District is pleased to announce bus service from Gayville to Yankton for grades JrK-12 at the following pick-up points:

- Corner of Washington & Merchant Street (near the post office)
- Ma & Pa's C Store

Daily fruit/veggie snacks at the elementary schools!

Highly trained & certified teachers

Welding!

Chromebooks!

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3-D Printing in Mechanical Drafting at YHS!

Build a house in Building Trades!

Earn college credit through MMC or MTI!

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Earn .5 high school credit in Career Explorations at YMS!

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Become a Yankton Buck & Gazelle Today!

Contact the Superintendent's Office to get more information at:

2410 West City Limits Road, Yankton, SD 57078, (605) 665-3998

