

Features

Student teachers fork over cash to educate students

HALEY COOL & ETHAN BRENT

A student teacher takes on all the responsibilities of a full teacher, without the pay and pays the college they attend for the privilege. Michelle Olson, counselor, Trevor Menne, special education, Sandi Gray, social studies, and Jon Isensee, science, will be working with the four interns that have come from different colleges to complete their studies.



Rita McClellan

Rita McClellan, a counseling intern has worked as a counselor for the past 25 years in a private school that focused on children ages six to 21 with special needs as well as with high risk teens at Albertina Kerr. Inspired by touching people's lives, she plans to earn her public school license.

McClellan has had family connections with WLHS: her children, Reggie, freshman, and Hayden, senior, attend WLHS. Having the same

schedule as her children is something McClellan enjoys because of the great summers. McClellan likes the school because the building is a beautiful place.

"The staff I've met are so kind, so welcoming and so good at their jobs," McClellan said.

She attended Portland State University (PSU) where she received her master degrees in psychology and is currently attending PSU to earn her teaching license. Olson mentors McClellan, who is just beginning to work with students. Her internship is finished in June.



Rachel Bunker

Driven by her belief that with an education, possibilities are endless, Rachel Bunker, a history intern decided to become a teacher.

"I solemnly believe that if you have a good education you can free your mind," Bunker said, "You

can always escape with an education."

Bunker was born in Virginia and attended Agnes Scott College, a small, private, woman's college. She majored in history and African Studies.

"I was looking for a cream of the crop group of teachers and students," Bunker said when she discovered WLHS. "The place is gorgeous," Bunker said, "It is a fantastic place to come if you want to become a teacher."

Bunker turned in her résumé, not knowing what to expect. Gray contacted her and Bunker then interviewed with her before being accepted. Bunker is currently teaching history to sophomores. Her term at the school is finished in June.



Andrew Davis

"Working in a classroom with an experienced teacher for an entire school year is a great way to gain

experience and improve teaching skills," Andrew Davis said. "Jon Isensee was kind enough to agree to spend time this year sharing his teaching experience with me," he said.

His inspiration came from the coaching and teaching he has done in prior experiences. He was employed leading outdoor trips with teens, coaching a rock climbing team and doing medical research at the University of Wisconsin.

"I decided to become a teacher because I wanted to be able to combine my interest in science with the enjoyment I have always found working with students," Davis said.

Davis double-majored in Biology and Political Science and minored in Environmental Studies. He is currently attending Lewis & Clark College in order to obtain a teaching license and a Master of the Arts in Teaching.

"Students are interested in their education," Davis said. "The school has a great reputation of students and teachers, which is why I decided to spend his internship at the high school," Davis said.

Davis will be teaching science to students of all ages under the guidance of

Jon Isensee. His internship will end in June.



Cathy Sharpe

Cathy Sharpe, special education intern, started working as an assistant in a school, but she wanted to do more than assist. "I wanted to teach kids. I wanted to impact their lives," Sharpe said. Her focus is on children with Autism and children with severe and multiple disabilities.

She received her bachelor degree at Portland State in business administration and finance law and is now working on to her masters in Special Education at PSU.

"West Linn is a beautiful facility. Students here are very respectful, mature and nice," Sharpe said. She had no concerns about interning at the school other than the commute. She has a son, Justin who attends a middle school in Gresham. Sharpe was born in Portland and her entire family lives in Oregon.

All photos by Ethan Brent and Zack Mueller

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