

TEACHERS

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and shop", Ms. Poet said, "and I hope to build on that tradition by adding some diversity to the classes offered and encouraging participation in a variety of career development events and contests."

Courses for the school year include: animal science, plant-soil science, agricultural welding, agricultural mechanics, AgriBusiness and introduction to Agriscience.

"My goals include increased participation in agriculture class and the FFA, as well as getting the FFA chapter involved in the community," she said. "I am particularly excited about the careers class and the importance of helping to prepare the seniors for 'big kid life.'"

This is Ms. Poet's first teaching job. After graduating from Kansas State University in May 2012, she did a cultural exchange in Switzerland through 4-H. She then worked as a substitute teacher in Colorado, and was a presenter for Colorado 4-H.

While it might be her first teaching job, she knows what it is like to be a vo ag teacher. Her father is the agriculture education teacher and FFA advisor in Burlington. Her mother works as a paraprofessional.

Before school started, she said she spent quite a bit of the summer rearranging the classroom and shop to better fit her teaching strengths and styles.

"Thank you," she said, "to all those individuals that stopped in and helped out with cleaning, moving equipment and painting!"

Tiffany grew up in Flagler, Colo., with three sisters on a small hobby farm where they raised dairy cattle, beef cattle and market hogs.

"I have a strong background in and passion for many aspects of agriculture," she said, "And, yes, I can weld!"



Tiffany Poet, the new ag teacher, tells students about what they will be learning and doing in the ag and careers classes.

She was a member of 4-H for 14 years and the Flagler FFA Chapter all through high school.

"I advanced through my FFA degrees and I am proud to claim that I hold my American FFA Degree," she said.

Ms. Poet moved to St. Francis mid-summer and said she has really enjoyed being here.

"The community is very similar to the one I grew up in and the people that I've met have welcomed me just like

I was family," she said. "I've appreciated everyone that has taken the time to introduce themselves and get to know me. But, the families that have invited me to their homes to enjoy a home-cooked meal have earned a special place in my heart!"

Ms. Poet invites people to stop by the classroom and shop before or after school to see the improvements made.

"I'll give you a tour!"

Jackie Cole is the language arts, speech and drama teacher for sophomores, juniors and seniors. She takes the place of David Morrow, who has moved to the position of junior-senior high school principal.

On a basic, everyday level, she said, my duties include preparing for classes, keeping records, grading papers, etc. However, on a more philosophical level, I see my duty as a teacher as much more.

"I have a duty to my students to be ever vigilant in finding new ways to convey the material they need to know, to provide them with the tools they will need not just in school but in life."

This may sound maudlin, she said, but I also think it is my duty to do my best to impart the mystery, the creative power, and the sheer majesty of language to my students, whether that be in reading great literature or communicating their own original and profound thoughts.

"As I shared with my classes just today (Monday), and to quote one of my favorite characters: Words are, in my not-so-humble opinion, our most inexhaustible source of magic (Albus Dumbledore). I see English class as a journey through the shared experience of mankind."

Ms. Cole did not start teaching until 13 years ago, first teaching at a private school in Washington state for two years before moving back to Colorado where she taught middle school language arts for 11 years.

Her goals for the first year, she said, are simply to make the transition from middle school to high school

"I am concerned that I make the classes rigorous enough while maintaining the sense of whimsy and fun that I think school ought to be," she said.

Jackie Cole



JACKIE COLE, the new English teacher, had a sparkle in her eyes as she quizzed students.

Her class numbers range from as few as seven to as many as 24. But, she said, that is a nice change from all classes being between 28 and 34!

Jackie was born in North Carolina, the progeny of an Army paratrooper. They then moved to Colorado. She earned her bachelor's degree from Northwest University in Washington and a master's degree from Grand Canyon University.

But, she always knew St. Francis. Her mother was born and raised in St. Francis and her father spent a portion of his adolescence in Bird City.

"I spent many summers here on one uncle's farm or another and have many happy memories

of this picturesque town," she said. "I actually take the long way home from school many afternoons and explore parts of town with which I am not yet familiar."

Her family includes two grown daughters and, she said, I am the grandmother of one rambunctious grandson. This summer, she added a son-in-law to her family.

I want to start taking photo safaris into the countryside to capture on film the unique beauty of this part of the country, she said.

"I am so very happy to be here, to be part of this lovely community, to be part of SFCHS. I feel like I have come home!"

After-Fair Special Section included in this issue

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