

Field hockey returns to Parkway Central after decades long absence

Brooke Kraizer
Staff Reporter

This is the first year of field hockey at PCH, and with the team consisting of 31 girls, it seems to be a big hit. Though popular around the west county area, Central hasn't had a team, or a coach, in a long time.

When math teacher Kurt Lehmann got the email announcing that there would be a field hockey team, he was interested in becoming the coach and started learning more about the sport. Although Lehmann coached soccer for 10 years he has never played or coached field hockey before. Over the summer he was in contact with Gateway field hockey club team coaches to learn more about the sport. Lehmann, and ESOL teacher Stacy Stibal, learned what drills are helpful for practices and how to teach the new team.

"I went to the Gateway camp along with the girls so we were all learning together. I also watched videos on YouTube to help me learn," Lehmann said.

Like any other team, playing time is something every athlete aspires for, but Lehmann knows that with a big team it is sometimes hard to get a lot of time. The team is currently registered as JV, which is common considering it is new. Next year it will be split up into three different groups; one team is the "core" that consists of ten players plus the goalie and they play every game. Two other teams that consist of ten alternate between the games.

There are many girls that have never played the sport before, but are excited to learn and grow. Even though many have not played before, other sports like lacrosse, basketball and soccer require somewhat of the same field/court awareness and other abilities, so it may come more natural to those players.

Captain and forward Katelyn Goplen, a sophomore, plays Gateway field hockey and is helping lead the team.

"Everyone is catching on and it hasn't even been that long," Goplen said.

When asked what is different about club and school field hockey, sophomore Nikki Reed, another captain and experienced club player said that, school rules are more strict because we have to wear eye guards and at the games they are pickier about fouls, whereas in school games they seem to call whatever they can.

While a new team has plenty to work on, Lehmann believes his team needs to focus on one thing in particular.

"For the newer players they need to work on evaluating the field and the spacing and movement/positioning." Drills he uses to practice those skills are offense vs. defense drills to see the field and possession drills.

One of the team's first game was against Nerinx Hall on Sept. 6 and they lost with a score to 8-0. So far their record is 0-4, recently playing and losing to Ursuline Academy where they lost 3-1.

"Losses are to be expected when starting a new team," Lehmann said. Learning a new sport can be challenging but with many more games still to come, the team will get better and better.

The team's next game is at University City on Oct. 17.

Welcoming New Teachers

Sydney Stahlschmidt
Copy Editor

It can be hard for many people to start a new beginning for themselves when they are leaving what they have previously been comfortable with in the past.

For Meghan McCreary, Alicia Bont, Jasper Joyce, Alexandria Elder, and Sara Gerth they are starting their new life here at Parkway Central. While a few of them have had experience working in the Parkway district in the past, any new school community is going to have new opportunities and differences.



Meghan McCreary

Position: Physical Ed. Teacher

Education: Received her Bachelor's in Kinesiology and Master's in Education Administration at Missouri Baptist University.

Why teaching? She decided to become a teacher because her mom was a PE and health teacher as well and she was always involved with extracurricular activities and educational settings.

Excited For: She is excited to get to know all the people at the school but also learning what Parkway Central is all about and all the different traditions.

Fun Fact: She has two sisters who also work in Parkway and one of them looks like her twin.



Alicia Bont

Position: Orchestra Director

Education: She attended Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville and majored in music and received a master's degree in the study of teaching music.

Why teaching? She always loved music and working with kids and thought it was important to spread the appreciation of music with others.

Excited For: She is excited to get to work with the students that she has taught in the past from her previous time working at Shenandoah Valley and River Bend Elementary schools.

Fun Fact: She has rode her bike from New Hampshire to Michigan two times.



Jasper Joyce

Position: English Teacher

Education: Completed education at Truman State University.

Why teaching? Joyce has been interested in teaching since high school and truly wanted to become a teacher after peer teaching senior year in high school.

Excited For: After previously student teaching at Parkway North, they are excited to see how the Parkway Central environment works and to see a different community.

Fun Fact: They know more than one language and along with English also knows German and American Sign Language.

To the Students: "I want students to know that I am a really fun and open person and that I am happy to see students and talk to them about anything. I'm here for them."



Alexandria Elder

Position: Math Teacher

Education: She has completed her education at Lindenwood University.

Why teaching? Her mom and her grandpa were both teachers so she felt like teaching was 'in her blood.' She also always knew that helping people is what she wanted to do.

Excited For: She is excited to get to know all the students from her first year of teaching that she will know for the rest of her life.

Fun Fact: Growing up she went through many phases of what she wanted to be when she was older including an author or a dermatologist.

To the Students: "I want them to know that I care about them so much and really my main goal has just been to help them learn math but also know that they are cared about in my class and that it's an open environment. I really care about them."



Sara Gerth

Position: School Counselor

Education: Bachelors degree in Elementary Ed from Webster University and Masters degree in School Counseling from Missouri Baptist.

Why education? She went in counseling because she had the passion for teaching other people, especially students, life skills and tips to help them be successful.

Excited For: She is excited to build new relationships at Parkway Central with both students and other staff members.

Fun Fact: She enjoys reading, working out, and taking care of her pets. But most of her time she enjoys spending time with her kids.

To the Students: "I want students to know that I... remember what it's like to be a teenager; all the ups and downs, struggles and excitements, and questioning about self and life."

New Beginnings