

# New educators join FC instructional staff

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Teachers walk into the doors, heading for the classrooms scattered around the school. They boot up their computers and restock their supplies to get ready for another year. Some of these teachers are also decorating their classrooms, preparing to start their first year.

When a teacher leaves the school, it is clear that a new one has to be hired. This year, eight teachers have joined the staff, one of which will join in the middle of the year, teaching subjects from English to chemistry to math.

“Yes, it’s different to be a teacher for your first year in general, there are a lot of things you have to get used to. It has been good so far,” said Spanish and English teacher Jacklyn Kahafer, who just graduated from IUS.

Usually, the new teachers takes the room of a departing teacher. However, this year some teachers were moved around.

“It takes some planning and it takes some strategy, we have to be strategic in how we move them around, but for the most part it’s fairly simple. You have a teacher that vacates, and the new teacher goes in that room,” said principal Rob Willman. “Now in Miss Kahafer’s situation she did not take anyone’s place. She was an additional spot and so I had to move some people around for her.”

The new teachers then set up their rooms to best suit their needs and to decorate with personal touches.

“It was so exciting. I really try to make my classroom feel as homie as possible,” said new English teacher Haley Schroeder. “I want every one of my students to know that this is a safe place. My classroom is a safe place, it is a judgment free zone and I want to become a big family so it was really exciting to be able to create this sense of home back home. It was awesome.”

Luckily, the new teachers do not have to figure things out by themselves and are helped out by veteran teachers.

“Well, I was assigned a mentor and we got all the orientation with a bunch of information, you know, all at once,” said earth space and astronomy teacher Tasman Wrock, FC graduate. “But, maybe even more than that, the teachers in the department have really been checking in on us, all the new teachers, and really helping make sure that we’re on track, that we’re not drowning as new teachers.”

The teachers are also getting to know the resident students. Schroeder, along with teaching, is coaching cheer.

“At school she is our teacher and at cheer she is our coach and another one of our friends. She is easier to talk to than regular teachers are,” said sophomore Taylor Meyer.

However, Schroeder said there’s a fine line between being a teacher and “finding that balance between where students see me as a teacher versus seeing me as a peer.”

All teachers have to develop the right relationship with their students, whether they

are a younger teacher like Schroeder or have many years of experience. Defining that relationship with students can help teachers throughout the school year.

These teachers have chosen to teach at FC for their own reasons. A frequent one is because of the good reputation it has.

Chemistry teacher Joseph Alford said, “The students here genuinely have a thirst for knowledge and want to learn. School isn’t a burden for the majority of the student body here, and it is invigorating as a teacher to be a part of that.”

Another reason for teachers to apply is that they may have gone to FC.

“I graduated from Floyd Central in 2014, and I know that it is one of the most prestigious schools in Indiana. I’ve always been proud to have graduated from Floyd Central and always wanted to just come back home and be apart of the community where I graduated from,” said Schroeder.

Although the teachers that have moved on will be missed, the first year teachers all bring something new to the school, and will hopefully continue to adjust well to the school environment here.

“I’m very happy with the first year teachers that we have. We have a good mix of right out of college, right out of school with some people that have been teaching, you know, 10, 12 years, in some cases,” said Willman. “But they are a good group. I should say they have embraced our community, and that’s, that’s important.”



Sophia Perigo/The Bagpiper

**FIRST YEAR ENGLISH TEACHER HALEY SCHROEDER** teaches her junior English class the story “The Crucible.” Schroeder is one of many new teachers.