Written by Deb Egenberger Thursday, 16 August 2012 13:29 -









Four new teachers will greet Brady Public School students when classes resume on Thursday for the 2012-13 school year.

Three first-year teachers enter the district and one experienced professional. All hoping to bring fresh ideas to the classroom.

Rebecca Aldrich

As a child, Rebecca Aldrich used to spend time during the summers with her grandmother, who is an artist.

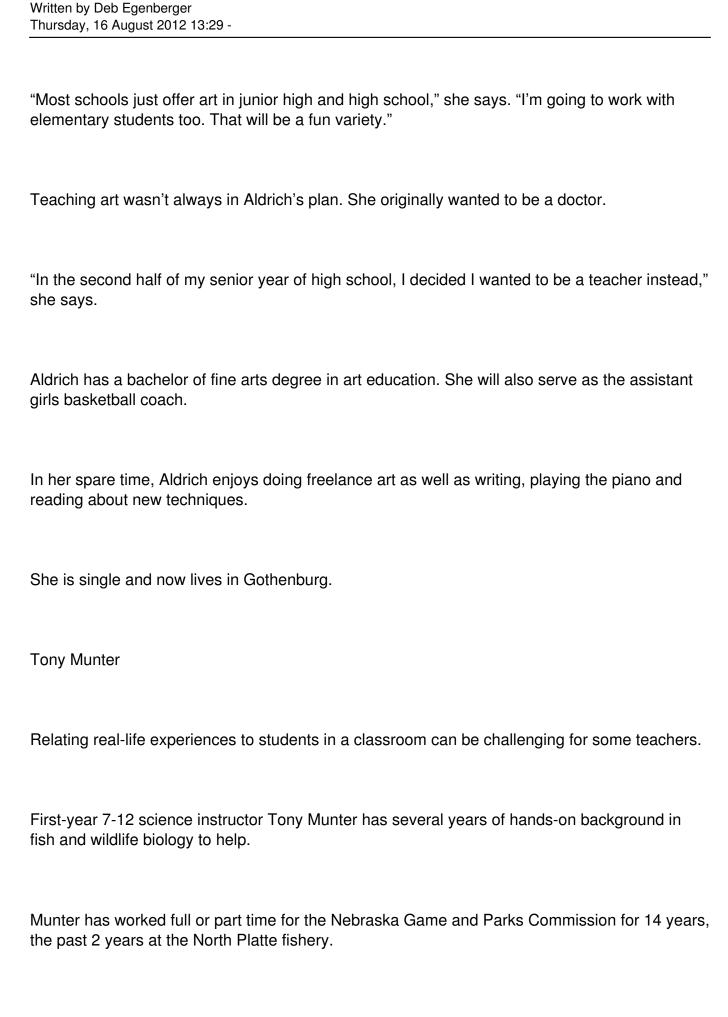
"She always let me create my own stuff," Aldrich says.

Now the first-year teacher from David City will be guiding K-12 students as they produce their own art projects.

"I hope to bring a lot of variety into the program as far as media and types of projects," the December 2011 Concordia University graduate said.

Aldrich loves to paint and work with ceramics. She looks forward to teaching students how to create pottery projects using the potter's wheels and kiln at the school.

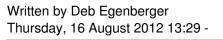
She is also excited for the opportunity to work with students of all ages.



Written by Deb Egenberger Thursday, 16 August 2012 13:29 -"I believe I will bring a lot of real-world experience that can help students relate," Munter says. "Pretty much every day, I've used life science, physical science and chemistry in my job." Munter graduated from Wausa High School in 1997 and earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in fish and wildlife biology in 2002. Putting his practical knowledge to work as a teacher means Munter will be in a transitional program at UNK this fall to earn his teaching certificate. "It's something I've always wanted to do," Munter says of teaching. "I'm ready for a new challenge." Munter and his wife, Emily, recently moved from North Platte to Jeffrey Lake with their two children, Avery, 2, and Jase, 1. Besides spending time with his family, Munter likes to hunt, fish, boat and do just about anything that involves the outdoors. In addition to teaching science, he will serve as the assistant football coach. **Heather Wolf** A library can be daunting to a child who doesn't fully understand how books on the shelves are organized.

To foster a love of reading in every student, Heather Wolf wants to make the Brady school





She went on to earn a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Wayne State College in 2008.

Widdifield will continue using the knowledge she gained while teaching at Elgin, Cedar Rapids and Cozad schools as Brady's new computer instructor.

But she'll also wear a new professional hat as the district's technology coordinator.

"I've been impressed with this small school that has put so much technology at the fingertips of students," Widdifield said. "It's amazing that they can keep up in such an ever-changing field."

That host of technology—from iPads to interactive white boards—will keep Widdifield on her toes but she looks forward to the challenge.

"Most teachers enjoy learning something new," she says. "The joy of this job will be that I never stop learning."

Brady implemented a one-to-one laptop program for high school students in 2010.

While the maintenance of such a program might seem a little overwhelming, Widdifield had experience from the teacher side of a similar iPad program in Cozad.

"I don't anticipate the transition will be too difficult," she says.

What she looks forward to most is sharing the technology experience with every teacher and every student in Brady.

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"It's kind of a unique situation where I will come in contact with everyone," she says. "And so far, everyone on staff has been so welcoming that it's like I've been there for years."

Widdifield and her husband, Jim, who is principal at Dudley Elementary, live in Gothenburg with twin daughters Abigail and Madison, 7, and son Jackson, 2.

"Outside of school, I enjoy being a mom," she says. "And on the rare occasion that I have spare time, you might catch me reading a book."