

Lighting the sparks

Teachers' full lives outside of school shape students' perspectives of family, fun, freedom



Jessica & Brandon Krusey



In the foods lab, Jessica listens to a concern about the order in which to add the ingredients for their breakfast entree.



After visiting with special education teacher Ashley Traylor, Brandon pauses from work at his office desk for a quick photo.

Embracing a Handful

The name nearly everyone heard around school and in the community this year was "Krusey."

While Brandon and Jessica Krusey are newer to the area, the husband and wife team accepted and took on at full speed responsibilities for significant school activities.

Aside from their daily classroom positions for which Brandon was the Special Education Department Chair and Jessica was the head of the Family and Consumer Science Department, each of them dedicated their time and talents to large school activities.

Brandon was the Head Varsity Football Coach, the Head Girls' Track Coach, and in charge of the weight lifting program. While he coached those sports, Jessica was the Junior Varsity Softball Coach, the Co-advisor for Student Council, and the Culinary Arts Advisor.

Each of them have different reasons for becoming educators. Brandon always knew he wanted to work with kids and always enjoyed them.

On the other hand, Jessica did not plan on becoming an educator. "It kinda more or less landed in my lap," said Jessica. She received a special certificate because there was a shortage of Family and Consumer Science teachers. Before that she earned a degree in baking and pastry and had always been involved in the food world.

Brandon had multiple moments that drove him into education. He said some life-changing moments such as being "very close to winning state titles as a coach and as a student inspired him to work even harder to get to that point and this year creeping even closer with one of the best records for the varsity football team.

A life-changing moment for Jessica was moving to the Quad Cities. Though some people may say that is crazy, she said, "Besides the beauty of being right on the Mississippi River and the uniqueness of four cities all together as one, the people are amazing! Davenport is the first place that I have truly felt accepted, loved, cared about, and at home." Also, she was proud to say that she worked at North.

For both Brandon and Jessica, the biggest personal challenge they agreed was becoming parents. Yet, Jessica's biggest professional accomplishment was becoming a teacher. Brandon's biggest personal accomplishments were becoming a teacher and seeing his teams become successful. Future goals for him include winning state titles and being able to compete with other teams in the state.

Nowadays besides completing their first year as a husband and wife team at North, they find themselves trying to stay organized for their move at the end of the school year to Mason City where he will be Head Varsity Football Coach and a special education teacher.

Besides school and moving activities, they will spend time with family, attend church, and engage in different sports. Brandon enjoys going back to his roots to help out on his family farm and Jessica loves spending time with friends whenever they can hang out. Some favorite family moments included when everyone was gathered together since it didn't happen often. Brandon also said that he enjoys "watching his kids' first time reactions."

~ Allison Greenwood