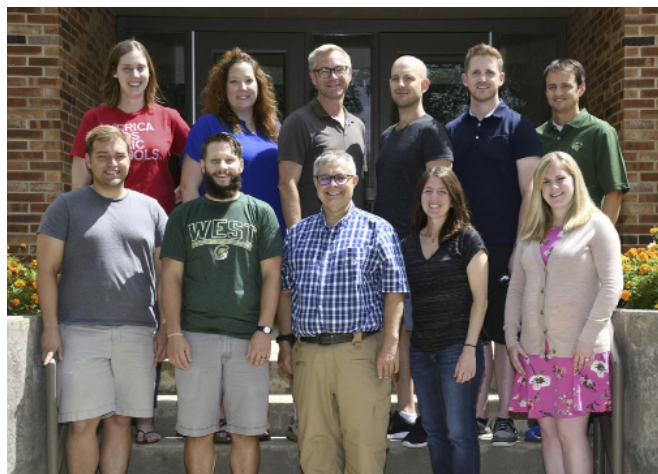




**BUSINESS / INDUSTRIAL TECH / FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE** | Diane Fickel, Jana Warning, Keith Kraeplin, Abbie Weipert.



**LANGUAGE ARTS** | **Front:** Darci Witthoff, Monica Winterberg, Ann Rocarek, Sarah Heenan, Garrett Hartwig. **Middle:** John Boylan, Tom Lindsey, Kerri Barnhouse, Katy Nahra. **Back:** John Cooper, Nate Frese, Sara Whittaker, Ginny Ordman, Jeff Finn. **Not Pictured:** Amy Shoultz.



**SOCIAL STUDIES** | **Front:** Travis Henderson, Anson Kritsch, Gary Neuzil, Holly Robinson, Jessica Mehegan. **Back:** Megan Johnson, Stacey Noble, Tyson Smith, Alexander Lalagos, Dominic Iannone, Brendon Aitken.

"[MY] BIGGEST SURPRISE IS HOW HARD IT IS TO BE NEW. BEING NEW IS TOUGH, EVEN AS A GROWN-UP. CHANGE IS HARD."

JESSICA MEHEGAN

## MEET JESSICA MEHEGAN



Social studies teacher Jessica Mehegan returned to West this year after graduating in 2005, when she played clarinet in marching band, participated in speech and joined school political groups. Today, she teaches Basic Government, AP U.S. History and Success Center.

"My favorite part about students is getting to know them," Mehegan said.

In mid-September while reading personal essays of her students, she noticed how many were unique. "So many people are talented in so many things," she said.

After graduating from Miami University in Ohio with plans to attend law school, she took a year off to decide on a career direction. She ended up transcribing medical records at Mercy Hospital in Iowa City, a job she called "horrible."

That prompted her to return to the classroom, earning a master's degree in social studies education. For four years she taught social studies at Regina and was hired at West in May.

"I was looking for new challenges and more diversity," she said, adding that she was "inspired by all (of her) great teachers."

Today, her colleagues include math teacher Jon Bach, science teacher Doug Herman and band teachers Rob and Rich Medd, all of whom taught her in high school.

Outside of school, Mehegan enjoys spending time with her husband, Scott Klemp, and their 11-month-old daughter, Evelyn. They live on their farm between Iowa City and West Liberty where they raise cattle. Mehegan said she enjoys the view of the countryside.

"It's so peaceful and easy," she said. "I look out my window and see cows—and that's cool."

Before she met her husband, Mehegan had never been on a farm. But she quickly adjusted to life in the Iowa countryside.

Ever since high school, Mehegan has enjoyed Jazzercise, and she has continued to teach five classes a week even during the school year.

"My mom started Jazzercise when she was in grad school at Ohio State, so she's been doing it for 35 or 40 years," Mehegan said.

In the classroom, teaching is a little bit like juggling, she said.

"It's a lot of practice," she said. "But when you're experienced, you can keep all of the plates in the air without dropping them."

—Yearbook Staff

C  
A  
U  
T  
I  
O  
N  
!

Page will be trimmed one pica in from this outside bleed line.

people | staff

# 167