Mrs. Kris Keener
5th & 6th Grade Science

Mrs. Keener is in her 23rd year at MES and her 27th year in education. Mrs. Keener graduated from Mitchell High School where she participated in band, jazz band, pep band, National Honor Society, volleyball (3 year starter), & basketball (2 year starter). She had the opportunity as a band student in Mitchell to participate in the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington DC. She graduated from Kearney State College (UNK) with endorsements in elementary education & physical education. She participated in intramurals while she was in Kearney. Her prior experience was working for Morrill schools, ESU #13, & operated a preschool. She has been married to her husband Dave for 39 years. He operates a large farm & ranch operation. She has two daughters, Ali & Michelle. Ali is a teacher in Colorado and has two boys. Michelle is also a teacher in Kansas and has one boy.

Why did you become a teacher?
I was undecided while attending school in Kearney & was leaning towards becoming a veterinarian. I participated in something called the Sophomore Project in Grand Island for eight weeks assisting in three different schools. That is where I became interested in becoming a teacher. I had the opportunity to work with many amazing teachers.

Who was the most influential person in your life?
My Grandma on my mom's side. She saw the bright side of things. She thought if you treat people like you want to be treated, it comes back to you. I also admired her work ethic.

What event in your life had a huge impact on your being?
Accepting Jesus as my lord and savior. Starting a family.

What is the most enjoyable thing about being a teacher?
The relationships with kids and what makes them tick. I enjoy seeing their successes. I enjoy working with a high quality staff.

What do you like most about MES?
It's home. Home environment, we are close to families in the building. Parents appreciate what we do & are friendly. We feel like a family here.

What are your hobbies?
I love to read, ride horses, & spend time with grandkids & family.

Where do you go to get your mind straight?
I have several. I like to ride my horses and spend time with the grandkids & family.

What do you consider to be your greatest accomplishment?
My kids & my family. I think being a Christian & having confidence in God.

If you could do anything else, what would that be?
I thought about being a veterinarian at one point in my life. I also considered being a physical therapist, but my heart always took me back to teaching.

What is something you would be willing to share about yourself that few know?
I have ridden the world's largest zip line that goes over a rainforest, across the ocean & lands on an island.

What is something on your bucket list?
I would like to go to Kentucky & see the replica of Noah's Ark. I would like to take a cruise down the Mississippi River. My husband & I would like to see the Grand

Canyon. I would like to attend the Kentucky Derby in the future. I read a book called Chincoteague Island when I was a child & I would like to visit there someday.

Favorites:
Food: Mexican Food
Place to Eat: Texas Roadhouse, Ole's, Olive Garden
Music: Christian & 70's Rock
Color: Blue & Purple
Animal: Horse
Book: The Left Behind Series
Movie: Anything light & humorous
Place: Ocean Beach