

Beth Maser  
Counselor

Mrs. Maser is in her seventh year at MES and has 30 years of experience in education. She graduated from Millard South High School in Omaha, where she was active in cheerleading, drill team, student council, junior class vice president, and golf. She also worked at Dairy Queen during high school and was part of the drill team that qualified for the Drill Team National Championships in Orlando, Florida. Mrs. Maser attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she was involved in a sorority and served as its social chairman. She is married to John Maser, a farmer in the Gering area and a member of the Gering School Board. Together, they have three children: Grant, Megan, and Jack, who is currently a senior at Gering High School.

*Why did you become a teacher?*

"I became a teacher because I've always had a passion for working with children. Growing up, I was the neighborhood babysitter and I nannied for a family one summer, and that experience made me realize how much I enjoyed being around kids. I've always been a people person with a lot of energy, and I find great joy in connecting with children. I've always wanted to work with them, and teaching allows me to do that every day, helping them learn, grow, and reach their potential."

*Who was the most influential person in your life?*

"The most influential people in my life were both of my parents. My father raised us with a strict upbringing, but he was also incredibly funny and fun to be around. He faced many struggles in life but learned to overcome them with perseverance. He taught me the values of leadership and responsibility, and his discipline helped shape who I am today. He also built a successful real estate business. My mother had a kind heart and a gentle soul. I watched her make a difference in the lives of many families, particularly through her volunteer work with the 12-step program, Al-Anon, helping those affected by alcoholism. Together, they touched many lives and showed me the importance of resilience, kindness, and giving back."

*What event in your life had a huge impact on your being?*

"Growing up in the 80s was truly a different time. The world was simpler, and there was a strong sense of community and family unity. We didn't have the distractions that technology brings today, so family time was precious, and the family unit felt much more intact. My parents, especially, created a loving and supportive environment at home. My father, a hardworking man, instilled in me the importance of dedication and perseverance. He had a daily and chore chart for us, and we were expected to complete everything. But there was also a reward: a weekly allowance. This is where I learned to love working—seeing how effort paid off in a tangible way.

My parents had a wonderful, loving relationship, one that served as a role model for us kids. They treated each other and everyone they met with respect, dignity, and love. They emphasized the value of kindness and taught us to always treat others with respect, find the good in everyone, and be honest in everything we do.

Growing up in the 80s, with the strong family unit we had, shaped who I am today. We didn't have the fast pace and constant distractions of modern life. Instead, we had time to connect, learn, and grow as a family, which is a foundation I carry with me to this day."

*What is the most enjoyable thing about being a teacher?*

"The most enjoyable part of being both a teacher and counselor is knowing that I can make a meaningful impact on a child's life. It's incredibly rewarding to watch students grow, not just academically but also socially. I find great fulfillment in building strong relationships with the children, understanding them as unique individuals, and supporting them as they develop confidence and a love for learning. Seeing their progress and knowing I've contributed to their growth is truly one of the most fulfilling aspects of my work."

*What do you like most about MES?*

"What I enjoy most about MES is the sense of community. I truly love the children and their families. MES has a dedicated and hardworking staff, and I know the kids are receiving an excellent education. The small-town atmosphere is something special—it's not something larger schools get to experience. We're able to do fun and meaningful activities that bring everyone together. The best part is how everyone here supports one another. There's always a willingness to pitch in and help when it's needed, which creates a positive and collaborative environment for everyone."

*What are your hobbies?*

"I have a variety of hobbies that I truly enjoy. I love walking, especially around the monument, and being outdoors in general. Watching my kids and their friends play sports is something I really enjoy. I also like to sleep in on the weekends and spend warm summer nights outside. Shopping, golfing, going out to eat and playing cards with family and friends are always fun, along with dancing and Jazzercise to stay active. Another favorite pastime of mine is playing bingo, and of course, going to the movies. Apparently, I love to learn as I have three master's degrees in education."

*Where do you go to get your mind straight?*

"When I need to clear my mind, I often go for a walk, as it helps me to clear my thoughts and feel more centered. I also find comfort in reading the Al-Anon book, which provides me with guidance and perspective. Visiting with friends and family is another way I unwind and reset. But sometimes, I need to go within myself to reflect and figure things out on my own. Taking that time for introspection helps me gain clarity and peace of mind.."

*What do you consider to be your greatest accomplishment?*

"My greatest accomplishment is, without a doubt, raising three amazing kids. As a parent, I know I haven't always done everything perfectly, and there are many things I could have done better. However, with the support of my husband, we've raised three responsible, smart, and integrity-filled children. I'm incredibly proud

of who they've become and the people they are today. Watching them grow into wonderful individuals is something I will always cherish and consider my greatest achievement."

*If you could do anything else, what would that be?*

"I would have probably been a real estate agent and sold property. I also have considered becoming a mental health practitioner."

*What is something you would be willing to share about yourself that few know?*

"I feel like I'm an open book, but there are a few things that not everyone knows about me. For one, I need eight hours of sleep to feel my best. I also have two false teeth, I had my baby teeth, but my adult teeth never came in. Professionally, I've taught every grade from kindergarten through eighth grade, starting in one end of the state to the other."

*What is something on your bucket list?*

"One thing on my bucket list is to attend the Masters Golf Tournament in Georgia. I also hope to travel to Europe and retire in sunny Arizona, where I can play golf. I look forward to spoiling my grandkids. Recently, I had the chance to visit Napa Valley in California, which was an unforgettable experience."

*Favorites:*

*Food:* Italian

*Place to Eat:* Ole's

*Music:* Easy Listening - 80's Pop Music

*Color:* Red

*Animal:* Dogs - Cocker Spaniels & Golden Retrievers

*Book:* The Rabbit Listened - I enjoy reading that to kids.

*Movie:* The Notebook

*Place:* Omaha - to go see family & friends