

**Penny Birkel: GCHS Social Sciences, GCE & GCJH Health/PE, Coaching**

I'm originally from a small town, Creston, about twelve miles north of Columbus, Nebraska. I grew up on my mom and dad's farm with three sisters and one brother. I graduated from Columbus Lakeview High School and went on to college at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. I graduated Honorable Mention with my Bachelor's of Art in Education, endorsed in History and Physical Education.



I was recently married March 1, 2008, to my husband, Cole Birkel, and we moved to Oshkosh at the end of May. Since moving here, I've been helping with the summer CHAMPS program at the elementary school and really enjoy it. In my spare time I enjoy working out, going to the lake, spending time with my husband, and getting to know everyone in Garden County. I'm very thankful and grateful for the warm welcome everyone has given to me and my husband, and I look forward to meeting more people as the year goes on.