

#SherrardRoars

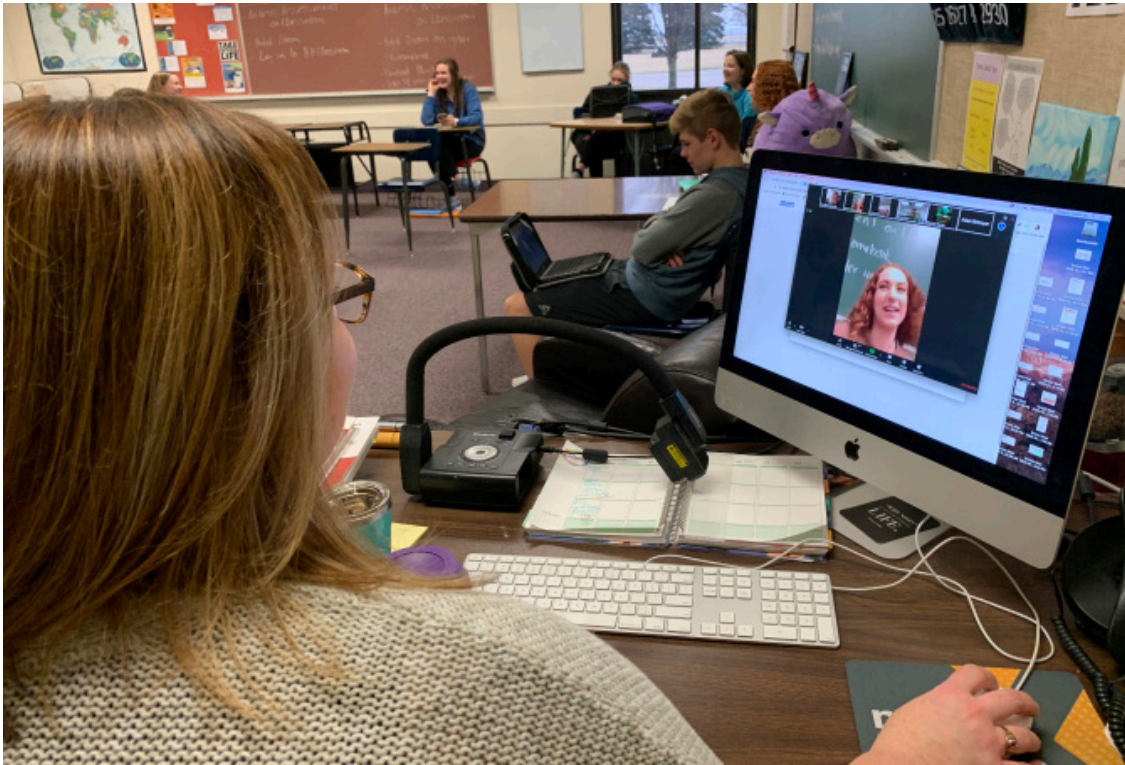
Vol. 3 Issue 1

Tigers Today Transforming Tomorrow

January - May 2020

How the Coronavirus pandemic changed education overnight

Distance learning - a virtual reality



Sherrard high school english teacher Candace Gagliardo ran a practice 'Zoom' session to help AP students navigate the live video chat platform they will use to stay connected through E-learning March 16. *Photo by Cala Smoldt/District Journalist*

Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker announced March 13 - all public schools would not be in session from March 17 - 30 in an attempt to minimize the spread of Coronavirus (Covid-19) - these days were called 'Act of God' days. The on-site closure was later extended to April 7 - then again to close out the school year via Remote Learning.

Sherrard leaders formed a committee and began work on a distance learning plan on Saturday, March 14, that would be laid out for teachers first thing Monday morning - then implemented Tuesday, March 17.

The plan was to keep children engaged during the time away - when absences and attendances wouldn't be counted. Leaders

acknowledged the need for teachers to work with students to maintain the concepts taught during the year.

"E-learning days are intended to provide access to learning on days when there are school cancellations. While these days cannot replace the face-to-face time students have with their teachers, they can provide continuous

learning opportunities.

This plan is the first attempt by our school district to provide engagement in a unique and mainly digital form," said Superintendent Alan Boucher.

E-Learning changed

to Remote Learning when Governor Pritzker ordered schools to remain closed March 31, through the end of April - Extending Illinois' Disaster Proclamation from April 7 to April 30 - then to end the school-year.

Food for kids

Sherrard head cook Norma Galvin said breakfast and lunch

were available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week.

Two of each meal was prepared for students who signed up - this provided for the other days of the week. She said the program

was for all students - regardless of participation in the free or reduced lunches program.

Meals are available for pick-up from 11 a.m. to noon at Winola Elementary, Matherville Intermediate, Sherrard Elementary and the Coyne Center Fire Department. Also, the district's Nourish to Flourish backpack program sent home food items with students who normally participate.

Transition to E-Learning

Day One of E-Learning had an overwhelmingly positive response from teachers, students and parents.

Some classes use various live video chat platforms like, Zoom. All students have some familiarity with Google classroom, online assignments and email, so the transition wasn't completely new territory.

Nicole Layer, parent of a 7th grader said the district has responded well, "Their commu-

"We're not in an ideal situation, but Sherrard is poised to make the best out of it for their kids," said Layer.

Teachers are working tirelessly to provide students with engaging content, and answer all students and parents questions.

One tech savvy teacher, Jr. High challenge teacher Rebecca Anderson said it took almost four hours to set up a 30 minute lesson. "This is a great professional development step for all staff! We should see great growth in everyone's technology skills after this." The same teacher said advanced 7th grade students are understanding the lesson, doing the homework, and turning in assignments.

Even Kindergarten's have been enjoying 'homework.'

Teacher Stephanie Bohnert said, "I have heard from several families on how appreciative they are for all of the information we have given and the work/ ideas that we sent home for daily activities. One even said their daycare provider is using our daily choice board and they are all enjoying it."

Another elementary teacher said kids were having fun with an assigned craft - homemade play doh.

Fourth grade teacher Nikki Fishman said,

Distance Learning
continued on page 2

"We're not in an ideal situation, but Sherrard is poised to make the best out of it for their kids." - Nicole Layer

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District works together for the students



Sherrard Superintendent Alan Boucher

An outsider might think nothing is going on in the district because the schools are shut down. Nothing could be further from the truth. There are many people associated

with our district who are quietly doing important work behind the scenes.

The first group of individuals I think about are the food service workers. The cooks and their volunteers have faithfully served thousands of meals. The cooks even volunteered to come in and prepare meals on Good Friday and again on the following Monday which was a scheduled day off. I need to mention that the whole operation is organized and managed by food service director Marla Miller who is doing a

fantastic job leading the food service team.

Our maintenance guys are there constantly to make sure everything in the buildings is working properly. We also have a few custodians who have volunteered to work. The secretaries and paras are coming in as needed and doing some things from home. We are grateful for all of this work, great and small.

There are quite a few Tiger Express volunteers who are delivering meals, Chromebooks and homework packets throughout the district. That service is

what makes it all work. Faculty member Kim McCreight is the coordinator and she has done a fantastic job. She invests many hours and she has to do a lot of problem-solving to make it all work.

The teachers, certified support staff and administrators are here to directly educate students. That's our mission. They have had to step out of their comfort zone and engage with a new way of doing things called remote learning. We haven't had the necessary training and we don't have all the supplies that are needed.

Nevertheless, everyone jumped in and has done the best job they could.

The Nourish to Flourish and Tiger Closet programs have provided much-needed support to our families as well during the closure and we are so thankful to everyone who makes these programs shine.

It is a proud day to be a Tiger.



Distance Learning continued from front

"First day is going very smooth! I got a lot of feedback on how the students enjoyed e-learning and can't wait to learn more. A lot of communication is continuing to happen!"

8th grade math and algebra teacher Kathy Felt said it's been "amazing".

"My students are excited and they are continuing to learn, despite the hardship. It's worth the effort of the transition - and I have worked all day with the technology to make sure it works."

Felt said parents who were worried they would have to spend a lot of time homeschooling their children, on top of working, have expressed relief that the E-Learning system developed by Sherrard

has been a fairly smooth transition and easy for students to complete on their own.

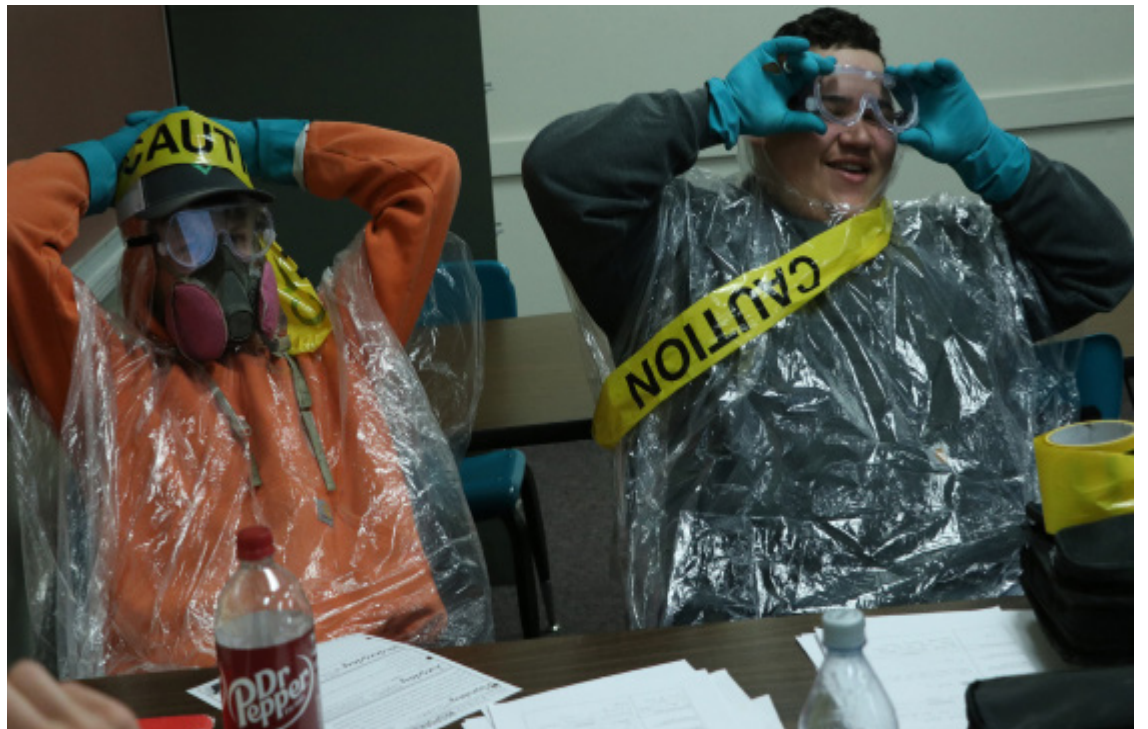
"Parents won't have to homeschool--we can do this interactively and live online," she said.

Kindergarten teacher Jennifer Schultz sent photos of her Winola students showing off their work, "They drew their families as leprechauns after watching me do a read aloud about St. Patrick's Day," she said.

Teachers prepare students

As teachers and students stepped into the unknown, they said their 'goodbye's for now', and did their best to prepare students for the coming weeks.

Candace Gagliardo, English teacher prepared her classes by having them download zoom, a live video chat app, if they hadn't already - and



Students bring humor to school March 16 as they processed what the next week of E-Learning would look like - little did they know it would extend to end the school year. Photo by Cala Smoldt/District Journalist

she provided a checklist for them to remember everything they needed. During class she asked students what they were thinking and feeling going into the unknown. Many were worried about the length of time this would go on, others

had concerns about staying on task without face to face instruction, and many wanted to know how she was doing - and what she thought.

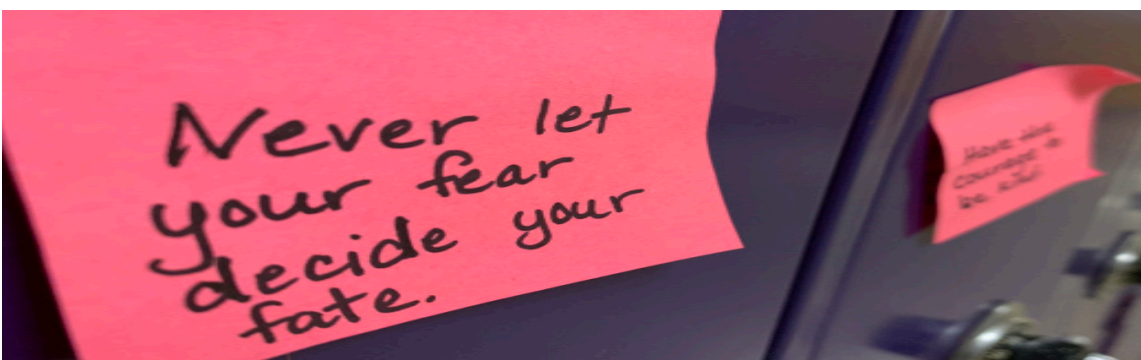
"How prepared are you for this two weeks of random e-learning instruction?" One student asked.

"Well I'm on the E-Learning team so on Saturday we gathered together for four hours and I had a lot of time to wrap my mind around it." She said for her, there was a lot to let go.

"The time I have you for - seeing you, making face to face connections."

She suggested students set a routine.

"Choose a wake up time. Choose a bedtime, healthy activities. Choose the time and place everyday where you're going to work and what it is you're going to do."



Sticky notes of encouragement have been on students lockers for several months. Those notes mean more now than ever. Drive. Photo by Cala Smoldt/District Journalist



District-wide; cooks volunteer to serve kids

2800 meals served district-wide each week during shutdown

“We are a community and a community works together to benefit everyone,”
- Belinda Rind, head cook.



Matherville Intermediate head cook Trisha Dewitt, has help from Mary Hessman, administrative assistant, to prepare meals for almost 50 children on most days.

Families stopped in from 11 a.m. - noon for lunches and breakfasts available at the schools for their children on Monday's, Wednesday's and Friday's during the mandated school shut down serving 2800 meals district-wide each week.

Food pantry items were also available for pickup - including fresh produce and bread products.

Dewitt said as soon as she heard the news, her first thought was how kids will have access to food.

“We may not know the kids who only eat at school.”

Superintendent Alan Boucher echoed the sentiment, “Food inse-



curity is a real problem for many of our children during this COVID-19 crisis. From the first day the schools were closed, our foodservice staff willingly came in to prepare and distribute meals. They are counted among the heroes of these unfortunate times,” he said.

One such lunch contained ham and cheese sandwiches, a bag of fresh broccoli, apple-sauce, chips and a graham cracker snack.

Hessman stepped in to help bag meals for kids as-needed throughout the shut-down period.

“We’re all in this together. I just hope and pray it doesn’t get any worse,” said Hessman.

She said she’s glad to come help at the school and keep a routine.

“It helps to keep some normalcy - a little bit of structure helps keep the worries down,” said Dewitt.

Sherrard Elementary Head Cook Belinda Rind said she keeps coming for the kids.

“Some of these kids need this familiar connection with the school. Several parents have commented how when the kids see the sacks it brings a smile to their faces because this is comfort of school and friends. What is rewarding is getting those little notes or pictures from the students saying thank you. I feel God put me here for a reason



and a time such as this.

She said making food for kids this way has not been easier than when they’re in school.

“This has been much harder due to some challenges with getting our food items to make a nutritious meal while trying not to always serve the same things over and over. We aren’t making a bulk pan of veggies but have to individually bag up veggies for each sack. ”

Rind said she wishes they could serve hot meals to kids, but the foods must be able to be kept at room temperature, “However, we serve sandwiches that could be warmed up if they wanted too as well as some of the breakfast items,” she said.

Approximately 82 students were served at the Sherrard Grade School location.

Rind said, “That’s 164 breakfasts & 164 lunches on Mondays & Wednesdays and 82 breakfasts & 82 lunches on Fridays currently for a total of 820 a week.”

While the state has continued to fund pay to school employees, cooks are not required to work. “We could choose not to do this but our team loves the kids and know they need this.

“We are a community and a community works together to benefit everyone,” said Rind.

Meals were available for pickup at several locations, Winola Elementary, Matherville Intermediate, Sherrard Grade and Coyne Center

Fire Department.

Also, the district’s Nourish to Flourish backpack program sent home food items with students who have need



Exchange Students say goodbye too soon



Kristen Wehr
South Africa

Senior, pictured top left, stayed with the Avila family.

This was her first experience in America. She was involved in the musical, track, media, foreign language club and much more. She arrived back home mid-May, after being quarantined for 8 days for safety and precautionary reasons.

Adela Constantinescu
Romania

Junior, bottom left, pictured at left, enjoyed every moment of her time here. She originally stayed with the Avila family, but made a change to the Hoffman family mid-way through the year. She was eager to try everything once!

She played on the basketball teams this year, ran track and was on the dance team. She was a member of many clubs including the foreign language club.



Cemre Deda
Turkey

Sophomore, pictured top right, was a bit shy but eager to try many new things. She was staying outside the district but attended Sherrard. She was involved in a few clubs including the foreign language club. Her passion was playing the piano in the choir room! She could play the classics, Bach and Beethoven from memory. She is safe back home in Turkey, she was the first to leave out of our 4 exchange students.

Ayesha Siddiqua from
Pakistan

Sophomore, (bottom right, pictured in the middle). Ayesha was very social! She was a member of FCCLA and the foreign language club. Ayesha was eager to learn as much as she could while in America. She is now safe at home in Pakistan after having to quarantine for a few days once arriving home.

Sherrard School District honors seniors



Physical education teacher Paula Zigler poses with her boys for a photo to send a message of hope to Sherrard's graduating class. *Screenshot*

Mid-March - In the midst of uncertainty - high school seniors are concerned. A time meant to be relished and full of fond memories came to a screeching halt with the news of the Coronavirus pandemic - subsequent school shut down.

For seniors, it felt like an abrupt ending.

"We were on the homestretch of senior year and the fun activities were just getting started. I never got the chance to miss it before it was even over," said Sherrard senior Christine Mack.

"I am trying my best to stay healthy by staying at home, but it's been hard emotionally. I miss my friends, teachers, classmates, and family like crazy. I've just been trying to keep myself busy with school work, Netflix, and of course, staying in touch with my friends."

Senior Lauren McMillin echoes Mack's concerns, "I'm worried I'll never step into the high school again and walk the halls with my friends again. It's sad to think about so I'm trying to keep a positive mind about this situation!"

Another senior said she's coping by keeping a routine, "I make sure to get some sort of

physical activity everyday and get my school work done. My teachers are doing a good job of giving us the content we need in order to continue learning but also understand that this a weird time for all of us," Katelin Hatlestad said.

"The Sherrard community is like a family - we just wanted to let the seniors know we are thinking about them through this tough time" - Julie Drish, Academic and AP Coordinator

Teachers, staff and parents photographed themselves with messages - signs of hope and encouragement to seniors. Some gave advice, like, "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest, - Ben Franklin... Use this time to invest in yourselves - me (Ag teacher John Rasty)."

English teacher Tammy Crippen and Academic and AP Coordinator, Julie Drish put together the montage video of photos gathered from Sherrard teachers, staff and parents.

"The Sherrard community is like a family - we just wanted to let the seniors know we are thinking about them through this tough time," said Drish.

Crippen had the idea

from a training with the district's Instructional Tech Specialist, Steve Miller - about using Adobe Spark in the classroom.

"I knew my seniors were having a tough time after our google meetings. I decided to

make my whole week. I have so much love in my heart for a lot of those people in that video so it meant a lot."

McMillin said the montage made her feel loved. "These teachers have been in my life for many years and seeing

see if I could get the staff to share the same type of message. I also decided to ask my senior's parents because they have always helped me out this year," said Crippen.

The sentiment was well received.

Seniors reactions

"The slideshow video was absolutely amazing. It feels so good to know that us seniors have such a big support team to rely on. It's funny that such a small community can feel so big in times like these," said Mack.

Hatlestad said she, "definitely shed a few tears," when she saw it. "I am so appreciative of Mrs. Crippen and all of the other kind hearts that participated in this slideshow! It really did

gets better".
"We are in this together and we will get through it together... I believe in your resilience to overcome this!"

"You never know how strong you are until being strong is your only choice".

"Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations".

"It always seems impossible until it's done".

As a way of showing that life continues, math teacher Ryan Buchanan is pictured holding a sonogram announcing he and his wife's pregnancy. A photo next to it is a sign held by school nurse Sanya Boucher that reads, "When opportunity knocks... answer the door".

It ends with, "We Believe," and the words "Write your own ending".

"I can't imagine having this unknown during my senior year. They are resilient and strong. Our future is safe with them," said Crippen.

While the montage was created to encourage graduating seniors, we can all use these words of wisdom, encouragement and fun during these trying times. As Jr. high P.E. teacher Paula Zigler and family put it, "Something will grow from all you're going through... and it will be you."

Utley wins

Garrick Utley (pictured below) won the National History Bee Jan. 29 over 7 other students from PV and Davenport Central.

Photo submitted.



District-wide successes

Many cut short when in-person school ended abruptly

HS Scholastic Team wins regionals



The Sherrard HS Scholastic Team won the regional competition at Mercer County HS March 9. They played Mercer Co., Orion and Knoxville for the finals. They never got to compete at Sectionals. Pictured left to right Cody Dutton, Kacey Plambeck, Joshua Gibson, Phil Whan, and Garrick Utley. Chorus teacher Callen Sederquist, pictured in back, was the team coach. *Photo submitted*

State Scholars



Regional Volleyball Champs



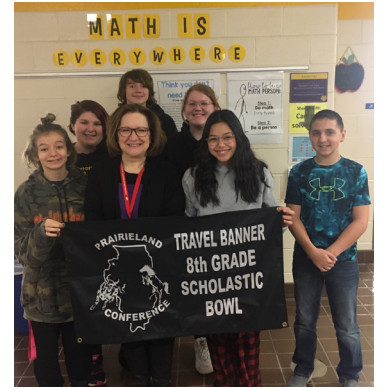
(Above) The 8th grade girls Volleyball won the Regional Championship game vs. Mercer County. They never got to play in Sectionals.

Wrestling State- Hunter Timerman, Blake Pender, Eli Foster... didn't get to finish. Spring activities- Musical, Band events, Baseball/softball and track all have athletes that have not been able to compete. *Photo submitted*

(Pictured at left) The 2020 State Scholars are: Lilley Anderson, Guin Diehl, Rhett Frere, Josh Gibson, Laila Haley, Emma Hofmann, Holly Jacobs, Alexis Passno, Kacey Plambeck, Josie Spence, Aidan Welch, and Taylor Williams.

Photo Submitted

JH Scholastic Team earns banner



The JH Scholastic Team won the Prairieland Conference Banner for the week of Feb. 21. Pictured: Ms. Felt, Morgyn Allison, Ayva Kovacic, Grace Hanson, Aaron Dutton, Seth Bundy, and Eloise Gross.

Photo Submitted

Tornquist CONTIG Winner



Pictured at right, Sherrard Elementary 4th grade student, Kayleigh Tornquist, won first place in her grade at the annual CONTIG contest.

There were 64 students representing 28 buildings throughout Rock Island County.

Letterman's Club Awards

May 26 - should have been the "Athletic end of the year Banquet" put on by the lettermen's club. PE

teacher Sarah Souhrada has been in charge of the club and awards many things for freshmen to seniors. She and Activities Secretary,

Connie helm, came up with the idea to take the mini-bus and hand deliver the awards.

"It was awesome. One parent emailed back with pride," said Michael Applegate Activities and Athletic Director. A virtual video tribute for spring sport seniors can be found on the district website, www.sherrard.us

Awards: Letterman's Club awards for Male and Female Athletes of the Year: Kyle Yeater and Carley Whitsell; bottom left to right Zach Foltz - BJ Luxmore Football Scholarship and Emma Hofmann - Suzanne Kain Memorial Scholarship

Pictured at left, top left to right, Male and Female Athletes of the Year Kyle Yeater and Carley Whitsell; scholarship winners: Emma Hofmann - Suzanne Kain Memorial Scholarship Zach Foltz - BJ Luxmore Football Scholarship Kyle Yeater - BJ Luxmore Baseball Scholarship.



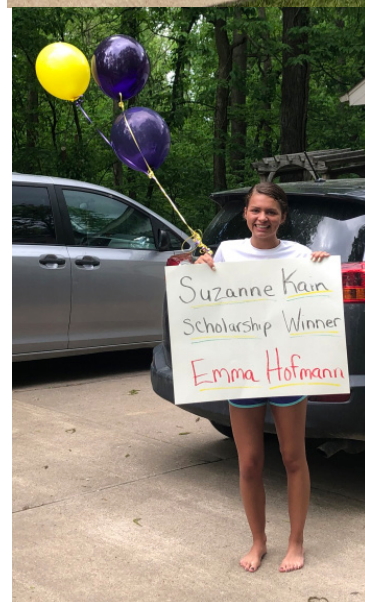
IGSMA - Junior High Band



Sherrard Jr. High Concert Band and Sherrard Jr. High Jazz Band both received Division I Superior Ratings at the 2020 IGSMA (Illinois Grade School Music Association) Organizational Contest, hosted at Sherrard March 6.

Eight schools competed. Both bands qualified for State. Director of Bands, David Grayson said this is the first time both groups have qualified in the same year, and only their second time since 2012. Volunteers helped the day run smoothly - graduated students, current high school students and Sherrard Music Boosters.

Grayson said, "Sherrard has the BEST Band Parents & Students!" *Photo by Cala Smoldt/District Journalist*



FFA students donate Res-Q-Tubes: For grain bin accidents

The corn belt boasts a proud agricultural history that connects families; a link that spans time and begets passion. Corn, the gold of the midwest, sustains the agriculture industry, but the dangers of its cultivation, harvest and storage are countless.

One rural-based school district is taking notice and fighting one particularly heinous danger, grain bin entrapment.

Sherrard high school FFA students recognized the need – fundraised, purchased and donated GSI Res-Q-Tubes to four local fire departments, Sherrard, New Windsor, Coyne Center, and Matherville; just in time for Grain Bin Safety Week, Feb. 16-22.

According to stats found in a Purdue University study titled, Summary of U.S. Agricultural Confined Space-Related Injuries and Fatalities; In 2018, Illinois tied for second highest out of states with documented confined space cases, fatal and non-fatal with five, along with Wisconsin, Nebraska and Ohio. Iowa came in first with eight. According to Purdue researchers, more than 900 cases of grain engulfment accidents have been reported with a fatality rate of 62% from 1964 – 2010, with the highest in 2010 of at least 26 U.S. workers killed – according to a 2013 OSHA press release (<https://www.osha.gov/news/newsreleases/region5/06192013>.)

Within the last year and a half, grain bin entrapment accidents accounted for three deaths in the local area. In October 2019, 66 year old Dale Garner, Keithsburg, and 57 year old LaVerne Molln, of Bureau County; July 2018, 73 year old Roger Cogdal, also of Bureau County.

Previously the fire departments throughout

Sherrard School District shared one tube, from the Viola Fire Department, for the entire region, an approximately 30 mile vicinity.

“That’s obviously not good, because if someone falls in far away – then they can’t get to them in time,” said Avery Litton, Sherrard Senior and FFA secretary.

She said the FFA chapter fundraises throughout the year through sale of corn from the district’s test plots, a banquet with basket donations from local businesses, and an auction, among other events.

Sherrard Agriculture Instructor Bill Hammes said the cost for the four tubes was just under \$6,000. Special donations covered more than half; \$2,500 from the Bayer grant the Chapter received last Spring, \$500 from the Golden Harvest grant from Swearingen Seed Agency in Aledo and around \$200 came from the Moline and Silvis Culver’s Restaurants.

VandeVoorde Sales Inc. in Annawan, the distributor of the Grain Res-Q-Tubes, covered shipping costs of the tubes, and the funds raised by the Sherrard FFA covered the remainder.

“The Sherrard FFA would not be what it is today without the support from the people and communities in our school district. We feel that this is one way that we can give back to the community that has supported up so well,” said Hammes.

According to the company website, <https://www.grainsystems.com/>, the tube is 60 inches tall and has a 27 pound shield, with three additional shields at 30” diameter. GSI’s Res-Q-Tube is made of lightweight aluminum.

The manual describes how to use the equipment, the tube is



(Above) left to right, Sherrard firefighters Chris Morse and Jeff Nelson, Coyne Center Fire Chief Doug Sumen, FFA vice president Kyle Osborn, Matherville Fire Chief Dave Flickinger, and Sherrard Fire Chief Nick Watson (Not pictured New Windsor Fire Chief Scott Fernell); back row, Sherrard students Lily Cederstrom, Elyse Thurman, Remington Cook, Briar Viager, and Avery Litton. The group is posed around one of the donated Res-Q-Tubes Dec. 16, 2019. *Photo Submitted.*

installed in four pieces around the victim forming a circle, pieces are secured with clamps and grain is removed from the tube.

The purpose of the additional shields is, ‘to stop the flow of the grain toward the victim and block any additional pressure that may be created from rescuers. Once in place, the now limited amount of grain inside the tube is removed to free the victim.’

Coyne Center Fire Chief Doug Sumen thanked the students for their hard work, “I hope we never have to use them.”

Sherrard Senior and Sherrard FFA Chapter vice president Kyle Osborne has been in a cadet program training to become a firefighter since he was 9 or 10 years old.

“Being a firefighter was a big time goal for me since my father (Tony Osborne) is a firefighter. He is a big inspiration to me.”

He said the donation is important to the departments, “We now have another way to save a life that can be faster and more efficient than anything else we could have used or done.

...the tubes could be the difference between saving a life and a horrible fate. It also shows that the Sherrard FFA Chapter is always looking out

for ways to help.” Students are hoping to sponsor a training for members of all area fire departments on the use of the grain Res-Q-Tubes.

Sherrard on the forefront: Skilled trades and CNC tech



Superintendent Alan Boucher (first from left) and Ag Instructor John Rasty (pictured fourth from the left) visited the Rock Island Arsenal Feb. 12 to learn about educational field trip opportunities and the different career fields that make up more than 6,000 jobs on the historic island. During their visit to the 3 million sq. ft. facility, they learned about the wide range of manufacturing, engineering, and other skilled trades labor needs of the Arsenal.

Rasty was published in The Agricultural Education Magazine’s May/June 2020 issue (Volume 92 Issue 6). The technical article titled, *The Implementation of CNC Technology into School-Based Agricultural Education Programs*, discusses the use of computer numerical control technologies (CNC) in education. In it, he talked about how the tech is engaging for students and helps them learn ‘real world’ experience.

Sherrard’s plasma table has allowed students to create metal signage; and sell them to fundraise for the department. *Photo submitted*

National Speaker - '07 Grad returns

Johnson is known for her 2016 TEDX talk at Northern Illinois University titled, "I Pooped My Pants." karlijohnson.com



Karli Johnson presented her consent education program to Sherrard teens during a lunch hour early March. *Photo by Cala Smoldt/District Journalist*

National speaker, educator, crisis counselor and storyteller - 2007 Sherrard graduate - Karli Johnson, gave a talk to Sherrard high schoolers called, "Asking for it", a consent education program.

Johnson is a 2007 Sherrard graduate. She speaks to thousands of people across the country, but for Johnson - it was surreal to come back and speak where it all began...

"My career as a pro-

fessional started here. My public speaking class with Mrs. Crippen in English and everything I learned in band to drama - that has shaped me into who I am, and to give back to the community and to these students means so much to me."

"I know what they're going through and I know there's hope." Johnson said it's her mission to give hope - and prevent abuse.

She described abusive scenarios she actually

went through that taught her what it means to give consent.

"Not only did I live it, I was so sick and tired of my family members, friends other people saying, 'hey this happened to me too.'"

Notably - she once had a male student reach out and say, "I think I'm controlling... and I didn't know it, and I'm going to stop," "That's why I do this work too," she said.

For Johnson, helping students where she was 13 years ago is freeing. "It feels like I'm taking back my power that was lost."

She told the group: "I'm really proud of Sherrard. I can stand in front of you as a survivor and a victim."



(Above) Karli Johnson caught up with her former PE teacher Sarah Souhrada the day she returned to speak to students. *Cala Smoldt/District Journalist*

Wolford thanks 4th graders for letters

Feb 7 - U.S. Army Private First Class Macy Wolford, spoke to Mrs. Strandgard's fourth grade class at Sherrard Elementary School. Wolford is a 2019 Sherrard graduate. She left for army basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri in August - her former high school Volleyball Coach, Erica Slattery, arranged for her daughter Laney's fourth grade class to write her letters of encouragement.

To their surprise - she hand wrote a letter back to each of the 22 students - using her 30 minutes of personal time each evening in October and November.

She graduated from training at the end of January, and she was happy to personally

(Below) Macy Wolford (right) shares an embrace with Laney Slattery (left). *Photo by Cala Smoldt/District Journalist*



thank the class, talk about her experience, and answer their questions.

She said receiving the kids letters meant a lot to her...

Wolford continued on page 16



(Above) Mrs. Strandgard's fourth grade class poses with U.S. Army Private First Class Macy Wolford following her presentation. *Cala Smoldt/District Journalist*

Winola Elementary has heart

Winola raised over \$6,000 for Kids Heart Challenge

Over the course of 21 years, Winola Elementary has raised a total of \$203,882 for the American Heart Association, according to representative Christine Taylor. She's been with Sherrard the whole time.

"They have been helping to save lives for decades - they really have made a difference," she said.

Every year P.E. teacher Bev Krueger implements the Kids Heart Challenge program. This year Kindergarten through fourth grade Winola students raised \$6,211.64.

"We've made a big impact for being such a small school," said Krueger, "I think it teaches kids about helping people. All the money we raise supports the American Heart Association - educating communities and providing resources to scientists."

She said the P.E. program benefits from the organization through 'thank you' gifts and access to grants. Last year the school was able to get pedometers for 3rd and 4th grade P.E. classes.

Her first year teaching at the school, students raised upwards of \$15,000, Krueger said. "It's a good program."

During an all-school

assembly March 5 - winners received ribbons for most jumps during jump rope in each grade. Top fundraising earners were also recognized. All children participated in raffles for donated items including scooters and bikes. Sponsors were: Diamond Ag, Viola Telephone Company, Farmers State Bank, Walmart, anonymous families, Winola staff, and Viola Police Chief Dave Perry.

The class that brought in the most funds earned an extra day of P.E. Stephanie Hampton's 3rd grade class won with almost \$1,000 raised. The student who brought in the most funds was Zoey Shafer with over \$500.

Krueger said Winola

staff always work together to put on events,

"Having the Winola Elementary family help out with this event has been amazing. We always work as such a great team and we really pull together to get things done. It is really nice knowing that you can count on the people around you."

The mission for the Kids Heart Challenge is for kids to, "learn jump rope skills, how their heart works, and raise money to help kids with special hearts have fun, learn how to stay healthy and make a difference in the lives of others."



The top fundraisers in the school got to cover P.E. teacher Bev Krueger with silly string at the end of the school's celebratory assembly March 5.

For those about to retire...

Lynne Schroeder - Family & Consumer Science Teacher



Lynne Schroeder has been with Sherrard CUSD since 2001. She spent all 19 years at the high school. Schroeder is originally from Durant, Iowa. She earned her Bachelor of Arts, Vocations Home Economics Teacher with an emphasis in Family Studies from the University of Northern Iowa

A student (he graduated 3 years ago) recently sent me a message on

facebook. "Just wanted to let you know I had a baby mostly to tell you I appreciate all the things u taught me in class and because u were one of the coolest teachers I ever had I will take the things you taught me and transfer them to this little guy thanks again!" Such a wonderful a surprise from him and the beautiful picture of his son, Jaxson.

She hopes to do more

sewing and quilting, and to complete projects she's started over the years. In retirement she's going to work part time for her son's consulting business - when her husband retires they plan to travel around the United States.

Schroeder said this quote will lead her into the next phase of her life, "Retirement is a new beginning, and that means closing the book

on one chapter to begin the next."

Tiger Closet keeps busy



Lindsay Zerull (left) and Brenda Gates (right) volunteer to put together needs for families through the district's Tiger Closet during remote learning.

Photo Submitted

Brenda Gates - Special Education



Brenda Gates has been with the Sherrard CUSD for 30 years - since the Fall of 1990 - where she has worked in the Jr /Sr High school. Her hometown is Winslow, IL. Her alma mater is Northern Illinois University where she earned her degree in BS in Special Education / Elementary Education; and University of Illinois where she earned a Master of Education

in Vocational - Technical Education.

"I have many great memories and wonderful friendships from Sherrard. Retiring with a stay at home order will definitely be memorable," she said.

Gates enjoys training her golden retriever, Harper. Some of her hobbies / interests are cooking, flower gardening, reading, and crafts.

She plans to enjoy retirement by traveling and, "I would like to volunteer with my dog as a therapy dog. I also plan to continue volunteering with Tiger Closet and do some substitute teaching," she said.

Gates leaves this advice for life, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

Joe Lopez - Spanish Teacher



Joe Lopez has been with Sherrard C.U.S.D. since August 2017 - he

taught all three years at the high school.

His hometown is East Moline

Alma Mater: Dickinson State University North Dakota where he earned a BS in Education. Lopez attended graduate school at Western Illinois University.

"My favorite memories are the times I shared with the Boys' Track and Boys' and Girls' Cross Country teams. Coach Buchanan and I were able to have our athletes attain a highly competitive level

with a 4 x 400 team eventually being crowned State Champions in Spring of 2019. As far as teaching I will always remember students walking by my room on their way out to the parking lot and yelling me their wishes for a good weekend, vacation, etc.

I'm super glad I was able to work with so many fine young community members in such a short period of time."

His interests include: "1. Jogging or walking with my dog. 2. Spending the day at Wrigley

Field with my wife and daughters. 3. Playing golf with my closest Miller Lite Friends. 4. Visiting with neighbors and, family and friends. 5. Bon-fires 6. Sirius Music - The 70's on 7. 7. Going to, "Here Come the Mummies" with Luke Fritch."

His retirement plans include:

"I will continue to enjoy life for as long as I can. I have been an NCAA Basketball Official for 20+ years and will continue to work in that vocation until my body says "No

More".

My golf game may not get better, but I will give it numerous chances!!

I plan on working with the future Cross Country and Track Teams until Coach Buchanan fires me."

His advice for life, "You can be as good as you want to be, or as GREAT as you dare to be.

Life is about choices, Make yours count!"

Denise Muck - Special Education



Denise Muck has been with Sherrard CUSD August, 1997. Her hometown is Sister Bay.

In her 23 years with the district she spent 9 years at Winola Elementary - 12 years at Sherrard Junior High, and two years at Matherville Intermediate. Muck earned her bachelor's degree from Monmouth College, and master's from Western Illinois University

"One of the most wonderful events that happened

during my teaching career was working with DeAnna Bush. We read the book, "A Long Walk to Water" and worked with a gentleman that was born in Africa. With his assistance DeAnna and I, with the help of our junior high students and colleagues, were able to raise over \$7,000 to build a water well in Africa. This well will continue to provide fresh water for many people for a number of years to come. We had great

media coverage and provided a positive atmosphere for Sherrard Junior High during that school year."

Her hobbies include: "I love anything outdoors and anything to do with health and fitness. I enjoy biking and hiking in the north woods of Wisconsin."

Following retirement her plan is to move back to her hometown of Sister Bay, Wisconsin and she plans on being outdoors enjoying all the beautiful peninsula has

to offer.

"When we are able to travel again, we have grandkids to see and would like to visit a number of places in our United States," she said.

Her advice for life, "Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start." -Qubein



...We salute you.

Konnie Fry -
Sherrard Grade Principal



Mrs. Fry posted videos talking to students at Sherrard grade - often with words of encouragement, and sometimes she read to them during remote learning. *Screenshot from March 23.*

Konnie Fry made her way to Sherrard CUSD from hometown of Carbon Cliff. She began with Sherrard in July 2014 as Dean of Students at the HS. After two years she moved to Sherrard Elementary as Principal to close out her time with the district.

Fry earned a BS Bachelor Science Elementary Education and then

MsEd Masters Educational Leadership from Western Illinois University.

She reflects on her time at Sherrard, "There are many humorous stories, and numerous special events. There are too many to mention. My

time as an educator and educational leader have been amazing. Without telling a particular story, I will say all the stories combined will have the element of people. Above all, I will cherish the memory of the people I have had the pleasure and honor of working with and being with some of the best

teachers, support staff, administrators, children, and families I will ever get to work with.

The people who have shared my life for 22 years will never be forgotten or far from my heart. They are my history and my best memories."

She loves sunny days and long rides in the Jeep with the roof and doors off for "Wind therapy!" She loves time with her children and grandchildren. "I love to cook and bake! I love to have time with my best friends. I love time in the yard to garden and play in the dirt. I love getting to Chicago for a CUBS game, or seeing them play on tv if not at Wrigley. I love to read. I love documentaries on TV. I hope to keep busy and keep on giving back to

grade!" said Goff.

Her interests include: Hiking, wildflowers, environmental advocacy.

In retirement she plans to help family whenever needed and visit national parks.

According to Supt. Alan Boucher Goff gave him peace of mind, "Linda is attentive and quick to respond if anything is amiss.... she relates to others warmly and pleasantly.

She leaves sherrard CUSD with this, "Always do your best to treat everyone with dignity and respect."

Mrs. Dingman is one of the hardest working teachers I know, and there are plenty of others in our building, but when you work side by side, connected by our 'closet', my respect for her is limitless." Beck said they sought each other's input on lessons, activities, and tests. "Many hours after school were spent collaborating professionally and personally. Even in this unique remote learning environment, she continued to learn new skills and technology to reach her students,

"Dream. Dream big. Keep on dreaming, and don't stop."
- Konnie Fry

many who have not been as blessed as I," said Fry.

In retirement she plans to continue working, do some writing, be involved in education, travel and spend time with her children and grandchildren.

Her life advice: "Dream. Dream big. Keep on dreaming, and don't stop. Work for your dreams. Even if the work seems hard and will take a long time, keep working. Dreams are only dreams until you put the hard work in to make dreams come true. I never would have had my career and all the wonderful people in my life if I didn't dream, and then work to make those dreams come true."

Allison White -
Kindergarten
Paraprofessional



Allison White is retiring this year after serving Sherrard CUSD as a Kindergarten Paraprofessional.

"She is one of the most genuine, caring,

Marla Miller -
Business Manager

"For over 35 years Marla Miller has been the pillar of Sherrard School District. Diligent, focused and tough - she has worked the business office through major decisions. Yet it was her willingness to work in the kitchen on needed days that showed her true character of generosity and helpfulness," said Michael Applegate, Activities Director.

"If I were choosing teams, I would choose Marla first. Simply put: she knows what she is doing and she can be counted on to finish what she is doing. For 40 years, Marla has masterfully managed the district's revenues, expenses and payroll... I work with her every day, so I get to see her generosity and her enormous heart. She is always willing to help when needed," said Supt. Alan Boucher. Miller will continue parttime with the district with the food service program.

dedicated and do all for anybody ladies, I have had the pleasure to meet and work with. She was a natural at her job as a kindergarten paraprofessional as it required her to love all and serve all. That is our unique Allison," said Sherrard Grade Principal Konnie Fry.

Fry said no task was too big or small if it meant it would better the lives of those around her. "With a strong heart and determination, she put her whole self into her day and into the lives of the children, families and their needs well beyond the day... We wish Allison all the best as she takes on retirement. We are sure she will keep busy and enjoy every minute she gets with her family and new home."

"She will be dearly missed by all colleagues, students and Sherrard families," said Kindergarten Teacher Stephanie Bohnert.

Linda Goff -
Special Education
Coordinator



Linda Goff has been with Sherrard CUSD since 2010.

She spent her first

years as the Junior High principal; the last three as the Special Education Director.

She is a graduate of Iowa State University with a BS in English and German; Western Illinois University with MS in Educational Administration

One of her special memories is from 2015 when she retired as principal, "The JH staff had an assembly for me in which I was able to "graduate" to retirement. I served 15 years total as a junior high principal, so it took me that long to finally get out of 8th

Sandy Dingman -
Science Teacher



Sandy Dingman has been with Sherrard CUSD

for 15 years. She holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Elementary Education. Dingman is originally from West Point, Iowa.

She enjoys walking, visiting her grandchildren and traveling.

Best advice for life, "Enjoy every day!!"

Colleague, Science Teacher Deena Beck said Dingman is her mentor, "My teaching has been strengthened by her tutelage and input, her encouragement and support, and her leading by an example.

Dear Administrators...

Admin. Appreciation

We asked our teachers and staff to describe each administrator/principal with ONE word. Then - our inbox was flooded. And rightly so! We then asked admins to answer a few fun questions...

Look through this album and learn a little bit about our amazing

administrators and see what others had to say about them.

Help us honor/thank them well!

They have been working around the clock to facilitate learning and connection in more ways than we can count. THANK YOU



Winola Elementary Principal



Sherrard Grade Principal



Konnie Fry (above) became a principal because... "That's kind of funny. I was in my 3rd year of teaching. A colleague of mine approached me and told me that this would be a great Masters Program to go into together. So, I filled out the paperwork, did the interview, and took the test. She did not. I got in and did the Master Program for Educational Leadership on my own. I continued teaching after finishing my program, then one day I saw an ad for a principal at Tampico Elementary, and I thought, "Maybe it's time?" So I applied and got the job. CRAZY!!! I never looked back or regretted being a principal. I have always LOVED it! I have always felt that being a school leader was what I was meant to do. It has felt very natural and a happy fit for me."

Funny story: "There are SO many... This last year during the cold and flu season, the office was a busy place. On one particular day, a sweet little girl came into the

office. As acting nurse and secretary, I was at the front office desk. I asked this sweet little cherub what she needed and what I could do for her. She very quickly, and without hesitation or embarrassment told me, "I trusted my fart, and now I have diarrhea in my pants." It was all I could do to not laugh. Needless to say, I led her to the nurses office, found her clean clothes, and baby wipes and helped her to the bathroom to get cleaned up and changed. NEVER did I imagine as a principal that I would hear those words, or need to help a sweet little one change her clothes, direct her to clean her bottom, and send her back to class to learn having been sheltered and cared for the best I could with all the love in my heart. This reiterated to me that even on my best days, I am only as good as the people I help, and the willingness I have to help with whatever comes my way."

People may not know Fry is one of eight chil-

dren. "I am the only one of my family to graduate from college. I did not go to college until I was 32 and my 3rd child was 2 years old."

If she had the power to do one thing for schools, "ONE? No, not just one! Ok... If I had the power to do ONE thing for schools it would be to figure out how to get ALL parents to buy in and be an equal member in their child's education. We all know full well that the students who succeed, the students who learn at a higher rate and grow academically and emotionally have full parent support at home. These are the parents who are going beyond signing notes. These parents talk to their children about their school day. They ask to see their work. They help them with homework. They talk to the teachers. They advocate for their children. They volunteer in the school. These parents honor education and instill in their children that what happens in the school day, in the school building, is important, and needs to be respected. It takes a village. Oh, to have such POWER..."

Her favorite thing to do with family is game night, "We are really missing this. We love to have a good meal together and then to play games and hang out."



Kari Roberts (above) became a Principal because she has always been passionate about education. Roberts considers herself a life-long learner, "Teaching was a no-brainer for me... After teaching for several years, I went into administration with the hopes that I could have a positive influence on more students, for multiple years. Offering support and growing with other teachers/educators is another aspect that makes this career amazing."

Funny story: "Every day is an adventure, for sure! During one of my first years teaching at Winola Elementary, we had a large number of snakes getting into the school building. Our principal at the time was not a fan! He knew that I was one of the few working in the building that was not afraid of snakes. There were a few times I remember him entering my classroom with a concerned look on his face. He would cover my class, while I would bag up the snake and relocate it to the neighboring field. Now, had it been a mouse... Yuck!"

People may not know, Roberts' children are the 5th generation in her family to attend Sherrard Schools.

If she had the power to do one thing for schools she would like to make everyone aware of the impact that schools have on the community - and the future.

"There seems to be a decline in the respect for the field of education, in general... When you become an educator, it truly becomes a part of your life 24/7. There are so many roles that teachers and other staff members carry out each and every day, far beyond delivering academic lessons. I would like to see our colleagues appreciated for the value that they bring to society. It will definitely be interesting to see how the Covid-19 closures impact this."

Her favorite thing to do with her family is to wake up and say, "Let's go on an adventure." Many of our cherished family memories have been made going on a last minute road trip. Time spent together is the best!"

Admin Apprec.
continued on page 12

Influential Educator



Carly Minch has received the Influential Educator Award from the University of Wisconsin - Platteville. Minch is a 4th grade teacher at Winola Elementary. The award recognizes her influence on one former student to become an educator.

“Why sports matter” to 4th graders - in their own words

A sampling of submissions were chosen for this printing

At the beginning of Remote Learning, Sherrard Elementary Reading Specialist Maureen Basala invited students in fourth grade to participate in a National writing Contest Sponsored by Scholastics and Dick Sporting Goods.

The concept was “Why sports matter” and, “Sports figures that influenced you.”

Several thoughtful responses were submitted - though none placed in the contest.

“I guided students through the writing process by providing mini-lessons and using recorded videos.

There was some great writing done by many 4th graders at the very beginning of remote learning. I think it highlights, how working closely with students, giving feedback and having good relationships goes a long way,” said Basala. She said she was impressed with how touching the students writing was.

Why Softball Matters

By: Sophia Bradarich

Softball matters to me because it helps me with my teamwork and self confidence. Softball is my favorite sport. I've played it for three years and it has helped me with three things teamwork, reflexes, and self confidence.

First, teamwork helps me with getting along with people and I can make more friends while I am playing because it naturally brings me to meet new people. If the team works together there's a better chance of winning, but it's ok if we don't win because I had fun.

Secondly, softball helps me with my reflexes. I can make them faster depending on how I play or how much I practice. Softball helps with my reflexes. Reflexes help my reaction time, my awareness, and also my coordination. Having good reaction time, awareness, and coordination helps keep you from getting injured.

Last, but not least, softball improves my self confidence. My self confidence helps me accept losses, so even if we do lose, I still keep a good attitude, and understand that the other team is happy that they won, when are team made it to the tournaments we got third place that was a very hard loss but I accepted it because we did our best and it was amazing. When I am not doing good that day all that matters is that I'm having fun and doing my best, because if I do my best I still make an effort, and can even be the person who can make the team win. One of the biggest things about self-confidence in softball is believing in myself. One of my favorite things to do when I go up to bat is to keep saying “I can do it” over and over again. Doing that helps a lot, I've gotten a lot of good runs using that strategy, but I also say “I believe in myself.” Saying that helps me with my self-confidence.

Softball really matters to me, and while playing the sport I love, it also helps me develop important skills.

Sports Matter

They positively impacted me when
I was in the dark

By Lyra Wondergem

Martial Arts first inspired me when I was in the first grade. I lived in Sioux City Iowa. At the time I was going to a school called Spalding Park. Sadly my friends and I were getting bullied at the time. To be quite honest with you I was depressed, I didn't like the way I looked, or how I dressed, I had 0 self confidence and self love.

To begin with, When I first heard of Martial Arts I thought that it was amazing. I thought that if someone could pick themselves up by using it or even defend themselves, then maybe I could do the same. Maybe hearing those bullies saying that I was fat or I didn't dress nice, wouldn't bother me as much.

In addition, when I first started Martial Arts, I did Taekwondo. I went to my first class and fell in love with it. I was able to do most of the routines they taught and it made me feel like I wasn't so worthless. Like I could actually do something with my life. After I had to move from Iowa to Illinois I started Karate I got a blackbelt in it by the age of ten then I started taekwondo again. I'm still doing that class to this day, I am a green belt at the moment.

Personally, I will say that Martial arts did help with my self-confidence, self-love, and much more. I still had those bullies and I still had to deal with them every day of my life. What they said to me seemed not as meaningful anymore.

Now I don't think that I could imagine a world without martial arts, imagine where I'd be. Without Martial arts I would still be that girl I was so many years ago. The girl with 0 self love or self confidence, the girl who hated the way she looked, the girl who only saw the bad things in herself. I can't imagine going back to that state of mind.

I strongly believe that sports have helped many people in the same way. In the way of making them have confidence or self love. I can't imagine how many people's lives would be ruined without sports. Those people might be in the mind state I was years ago. To some people, sports could be something they use to get the anger out, and if they didn't have sports those people could have violent tendencies, maybe even get in trouble with authorities. Sports matter to so many people, and I think sports will continue to matter and to help people in the future.

“One of the best things about self-confidence in softball is believing in myself.” - Sophia Bradarich, 4th grade

Sports Matter

By Steven Hollins

Sports are important to me because they are fun. For many people, sports matter because someone inspires them. For me, that person is Anthony Rizzo. He has good sportsmanship, is aggressive and he helps others.

For starters, I think Anthony Rizzo has good sportsmanship because he says good job to his teammates. If they were really close to being safe but they were a little late and the ump called um out that's one good sign of sportsmanship. He gives high fives if someone hits him home or if he's on one of the bases when the person up to bat hits a homerun. That's a second good sign of sportsmanship. He tells people good job when they strike out but they were really close. This is another good sign of sportsmanship.

Another way he inspires me is that he is Aggressive. He is really fast to get to where he's supposed to be. Anthony Rizzo has his glove in the dirt in case somebody hits the ball to him then he's able to just step on first base. Anthony Rizzo is good at batting. I know because I went to a cubs game myself and he hit a grounder to second base. And right when the ball hit his bat he took off faster than the speed of sound. I was surprised by his speed because he took off when the ball hit the bat and was safe. I was pumped because they had a runner on base.

Last, but not least, Anthony Rizzo helps people. As a teenager, in 2007, he was diagnosed with cancer. At the same time, his grandma had cancer as well. Although Anthony beat cancer, he knew he wanted to help others and their families so they could beat it too. He and his family created the Anthony Rizzo Family Foundation which helps families stay together and strong to fight cancer. He donates money that he gets from the MLB. He helps pay for new materials that the foundation needs. He tells people things that could make them want to fight against cancer. I am happy that he does this because kids can get cancer and die. He is helping them to keep calm and stay strong because they can do it.

In conclusion, sports matter to me because Anthony Rizzo inspires me. He has great sportsmanship and is a good example for an MLB baseball player. He is aggressive because he is always ready for whatever happens when the ball is hit. He cares about others and tries to help those who are struggling with cancer. He has a kind heart. He makes me want to become a good person and a good baseball player. Thanks to him, I am number 44 and I play first base and pitcher. I always try to be a good sport and I don't talk back to the ump's.

Persuasive Writing Contest

By: Alexander Buckner

Sports, specifically Bowling, has many benefits. These include getting in shape, developing good skills, having good sportsmanship, and developing great friendships. All of these things can last throughout the rest of your life.

Bowling is a great way to get into shape. The average time is usually 2-3 hours per series. Your arms get in better shape by holding a weighted ball. You will develop leg strength by walking up to the foul line and balancing your weight on your non-dominant leg.

Bowling helps you develop skills. Form is where your dominant leg goes behind your non-dominant leg. You learn how to throw a hook on any ball you use. You need good hand-eye coordination to knock down more pins than you did before, unless you throw a strike. You need to be good at math to count all of the pins you have knocked down.

In Bowling, you need sportsmanship and can develop strong friendships. You should say good luck at the beginning of the event. You should say good game to everyone once you have finished. During league and tournaments, you can meet new people and create strong friendships.

Bowling helps you get in physical shape and develop skills such as hand-eye coordination. Bowling can also help you learn sportsmanship while creating friendships that last the rest of your life. So that's why I like to spend my time to go bowl.

Pope earns D.A.R.E. scholarship



Mercer County DARE has announced that Maggie Pope, a graduating Senior at Sherrard High School has been awarded a \$500 scholarship to help further her higher education goals.

Maggie plans to attend University of Wisconsin - Platteville to pursue a degree in Engineering with a minor in Piano Performance. Mercer County DARE wishes Maggie the best of luck in all of her future endeavors.

Matherville Intermediate Principal



Jeff Shillinger (above) became a principal because he enjoyed working with student teachers and helping new teachers start their careers. "I wanted to be someone that could assist all teachers in providing the best possible education for all students," he said.

Funny story: In his first year as a principal - he came in early to help a teacher move some materials. During the move, he ripped the entire rear end out of his pants, "I

had to tie a sweatshirt around my waist until I could escape to get home to change."

People may not know: In junior high he was state champion in discus - in 1993 SIJHSAA.

If he had the power to do one thing for schools he would want every student academically, socially, and emotionally ready for the next level.

His favorite thing to do with family is attend St. Louis Cardinals baseball games.

High School Asst. Principal



Matt Newquist (above) became an assistant principal because it was time to challenge himself as an educator, "I had been a teacher for 10 years and a coach for 12. I was ready to make an impact on students' lives in a different way. No better place to start that journey than SHS. My wife also is happy she doesn't have to suffer through another baseball season!" he said.

Funny story: "Something I've found funny this year is seeing a few high school students that transferred from RIHS to Sherrard. When they first saw me they all did

a "double take", as if to say, 'What's this guy doing here?'"

People may not know he played college baseball at Western Illinois University.

If he could do one thing for schools it would be to find a vaccine for Covid-19, "So we can all go back to school. I miss everything about school; students, staff, athletics. I do not miss processing referrals."

His favorite thing to do with family, "I love going on walks with my wife Lauren, daughter Claire, and son Jack. Family is everything!"

Bishop earns Scholarship



Senior Colton Bishop earned a \$1,000 grant from the Quad City Engineering and Science Council for Morrison Tech.

Bishop was one of 21 area students enrolled at the tech school to win the scholarship.

He will be working toward a degree in Engineering Technology, Computer-Aided Drafting and Design Specialization.

Graduates with this specialization can be employed in the fields of CAD operation, design drafting, product or project design, and materials inspection and testing.

On his application, he listed classes taken at Sherrard that have helped prepare him, including:

Intro to Auto CAD, Architect Drafting, Woods, and AG Metals

"In my free time, I have been training with The Sherrard Fire Department for about a year.

Once I found out that I could be on more than one department I then joined the Matherville Fire Department."

He said his dream career is to have a job in the aerospace field - at NASA - designing rockets or satellite parts for the International Space Station.

"Some people would say I have an old soul. Others will tell you I'm a gentle giant. I am a hard worker and will see things through," said Bishop.



Jr. High Principal



Michael Applegate (right) became an Activities/ Athletic Director after working in the classroom because he wanted a new challenge and to make a bigger difference in the number of kids he reached.

Funny story: "My funniest moment here has been a job interview I conducted with Mr. Wernentin - and assistant principal at the time Matt Hutchins. The person that applied continued to say Sherrard incorrectly, Mr. Wernentin handled it with class and even let them know

how it is supposed to be said. But it was still said incorrectly 5 more times. After the interview I just could not stop laughing at it."

If he had the power to do one thing for schools he would advocate for smaller class sizes and more direct learning and communication, "I came from a big school in which class sizes were huge and teaching was more difficult then," he said.

People may not know: "I have never had coffee. I think that goes against teachers code but I just

Rick Basala (left) became a principal, "For all the fun!"

During summer breaks, he used to hit golf balls back to the nearby golf course...from the roof of the school.

People may not know

he's a recipient of a human donor.

"An unlimited money supply," would be his wish to do one thing for schools.

Kayaking is his favorite thing to do with family.

Activities/Athletic Director



never tried it."

His favorite things to do with family include taking walks, bike rides and swimming. "We love

to be active and outside... and I love when that tires them out... (I have a 7, 5, and 3 yr old)."

HS Principal



Tim Wernentin (above) became a principal because he wanted to have a broader impact on students beyond the classroom.

Funny story: "While a principal at Rock Island, I was taking two students to Rotary and I was running late. I rolled through a stop sign and

got pulled over by a state trooper... embarrassing! But he let me off with a written warning...."

If he had the power to do one thing for schools he would, "Better address the social and emotional needs students are facing."

People may not know: He had two failed try-outs for the Continental Basketball Association.

His favorite things to do with family include playing board games, traveling, and just being together.



Sherrard Grade Send-Off Celebration



Third Grade Teacher Kayla Hollins hands out books hand-picked for students at Sherrard Grade, May 27. Photo by Cala Smoldt/District Journalist

Sherrard Grade send-off, May 27, made an appearance on three local news stations, WQAD, KWQC and WHBF. Principal Konnie Fry was interviewed - to get her take on what it's like to retire during a pandemic, and what it means to see the kids one last time for the school year.

They also spoke to Sherrard Technical Instructor Steve Miller about how the district plans to move forward when school is back in session in the fall.

Student Frankie Dobereiner talked to WQAD about how remote learning has affected her.

Teachers parked their cars, some decorated, and parents drove students through the lot in a type of "send-off pa-

rade". Students turned in chromebooks, and received report cards, awards, a book lovingly purchased specifically for them, and some treats.

Mrs. Fry received countless well-wishes on her retirement, several floral arrangements and gifts - many of the teachers were also handed gifts. The children's faces lit up when they got to talk to their teachers - many expressed their sadness and how much they missed coming to school. It was a bitter/sweet day as they ended this most unusual school year with teary-eyed goodbye's at Sherrard Grade.



Diehl earns full ride

During her spanish class, Feb. 28, Sherrard Senior Guin Diehl was surprised with the Chancellor's Scholarship for four years of tuition and fees to the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Only 10 were chosen out of almost 400 applicants, according to Chris Kerkenbush, Regional Admission Advisor at University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

"I'm really shocked. I'm so happy right now... really excited," said Diehl. She plans to double major in math, with an emphasis in high school education, and music.

"I want to be a math teacher, I also want to

write music on the side - and if I can, I also want to teach college."

Kerkenbush said a committee of eight people filters the applicants, "We chose based on location, diversity, all around devotion to school, her grades, community service - her essay was the key part."

"It's a huge accomplishment. The Chancellor reviews all of them... She should be very honored." She said Diehl will save around \$40,000 over the course of four years.

Her parents are Mike and Jen Diehl of New Windsor, brother is Mike, Jr.

May 20 Diehl was also surprised with a \$5,000 'Cash for Class' scholarship from IHMCU.

Pictured at left - Jen Diehl congratulates her daughter, Guin, for earning a four year scholarship to the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Father Mike Diehl looks on with pride. Photo by Cala Smoldt/District Journalist



Chorus teacher sings to entertain students during shut-down



Junior high and high school choral instructor, Callen Sederquist, has drama students working on karaoke challenges - during the mandatory school shut-down.

She said it's a way for drama club to work on their skills, "Their response has been overwhelming and incredibly positive!"

On her youtube channel Sederquist posts her

own work for students - this time she employed her husband, Andy's services. The endearing duo sang the duet, 'Love is an Open Door,' from Frozen.

The two met acting in a local musical. They continue to do shows together through Quad-City Music Guild, and Playcrafters Barn Theater.

Her choral students are currently working on fundamentals and other choral-type appreciation tasks. Screenshot

Teacher selected as AP Reader



English Teacher Tammy Crippen signed a contract to be an official AP reader. That means she's hired to read the AP exams this year for AP Language and Composition.

Only a select amount of teachers are chosen. It was supposed to happen in Florida for 10 days, but now moved to online.

Crippen will train online for the position in June.

"I am so very proud. It took a lot to be chosen... this is a really great opportunity for us," said Crippen.

“Everyone has a talent” – 5th grader Charli Dirksen makes masks to meet a need



Charli Dirksen, 10, holds masks she made herself using her sewing skills. *Photo submitted*

Sherrard student Charli Dirksen is finishing her fifth grade school year at home - like every other child in Illinois. While each is experiencing a loss - time with peers, teachers and in-class learning - Dirksen ventured to make the most of it by helping others.

It developed as an idea to help protect her 14 year old sister, Jorja, who has a rare genetic disorder - but turned into an endeavor to help countless others. In mid-April she began working on mask-making each day after she completed her remote learning schoolwork and dance classes.

“It makes me happy that I am helping others to stay safe,” said Charli.

It started with her father, Chad Dirksen, who works at Lowes in Moline.

Concerned about bringing home the illness - Chad asked his daughter to make him one. Then, his co-workers wanted masks. Charli then made 175+ masks for

every employee there. It expanded to another 200 masks for family and friends. Many donated funds as a ‘thank you’, though she and her parents tried to refuse.

With those funds she was able to make more masks - this time for the Viola Food Pantry who requested two for every family that receives food items.

“I then kept thinking of other people I knew that needed them and people kept requesting them,” she said.

Charli said it takes about 10 minutes to make one mask - she spends 4-5 hours in the afternoon and evening completing several batches at a time.

“I like to sew and my mom mentioned making homemade masks and I was bored one day and made one,” she said.



Her mother, Jennifer Dirksen, said Charli took up sewing by default - as apart of her family heritage - it’s a skill passed down from her mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

“Charli took up sewing about a year and half ago making scrunchies. She then started making them to sell, and started a business called The Sassy Sassquatch - Sassquatch is a nickname she has because she is sassy. She then found other things to sew online like keychains, bows, and bookmarks.

“I’ve had a big stock pile of fabric, it’s in every nook and cranny of this house I think... Charli has the same love of fabric. Her favorite place to go is JoAnn Fabrics,” said Jennifer.

For Charli - the project has taught her much more than how to sew a mask pattern.

“She’s learning a lot of skills with this... time management, math skills, how to prioritize. It’s also helped with her people skills, self esteem, and confidence, which she struggles with,” Jennifer said the project also helps her focus, “Charli struggles with ADHD... She gets so excited when I tell her she has an order. It makes me so proud that Charli is being so selfless in helping others.”

10 year old Charli has this to say to her peers, “Everyone has a talent, you just need to find it, and use it to help others.”

Charli’s masks are now available for purchase at Mississippi Marketplace in Davenport - where her grandmother has a booth (4004 W. Kimberly Rd Suite

B). The antique mall / shopping center owner contacted the Dirksen’s and asked Charli to be the mask provider, since so many were requesting them, according to Jennifer.



Family donates ‘Little Library’ to Sherrard Grade

Sherrard High School Teachers Lucas (math) and Amanda Fritch (special education) answered the call when Sherrard Grade Principal Konnie Fry asked for help providing the Sherrard village community access to reading materials while schools and libraries are closed.

The free “Little Library” was installed outside of Sherrard Grade April 10. It allows children and adults to borrow a book, and loan a book.

With the help of daughters, Anabel, 6 and Marily, 2, the Fritch family constructed the Little Library to donate to Sherrard Grade.

The Sherrard Grade Little Library (right) is installed and ready to go in it’s final location in front of the school. The Sherrard community is invited to use the service - take a book, leave a book. #sherrardroars

“They truly answered and stepped up. SG is very grateful to the Fritch Family for their amazing work and generous donation so all children have materials to read during this trying time, and beyond,” said Sherrard Grade Principal Konnie Fry.

This time last year Sherrard high school students and Winola fourth graders designed, constructed and installed a free little library for Winola Elementary school in Viola.



The Fritch girls, Marily, 2, (left), and Anabel, 6 (right), paint a little library her family worked together to build for the Sherrard village community. *Photos Submitted*

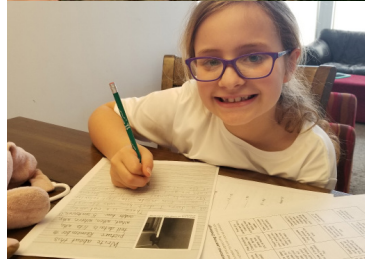
Kids miss their teachers



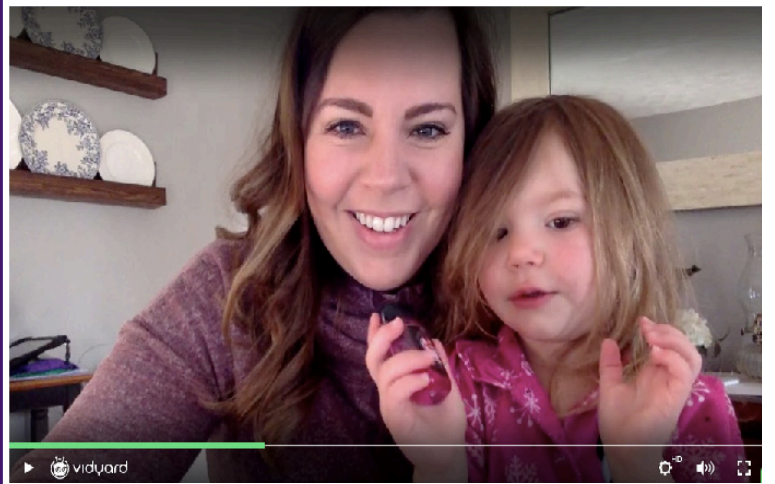
May 11 - Teachers and staff got to interact with students - if only for a brief moment during school supply pickup at Matherville Intermediate.

Vehicles lined the front of the school from 8 - 11 a.m. where tables were set up with student belongings bagged up and ready to go, organized by class.

Smiles and teary-eyed waves were exchanged - teachers heard from kids that they missed being in class, and some even received parting gifts. It was emotional as teachers told kids they can't wait to teach in-person again. *Photos by Cala Smoldt/District Journalist* (Pictured below - Principal Jeff Shillinger grew a mustache during quarantine. He was proud to finally show it off at supply pickup.



When teaching changed overnight



A screenshot of Harroun and daughter, Ella. "She had to show off her unicorn hand sanitizer during one of my morning videos. She is in my lap about 90% of the time," said Harroun. *Screenshot*

Sherrard Intermediate 6th grade teacher Stacy Harroun is one of a legion of teachers that had to adapt quickly to keep students engaged during remote learning.

"I think math is such a tricky subject for remote learning because students learn math in so many different ways, and one-on-one connection is so important."

She said the way she taught math during the school's final quarter via remote learning was varied. She introduced new lessons via Vidyard.

"I try to make it sound like I am in the classroom with them teaching from my Clevertouch so it feels as normal as possible for them. The only difference is that I sometimes have small assistants, a three year old (Ella) and five year old (Evelyn), who like to chime in and "help" teach every now and then," said Harroun.

Jeff Shillinger, Matherville Intermediate Principal was impressed by Harroun's dedication. "She answered student questions with individual videos often, taught new material, used humor... Had kids and dogs in her videos, complimented students often," he said she even had student participation by allowing them to do her morning announcements.

When students had questions, she made specific videos tailored to them, "So I can walk them through their questions. This is the closest that I

have gotten to work one-on-one with them which is so important," she said.

Harroun had five different math Google classrooms plus one just for her Homeroom group.

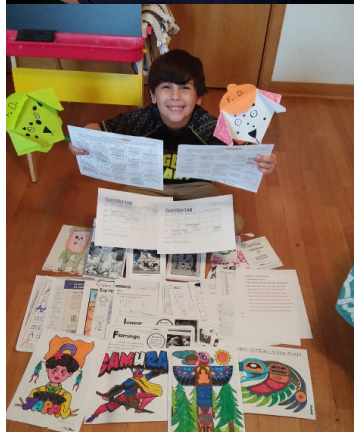
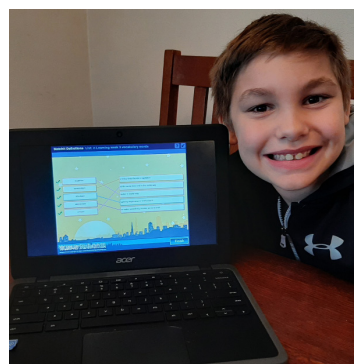
"I have really tried to create a fun, and inviting space for my homeroom students to share with one another. When the Heart Hunters social media page first became popular, I showed students what my girls and I had created for our neighbors. I also encouraged my students to do the same and to share. We have shared pictures of dress up days, fun outside activities, algebraic sidewalk chalk problems, pictures of our pets, and many others." Every morning she did a quick video with the kids to get their day started.

"Usually my daughters are right there with me, but one morning my husband (Nate) pretended to be my substitute teacher. I think that has been one of the favorites," she laughed. She said it was tricky to balance online teaching with two small kids at home.

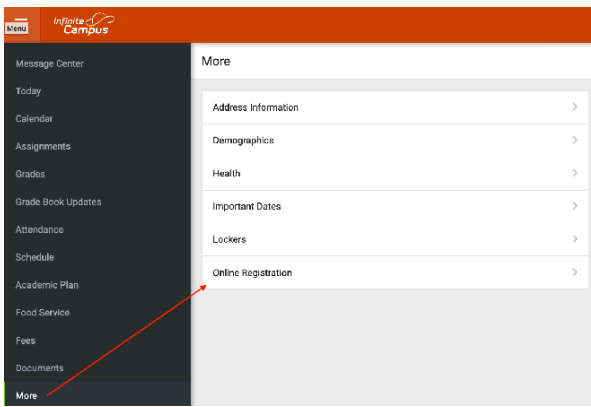
"I honestly just feel like I try to do my best reaching my students while being mom at the same time."



The faces of E-Learning



Registration begins July 7



Registration opens on July 7, for ALL returning students.

To register: parents - log in to their portal account on a computer, online registration does

not work well on a tablet or phone.

If you forgot your login info or you have not setup a portal

account, contact Jennifer Thurman when the HS office opens on July 13 at (309) 593-2175 ext 5.

Student accounts do not work for registra-

tion - as you would only see information for that student.

Once logged in, on the left side of the window at the bottom, choose "More" to view the choice "Online Registration". Click on this link to begin the registration process.

Review students listed for the application. If the list is correct, select "Begin Registration".

Reasons the info. may not appear correctly:
- Student no longer lives

in the household.

- Step parent may be trying to complete registration and is not listed as a guardian.

Contact the school if you have a problem with the list.

The individual completing the application will need to type their name - equivalent to signing a paper document.

The existing info. from Infinite Campus, the student information system, will populate the tabs in the registration application.

Parents can edit information and add any new info. on the tabs. Then submit.

Payment of fees is not part of the online registration. Fees can be paid by mailing in or dropping off payment to the school offices. OR, they can be paid online by using the RevTrak / Web-store link on the district website.

Registration info. is in the process of being updated on the district website - An email will be sent to parents as a reminder in July when registration opens.

Three added to Sherrard National Honor Society membership



Sherrard National Honor Society students pose for a photo after collecting food pantry items for the Hunger Drive. Photo Submitted

Three more Sherrard seniors were inducted into the National Honor Society on May 18 - for a total of 22. The three new members are: Sarah Sorrell, Philip Whan, and Paige Lowery. Other members are Elizabeth Steckel, Joshua Gibson, Laila Haley, Madison Boyer, Alexis Passno, Rhett Frere, Nate Olson, Guinevere Diehl, Payton Wilson, Lilley Anderson, Josie Spence, Taylor Williams, Grace Hoffpauir, Logan Slattery, Maggie Pope, Holly Jacobs, Kate Hatlestad, Emma Hofmann, and Hunter Curry.

The Sherrard National

Honor Society serves the school throughout the year in various ways. During the 2019/2020 school year the NHS organized the Veterans Day Assembly, raised over 5,000 meals for the Quad City Student Hunger Drive, served over 100 taco meals during the NHS Taco Dinner Fundraiser, and other independent projects.

NHS Historian and member, Maggie Pope, said, "The NHS club has put in a tremendous amount of work for the community that we should be very proud of!"

Sherrard School District has a few scenarios in place for the graduation ceremony. If restrictions for social distancing are eased by the governor, the graduation ceremony for the class of 2020 will be held at the TaxSlayer Center at 2 p.m. on Aug. 2, 2020. If the restrictions for social distancing are still in place, the graduation ceremony for the class of 2020 will be held in the student parking lot at 2 on Aug. 2. Families and friends would remain in their cars during the ceremony and watch the graduates receive diplomas in a socially distanced manner. Depending on the number of cars that will be allowed, there could be two separate ceremonies.

Scenario C: If circumstances prevent the parking lot ceremony from taking place, a virtual graduation ceremony for the class of 2020 will be held online at 2 p.m. on Aug. 2. Pictures and videos will be combined into a graduation presentation that could also involve live-streaming

of certain aspects of the graduation ceremony.

More details we be shared as new information becomes available - follow Sherrard School District on Facebook, facebook.com/sherrard-school-district, or check the website www.sherrard.us for updates as they develop.

Vokert: Cupcakes for Cause



Second grade Sherrard student Alaina Volkert raised \$770 total to donate to the Stead Family Children's Hospital in Iowa City in March.

Father, Todd Volkert, said 7 year old Alaina approached he and his wife asking to

raise money - Cupcakes for a Cause was created. Alaina said she had help making the 400 cupcakes, "It makes me feel happy," she said about the project.

Wolford continued from page 7

... "Very cute, very motivational... I loved it."

She thanked the class, "We struggle with motivation. It's a lot of hard work and you can't give up on yourself, otherwise you'll fail."

Slattery was encouraged by Wolford's stories of resolve to prove herself, "You have to earn things... The boys would say just because she's a girl she can't do a lot of things," but she proved them wrong.

Peer Lyra Wondergem admires Wolford's determination, "I think it's important because she's a fellow female and she overcame things when she came there."

Wolford plans to attend Midwest University, Quad Cities Campus for Law enforcement / Criminal Justice.



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