

# #SHERRARDROARS

Vol. 4 Issue 1

Tigers Today Transforming Tomorrow

Jan. - June 2021

## Class of 2021 Outdoor Ceremony

Photos and highlights of the ceremony found within - pages 6-7



## Registration Opens July 9

Registration opens on July 9 for ALL returning students.

To register: Parents - log in to your 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 set up a portal account, contact Jennifer Thurman when the HS office opens on July 13 at (309) 593-2175 ext. 5.

**Registration**  
*continued on page 5*

## Winola Students Recognized by Washington



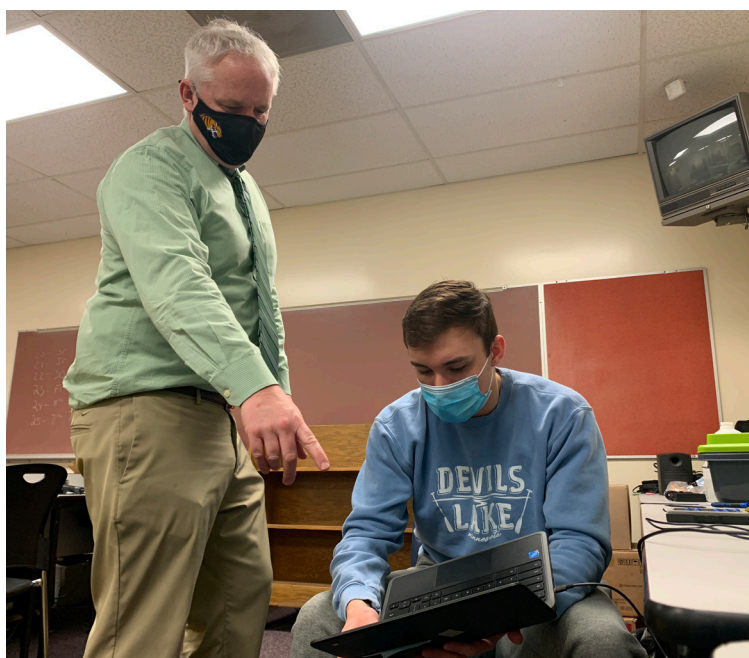
Third grade students at Winola Elementary created a clean up crew in April - they collected five gallons of trash.  
Bev Krueger/Sherrard PE Teacher

"I was so impressed to read about your recess project. You are showing amazing leadership skills and appreciation for your school by helping to make the playground a more beautiful and enjoyable place for yourself and your classmates," Rep. Cheri Bustos, 17th District, Illinois.

Students at Winola Elementary received a letter from Congresswoman Bustos recognizing third graders for taking the initiative to clean up their playground. In April, near Earth Day - the kids set about picking up trash that had collected around the Winola Elementary playground.

**Winola** *continued on page 5*

## Chromebook Repair Class: A forward Thinking Solution



Left, Brian Hutton (left), social studies and media production teacher, also teaches a chromebook repair class. Senior Eli Brenier (right) said he now has useful technology skills because of the class.  
Cala Smoldt/Communications Coordinator

Sherrard High School's Chromebook repair course teaches students to solve problems while simultaneously solving its own.

The class began in the 2017-2018 school year - two years after the inception of the district's 1:1 (one to one) technology program that provided chromebooks for students in 3rd - 12th grade.

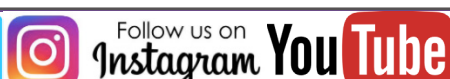
Technology Coordinator Jay Wyckoff said in those first two years he completed 1,200 repairs to the Chromebooks himself.

"As the initial Chromebooks were entering their third year,

it was evident I would need help to keep up with the demand," he said. The class has allowed him to focus on other technological responsibilities - this year, namely - remote learning.

"I'm involved (still) in the repair process by checking student work, training students and consulting on more dif-

**Chromebook**  
*continued on page 10*



From the desk of the Superintendent

# Light at the End of the Tunnel



Sherrard Superintendent Alan Boucher

I presented my annual State of the District Report to the Board of Education in February. A copy can be found in the superintendent section of the district website. I am overwhelmed

with the amount of work the staff and students have accomplished over the past year. The number of awards and accomplishments the students have earned is always astounding. I am also heartened by the data that clearly shows our district is on solid ground.

The Illinois State Board of Education has given us a perfect score for our finances and they have rated four of our five schools as exemplary! The fifth school is rated as commendable. The Regional Office of Education has stated that our facilities are clean and in great condi-

tion. Don't get me wrong - we have problems that need to be addressed. I am reminded by them every day. Our staff is committed to fixing the problems and reaching an even higher level of success. One-hundred percent of our students depend on a high-quality education. We are committed to providing it by doing the best we can where we are with what we have.

I see a light at the end of the tunnel, and I am confident it isn't the headlight of an oncoming train. Hopefully, it is an indication of a healthy future that is free from the coronavirus.

Our nation has experienced three surges of the virus in the past twelve months. If we keep our guard up, we can avoid a fourth one.

I recently saw a video montage of first-place athletes racing to victory only to be passed at the last second by a competitor. The stunned athletes realized they started to celebrate too soon. They didn't know that defeat was bearing down on them.

I am optimistic that we will be able to return to most if not all of the things we enjoyed before the pandemic. Until then, we need to continue social distanc-

ing, wearing face coverings, washing hands, and cleaning frequently-touched surfaces. A fourth surge is avoidable. It has been a long year and we are tired, but we have hope.

Let's not claim the victory yet. Baseball legend Yogi Berra aptly said, "It ain't over till it's over."

To read more thoughts from Mr. Boucher - go to [sherrard.us](http://sherrard.us), on a mobile device, click the 3 lines in top right corner, choose 'Departments', then 'Superintendent', click the plus sign, then 'Supt. Journal'.

## Shillinger Named Middle School Principal of the Year



Matherville Intermediate Principal Jeff Shillinger. *Cala Smoldt/Communications Coordinator*

of his peers in the district. Once nominated, contenders then secure three letters of reference, answer three leadership questions - and submit a resume. The IPA Blackhawk Region Board then ranks and subsequently selects the winners from all of the categories. The region winners then get forwarded to the state board for final state-wide winners.

In his letter of support, Sherrard Superintendent Alan Boucher said one of Shillinger's strengths is follow-through... "He promptly and diligently works on tasks until they are accomplished. He arrives at work early each day and immediately gets busy. When he is given an assignment, he works independently and doesn't need reminders... Choosing Mr. Shillinger as the Blackhawk Division's Principal of the Year would reflect and reinforce the

**Shillinger continued on page 11**

## Superintendent Search Begins



Left to right seated around the table - Troy Wolford, Kim DeBlock, Rhys Fullerlove, Superintendent Alan Boucher, Tom Leahy (presenting for IASB), John Cabor, Cassandra Cleaveland, Dan Helm and Sue Lyon. *Cala Smoldt/Communications Coordinator*

April 28, 2021 - The Sherrard School Board took the first step to begin the process to select a new superintendent after swearing in board members at a special meeting. Superintendent, Alan Boucher, plans to retire at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

All school board seats were uncontested in the April 6 Consolidated Election, four 4-year seats went to: John Cabor, Robert "Dan" Helm, Kimberly DeBlock and new to the board,

Cassandra Cleaveland, a write-in on the ballot. Two, 2-year unexpired term seats went to Rhys Fullerlove and Troy Wolford.

Following the oath of office, the new board hit the ground running with a unanimous vote to hire the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) to aid in the superintendent selection process at a cost of \$7,900 with potential options added at a future date. Prior to the vote, they heard a presentation from Tom

Leahy, director of executive searches for IASB.

The board opted to start the process now with the goal of having a superintendent chosen before 2022.

Board president Rhys Fullerlove said, "The board's goal is to get someone picked before the start of the spring semester next year to allow for some cross-training between the outgoing and incoming superintendent."

**Superintendent continued on page 3**

## JH Earth Science Outdoor Classroom



Pictured at left, Mrs. DeKeyrel's Junior High Earth Science class celebrated Earth Day in April. They learned about the history and significance of Earth Day. Students received petunias to take home and plant - donated by Hilltop Greenhouses in Illinois City. *Erin DeKeyrel/Sherrard JH Earth Science Teacher*

**Superintendent continued from page 2**

tendent... Also this gives us a jump on getting the best candidates to our district."

Leahy told the board, "You're in good order to begin this process at this time... your time limit is absolutely appropriate, you can be in the first wave of applicants and openings right away."

Services provided include surveying staff and the community to find out what they want in a superintendent - followed by candidate search, interviewing a pool of candidates, narrowing down options based on district needs, and then presenting a final selection of 2-5 candidates to the board. At that point, the board then interviews candidates and makes a choice.

"We are fortunate that Mr. Boucher has been the steady hand on the wheel for more than six years, as such, only one board member has been part of a superintendent search process in the past," said Fullerlove. "The board thought it was prudent to bring in a professional organization who has many years of experience in guiding districts through this all too important process."

Boucher began as superintendent with the Sherrard School District in October 2015. In his previous role, he was the Superintendent of Mercer County School District for 9 years where he oversaw the consolidation of the Aledo

and Westmer School Districts. Boucher will retire with more than 36 years of public education service.

"I have a ton of life energy left in me - I plan to do other things, I don't know what they'll be yet. I'm going to run through the finish line.

Sometimes you crawl through the finish line, but I think I'm in a wonderful school district of wonderful people so I'm going to run through that finish line with arms raised and so happy for the experience," he said.

He never expected to be a superintendent during a pandemic, "That was quite a challenge," he said prior to this past school year, he thought the worst experience was going to be having 13 snow days in winter of 2019, "I thought that was going to rank as the most crazy year... little did I know that it was going to be an easy year compared to the pandemic. Of course that pandemic is not over yet."

Boucher said he's glad the school board is getting a start on the search, "The school board understands that hiring a new superintendent is one of the most important things they'll do... The superintendent sets the tone, sets the agenda - and moves the school district in the direction the district wants to go."

"This is the first time in decades that we will have a planned transfer of power in the Sherrard School District," remarked Fullerlove. "We have the time to take this process slow and ensure

that we pick a candidate that will continue the culture and values that are so deeply ingrained into this district."

Boucher said the district is moving in the right direction as they close out the school year.

He said he's hopeful the pandemic will settle down before next fall - for a, "somewhat normal school year," next year. "We did the best that we could with what we were handed with this pandemic. I think everyone feels good about the direction we took. We don't know what the future holds, we're really hoping this pandemic goes away, or at least gets to such a manageable level that we'll be able to get back to some form of normalcy. If it does, we'll keep moving forward and doing the great things we've been doing."

He said staff have gone above and beyond this year, "I'm proud to be a co-worker with them. I'm really looking forward to the next year."

The board also elected new officers, Rhys Fullerlove will remain the board president for a third term, the vice president is now Kim DeBlock, and Sue Lyon was chosen to be the secretary. Becky Breiby was appointed to be the school board treasurer.

Other business included, setting the payroll dates for the next year and approving the insurance rates - to remain unchanged.

## Gagliardo: Students Find Their Voice - Featured on WQAD



Candace Gagliardo is pictured above talking to students the day after riots took place at the US Capitol on Jan. 6. *Cala Smoldt/Communications Coordinator*

"At lunch with my friends we talked about it and teachers have also talked about it," said sophomore Lauren Copeland referring to riots in Washington, D.C. Jan. 6.

The day after the riots at the US Capitol English Teacher Candace Gagliardo discussed the events with students.

"I think that it's good we're able to talk to each other because we express our own views and we learn from the views of other people even if they're different from ours," Copeland said.

Copeland was in Candace Gagliardo's English class on Thursday, Jan. 7.

"I wanted to check in with you guys," Gagliardo said to her class.

"I think it's my job to let everybody have a voice and sort out what they think, whether it's through speaking or writing or having one-on-one conversation or whole class discussion so they can have that

chance to try out their thoughts," Gagliardo said.

"I mean, I cried this morning thinking about it and thinking of coming to school and talking to you guys," Gagliardo told the class.

The discussions also supplement Gagliardo's lesson.

"It's more important for each of us to be listening to what other people have to say so that you can understand it and move forward," Gagliardo told students.

According to Gagliardo the ongoing conversation helps her students process.

"They're just at a stage where they're looking for what is their role in it and what will their role be as they become adults," Gagliardo said.

"I think it is on us right now," Copeland said.

Gagliardo and Lauren were featured on WQAD as an example of how teachers engage students and use discussion questions to explore the current historical events.



# A Tasty Surprise: Third Graders Design Donuts



(will be) lined up out the door to purchase their donut." Some even said a specific celebrity would eat their doughnut to bring attention to the brand, Strandberg laughed.

Once the student's designs were complete, the teachers emailed the images to Hurts Donut Co. owner Kyle Howard, "Who has been amazing," said Hampton. He agreed to bring the masterpieces to life... at no cost. "We are so excited to see the kids' reactions," said Hampton prior to the reveal.

The kids cheered - both when they first received their donuts, and then again when they heard they would be



Third grade teacher Lis Engwall is pictured above (right) with a Hertz donut employee. *Cala Smoldt/Communications Coordinator*

like that." She said it was a good way to, "Sprinkle a little bit of fun."

She said they followed specific safety measures for the students to properly receive the donuts... they were professionally made and not eaten at the school.

Students were able to see their creation enclosed in a food container. They were placed inside a gallon sized bag

with their original drawing to transport home. This way, the kids were able to show their parents.

"It was one of those assignments we never really had to convince anybody to finish, they were all so excited to do it. We never had to convince anybody you need to keep working on it," said Strandberg.

Third grader, Kyla, was excited to see her Gingerbread Splash donut come to life - it looked just like her design. *Cala Smoldt/Communications Coordinator*

A persuasive writing project had a tasty outcome for third graders at Winola Elementary in January. They had no idea they were designing a donut they would actually get to eat, thanks to Hurts Donut Co. - Quad Cities.

Teacher Stephanie Hampton said she saw the idea on social media, and ran it by the other third grade teacher, Lisabeth Engwall. Winola Reading Specialist Cheryl Strandberg was also in on the fun, "We researched it, Lis contacted Hurts (Donut Co.) - it was a total group effort,"

said Hampton.

The assignment was for students to design their own unique donut and write a persuasive paper about why their

**"It was a good way to, sprinkle a little bit of fun."**

**-Stephanie Hampton**

donut would fly off the shelves.

Strandberg listed some of the reasons students gave for their donut design, "Unique; going to be popular, and the place would make a lot of money... People

writing 'thank you' cards for Hurts Donuts Co.

Hampton said it's been difficult this school year with certain safety protocols in place because of COVID-19, "No group activities, or typical parties, anything

# 4th Grade Glow Party: A Unique Idea



The class behavior incentive was a huge hit. *Nikki Fishman/4th Grade Teacher*

Fourth graders in Nikki Fishman's class at Winola Elementary wanted to have a "no lights day" for their class behavior incentive in February.

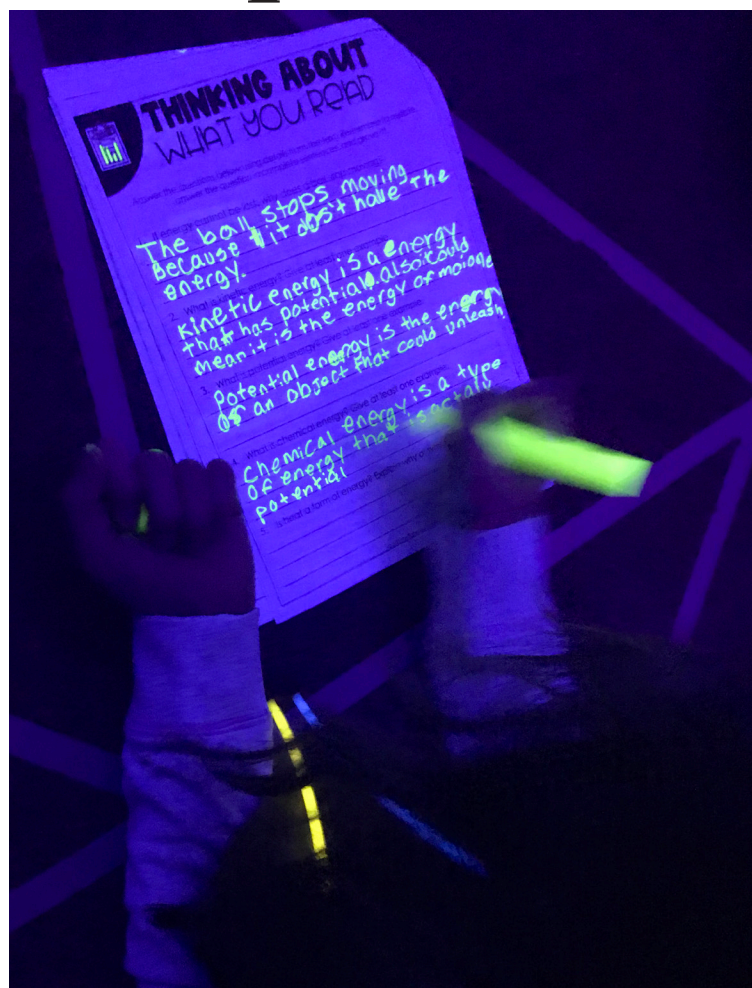
"It inspired me to hang LED black lights and hand out glow sticks so students can glow

while they learn!" Fishman said.

They participated in multiple activities throughout the day: multiplication and division strategies with math jenga, created and identified angles with glow sticks, highlighted text based evidence for sci-

ence class, and answered comprehension questions with highlighters for ELA.

"We had such a fun day!" said Fishman.



Students enjoyed glowing work. *Nikki Fishman/4th Grade Teacher*

# A Walk to Disney with Sherrard Elementary

Sherrard Elementary students walked to Disney - that is, they added the number of miles walked all together until they 'reached Disneyland' in California. The idea came from Sherrard Elementary supervisor Karen Millichamp.

She said the purpose was to make recess fun - and get some exercise, "Get outside, get exercise, get a mask break and get some fresh air. We're not able to do our organized games, too muddy in snow and ice. This is our way - if every kid gets to walk at least a mile a day, It's a good way to get out and get some exercise."

Millichamp said they were brainstorming ways to help kids with a lot of energy, when she remembered something retired Sherrard school counselor, Sue Breiby did, "She had a 'running club', they would come up with different destinations. They met her in the gym and ran laps. It was a good way to get some energy out right off the bat."

She set a goal for the kids of 1800 miles

combined - and at the end they had a Disney-themed outdoors bubble party.

Millichamp made a colorful map of the United States using an old projector. They hung it up on the wall in the gym where everyone could watch their progress with a marker she moved daily upon completing their walk.

Principal Casey Wyant said the kids loved it and it went well - after spending most winter recesses inside.

"It was a cool team goal - working on it collectively, so it's more of a whole school effort rather than just individual efforts, so that's a nice thing to see that collaboration as well," said Wyant.

"Karen is a phenomenal human being just in general, but to have her on our staff we are incredibly fortunate. The creativity... overall being so genuine in her approach with the kids and wanting to help and always thinking outside of the box to see what she can bring into the school and what can it bring for everybody, for her to continually



Above - Sherrard Elementary supervisor Karen Millichamp created a giant, colorful map of the United States to engage students in the shared goal of walking a combined 1800 miles to Disneyland in California. (Below) Students enjoyed an outdoors bubble party when they hit their goal - right before spring break. *Cala Smoldt/Communications Coordinator*



bring ideas to the table like that is quite remarkable," said Wyant.

Millichamp also supervises during before and after school programs.



## MV - Camo Day

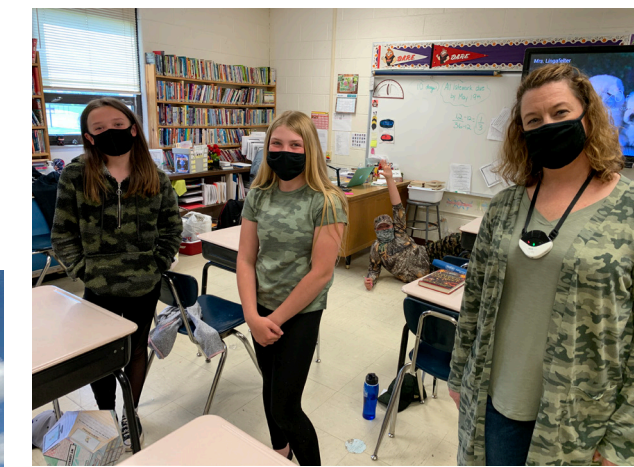
Matherville Intermediate held dress-up days on Wednesdays in May. Bottom, Maddison Barnhill's 5th grade class enjoys the sun for class reading time. Right, Kris Lingafelter poses with students. *Cala Smoldt*



*Winola continued from Front*

They gathered over five gallons of trash consisting of old masks, grocery sacks, and other items.

"They were so proud of their hard work and the playground looks amazing," said Winola PE Teacher Bev Krueger. She said it was entirely their own idea.



*Registration continued from Front*

Student accounts do not work for registration - as you would only see information for that student.

Once logged in, on the left side of the window at the bottom, choose 'More', then, 'Online Registration'.

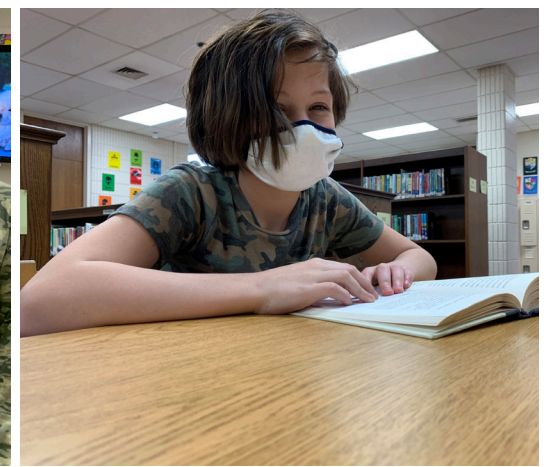
Review students listed for the application. If the list is correct, select,

'Begin Registration'. Reasons the info may not appear correctly:

- Student no longer lives in the household
- Stepparent may be trying to complete registration and is not listed as 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.

Parents can edit information and add any new info using the tabs - then click 'Submit'.

Fees can be paid online in the 'Fees' section of the parent portal or by mailing in or dropping off payment to the school offices.

An email will be sent to parents as a reminder when registration opens.

# 2021 Graduates Rejoice!



Panorama of the class of 2021 graduation ceremony, held outdoors May 30, 2021. *Cala Smoldt/Communications Coordinator*

Sunday, May 30 - The school band played "Pomp and Circumstance" arranged by Paul Sterrett, edited by Sherrard Band Director David Grayson as graduates walked onto the track to take their seats for an outdoor ceremony on the idyllically sunny day. High School Principal

Tim Wernentin, along with senior co-class presidents Taylor Barber and Allison Maring, welcomed the audience, seated in the bleachers. The Senior Address was given by Sherrard Alumnus - Captain Dalon Helm, US Air Force. Superintendent Alan Boucher

announced those who received academic honors. Seniors Gabrielle Sharer and Jessica Vestal gave the Class of 2021 address. The school band and chorus performed "Let There Be Peace" by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, arranged by Douglas E. Wagner.

**2021 Graduating Class:** Peter Andresen, Owen Atnip, Diana Avila-Balcazar, Kimberly Bailey, Taylor Barber, Jacob Belha, Jordan Bender, Makinzee Benjamin, Eli Bernier, Jenna Bertelsen, Grace Bickle, Ashley Bleuer, Kate Brown, Gage Bruce, Chloe Buffington, Joshua Bynum, Aspen Carothers, Karyna Casco, Seth Cecil, Lily Cederstrom, Caden Colbrese, Corbin Crippen, Michel Daly, Brody Doonan, Morgan Dormire, Evan Earl, Jordan Engwall, William Epperly, Landen Ernat, Walter Franck, William Bruce, Evan Gagliardo,

Ivan Gonzalez, Michael Gorey, William Green, Shaelee Harkey, Ellie Harrod, Brady Hartman, Dayton Hauger, Emily Hazen, Kade Helm, Damian Henry, Logan Holcomb, Mikayla Holdsworth, Logan Holliday, John Jeffries, Jon Jeffries, Kaiden Jones, Julianna Jones, Kamal-

preet Kaur, Jennifer Keener, Mattie Kindelsperger, Coe Klauer, Lauryn Kline, Blake Lingafelter, Jesse Lopez, Drake Luciani, Rachel Mackin, Allison Maring, Jordan Maynard, Jasmine McAfee, Emelia McDaniel, Sydney Miller, Carrigan Minch, Ajay Moon, Grace Newton, Haley Olson, Quinton Orlowski, Seth Paniamogan, Isabella Pappas, Kyle Peckenschneider, Coleman Peterson, Caidyn Pfister, Jeffrey Remy, Tehya Reyes, Abigail Roberge, Lydia Robertson, Keanna Robinson, Megan Russell, Andrew Ryckeghem, Brian Sanders, Angelica Sansale, Bryn-

lee Schnowske, Gabrielle Sharer, Adrian Smith, Ryan Staver, Tanner Timerman, Sylyce Tornquist, Veronica Utley, Joshua VanDerLinden, Brady Varner, Jessica Vestal, Allen Viager, Hannah Waddell, Keagan Wagoner, Addison Wallarab, Hailee Wasson, Joshua Wedekind, Landen Welch, Tyler Whan, Michael Wherry, Marly Whipple, Karissa Willems, Cheyenne Williams, Alex Wilson, Kaitlyn Woods, Emily Yeater



Above, Mary Heiar, Flower Mill Farm, (Left) and Russell Jenkins (Right), School Maintenance, help arrange flowers for the front of the stage prior to the ceremony, *Cala Smoldt/Communications Coordinator*. Below, Kate Brown looks on with spirited sunglasses during the ceremony, *Stacey Blackwell/School Counselor and Yearbook Sponsor*



At left, Sherrard Alumnus - Captain Dalon Helm, US Air Force, gave the senior address. His brother, Kade Helm - was one of the 2021 graduates. Superintendent Alan Boucher is seated on the right. *Cala Smoldt/Communications Coordinator*.



At left, Seniors Jessica Vestal (on left) and Gabrielle Sharer (on right) gave the Class Address. *Stacey Blackwell/School Counselor and Yearbook Sponsor*



Above, Senior class co-presidents, Taylor Barber and Allison Maring gave the welcome. *Cala Smoldt* Below, Sherrard Chorus students sing "Let There Be Peace". *Stacey Blackwell*



## Hats off to You, Class of 2021!



Above, Students pose for photos and celebrate following the ceremony. *Cala Smoldt*

# School Gym Turned Clinic for Faculty



Sherrard faculty received the second dose of Moderna on Friday, Feb. 19.  
Cala Smoldt/Communications Coordinator

Friday, Jan. 22 - The Mercer County Health Department administered COVID-19 vaccines to 170 at Sherrard School District.

Superintendent Alan Boucher said 75% of faculty and school volunteers opted for the shot.

"We're excited because it'll add to the health of our staff and students. Hopefully we'll be able to avoid more covid infections as a result."

He said everyone was in good spirits as they went in for their turn to receive the vaccine, "I think everyone feels like we're taking one step

forward."

High school social studies teacher and head football coach said, "It's exciting to get things rolling and know there's light at the end of the tunnel."

Vanessa Schulenberg,

**"We've been through a lot this past year, but everyone's pulled together..." - Superintendent Alan Boucher**

special education teacher and volleyball coach said, "I hope the end for this is in sight." She said she missed building relationships with her students and freshman volleyball players. "I'm looking forward to hav-

ing gatherings again - and sporting events. It's a huge part of my life."

Kathy Felt, JH math teacher, said she's excited for the protection it offers, "We're hungry to get back to a sense of normalcy... and the vac-

cine offers us that hope." She said students are glad to be in-person, but are missing out on group type projects, "They're craving the kind of interaction we used to have," she said.

School was not in ses-

sion Friday for the event.

Mercer County Health Department Administrator Carla Ewing said they were pleased to be able to provide this service, "This was a phenomenal opportunity to get vaccine out very

quickly."

She said they used a similar setup to administer the Moderna shot for COVID-19 at Mercer County School District as well. Five nurses stations were situated around the school's gym, with ten chairs distanced six feet apart at each.

The health department is holding clinics by appointment - those are lined up and filled through the end of February, so far, said Ewing. She said approximately 1,000 vaccines have been given by MCHD to Mercer County residents per IDPH guidelines - since becoming available at the time of this writing.

Friday, Feb. 19 - Sherrard School District faculty received the second round of Moderna.

"The Coronavirus has dominated our thoughts



Superintendent Alan Boucher is pictured above receiving the Moderna shot during a clinic at the school. Cala Smoldt/Communications Coordinator



# In the Community Sherrard's Biggest Fan Returns to the Stands



Christy Koepke - Pictured above posed in the stands during Sherrard's volleyball games April 6. She faithfully attends every sporting event at the school - before this night, she hadn't been to a game in over a year. Photo Submitted

media - bringing joy to all.

It's been over a year since she's been in the stands cheering the players on to victory. Not only that, she hasn't been able to go to Gigi's Playhouse for in-person get-togethers either, something her

**"It was hard for me not to cry telling her! I know how much it means to her to go to all these games. It's been a long year."**

**- Linda Koepke**

mom, Linda Koepke said was hard on Christy.

"It was hard for me not to cry telling her! I know how much it means to her to go to all these games. It's been a long year," said Koepke.

"She attends all the games... She's been doing that for many years. She's there with her scorebooks - keeping score her way... they all know her and love seeing her at the games. Because of covid she hasn't been able to attend any of them... That's why it was so exciting

for her," said Koepke, who filmed her daughter's reaction and shared the video to Facebook.

She said Christy has been attending games at Sherrard for almost 20 years - since her younger sister, Sarah Koepke, began playing sports in junior high. Sarah played every sport during her career at

our 'spirit coach' and we've been missing her pride and excitement at games. The girls were thrilled to see her again and made sure to stop and catch up with her!" She said.

Christy graduated in 2001 from Black Hawk Area Special Education District, but her Sherrard peers wanted her to walk



Above - Mom, Linda Koepke (left), and daughter, Christy Koepke (right) pose for a photo commemorating their time back to Sherrard School stands. Photo Submitted

Sherrard School District, and graduated in 2006.

Sherrard Volleyball Coach and High School special education teacher Vanessa Schulenberg remembers Christy in the stands when she was a student at Sherrard. It was partially because of her involvement at sporting events, that Schulenberg was inspired to go into special education.

"Many of the volleyball girls told me they cried when they watched her video," said Schulenberg.

"Having Christy in the stands means a lot. It feels like things are slowly starting to return to normal. Christy is referred to as

with them for graduation, so she walked for both. She is well-known and well-loved by all in the Sherrard community - coaches, players, and fans in the stands, alike.

"It's just unbelievable how many people know her throughout the Quad Cities," said Koepke. Players are given four tickets each - and it was freshman Emma Doty's mom, Niki, who shared two of her tickets with Linda and Christy.

Koepke said they scored basketball tickets for next week - and Christy was beside herself with excitement.

- Go to Sherrard School District's YouTube page,



Above, Christy poses with a gift sent in by a view of KWQC Channel 6 News - after seeing her story air on the news network. She was excited to receive the thoughtful Sherrard-themed basket. Cala Smoldt/Communications Coordinator

## Winola Heart Fundraiser - a Virtual Success

Left, Art teacher Tony Vermeer was chosen to be the recipient of a confetti explosion. Cala Smoldt/Communications Coord.

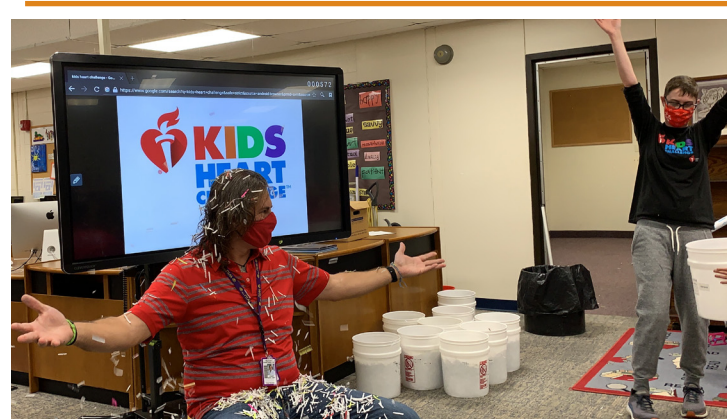
"I think we made some memories we are not soon to forget."

Winola Elementary students raised a total of \$5900 for the American Heart Association. For surpassing their \$5,000 goal - PE Teacher Bev Krueger spent the day following their virtual

assembly interacting with students as the Tiger mascot.

"They've been really excited all day about it," she said.

**Winola Heart**  
continued on page 11



## Prom Coronation



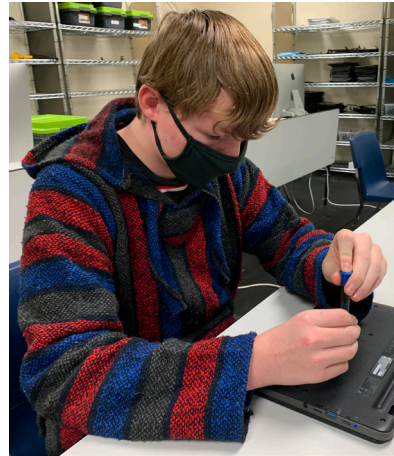
The Junior Senate announced the 2021 Prom Court in April. At right, King and Queen are Eli Bernier and Kate Brown. Left - The court: Lauryn Kline escorted by Brady Hartman Taylor Barber escorted by Josh Bynum Jordan Bender escorted by Drake Luciani

The school had a coronation service under the pavilion Thursday April 29. Cala Smoldt/Communications Coordinator



# TECHNOLOGY: DISTRICT-WIDE

**Chromebook** continued from Front



Above, Sophomore Daniel David said he likes taking the class so he can fix his own chromebook issues. This one needed a new mousepad. *Cala Smoldt/Communications Coordinator*

difficult repairs, but almost all of the repairs are completed by the students," said Wyckoff. As the repair class students help other students - it means a faster turnaround for waiting students. Time is a crucial component as many teachers relied heavily on online resources.

"I repaired the first 30-40 at the beginning of the year while the students learned to fix them. From there, they fixed almost all of them," said Wyckoff. To date, Chromebook repairs exceed 4,000.

"Through special

grants related to covid, we were able to provide chromebooks to 1st and 2nd grade students this year. 3rd and 4th grade students had classroom sets of chromebooks for each student and 5th - 12th grade students have had assigned chromebooks since the initial 1:1 program started in 2015." Wyckoff said the students in 1st - 4th grade keep their chromebooks at school in charging carts. The 5th - 12th grade students take theirs home each evening with a carrying case.

Wyckoff explained the rotation process for the technology, "Since there is less wear and tear on the carted chromebooks, those are in service for five years. With the older students, we provide new chromebooks every four years. When a student starts 5th grade, they are assigned a chromebook that they use until entering 9th grade. The chromebook students are assigned in 9th grade will follow them through graduation."

Wyckoff said they handled about 550 repairs this past school year.

School officials were inspired when they visited a school in northern Illinois that had a similar class with great success - prior to implementing their own repair class. There, they saw a complete system that included management that taught students returning to the class to take the lead.

Teacher Brian Hutton said, "We were really impressed... One of the things they said - a lot of the kids would be able to take the class and graduate and be able to get out into the real world."

"Ideally you'd want to have kids take it - available, every hour of the day, the class is actually called chromebook management and repair, we don't do the management part because we just don't have people here all the time. If we did, we could teach the management side of a small business. Part of that is because we don't have teachers available to teach it that much time. That's the biggest drawback." Hutton said looking to the future they hope to take the class to the next level.

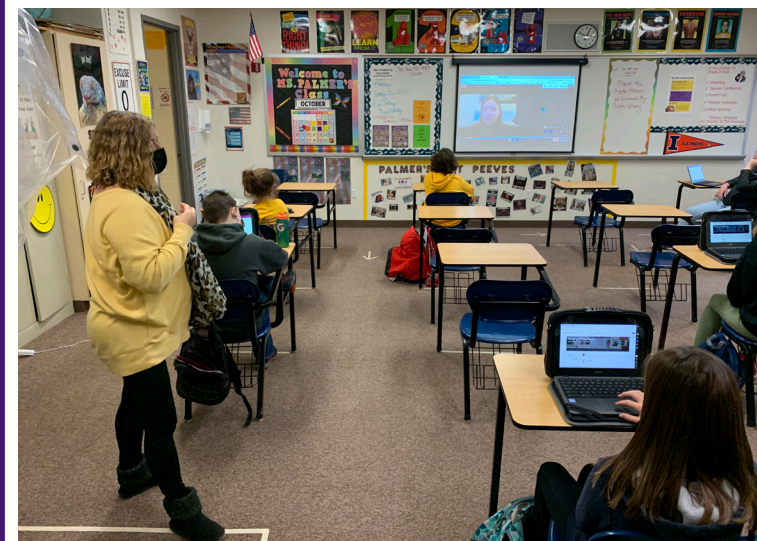
Aaron McKay also teaches the class, he agrees with the future

vision for expanding the class, "I'd like to see a student help desk setup that students went to for repairs. This would involve students getting more experience with recording repairs and interacting with 'customers'."

They had a total of 10

students that took the class last year. Senior, Eli Bernier said it's a useful skill to learn, "I never had these skills before I started this class and now I can tear these computers apart and put them back together like it's nothing."

## Remote Teaching



Above, JH Social studies teacher Lindsey Palmer taught from home for a short time during the year using Google Meet on her device at home, connecting to her chromebook in the classroom and projecting her instruction to students. A classroom proxy was assigned to facilitate classes. Instructional Technology Coach Steve Miller explained, "When a teacher goes into quarantine following contact tracing, yet they experience little to no symptoms, they can choose to continue to teach both in-person and remote students from their home. Thanks to the work done by district leaders as they planned for every eventuality throughout the (2020) summer months." Miller was instrumental in coordinating the logistics for the in-class technology needed to succeed at such a feat. *Cala Smoldt/Communications Coordinator*

## State Champ - Kindelsperger



The HS girls Track and Field team posed before heading to State. *Photo Submitted*

The Sherrard HS Girls Track & Field finished 9th at the IHSA 1A state tournament June 10.

Mattie Kindelsperger was the state champion

in the 3200-meter run.

Charlotte Frere was runner-up (2nd place) in the discus; Kelsey Hutchins placed 7th in state in the triple jump.

The 4x100 relay

placed 11th (Lilly Russell, Sarah Neal, Sydney Adamson, Ava Thomas); the 4x200 relay placed 15th (Lilly Russell, Sarah Neal, Sydney Adamson, Ava Thomas).

Olivia Meskan qualified for state in shot put.

As for the boys team, June 17 - Jacob Belha brought home medals from the Class 1A State Track and Field Meet at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston. Belha lead the way with a silver medal after finishing second in the 1600 meter run, where he turned in a personal best, finishing in 4:22.91 - a school record.

**Softball/Baseball News** June 25- The Three Rivers Athletic Conference released their western division All Conference baseball and softball teams for the 2021 season - As selected by a vote of conference coaches.

Sherrard softball has 3 players named to the first team: Infielder, senior Kaitlyn Woods; Outfielder, sophomore McKenna Blackwell; and Utility player, senior Lauryn Kline;

Second team players named were: Catcher, sophomore Ashley Russell; and Infielder, senior Megan Russell. Honorable mention: Outfielder, senior Hannah Waddell;

and Utility Player, sophomore Teagan Nees.

Sherrard Softball finished their season as Conference champions with a record of 11 and 14.

Baseball First Team named four Sherrard players: Pitcher, senior Brady Hartman; Pitcher, senior Will Franck; Catcher senior Ryan Staver; and Utility Player senior Blake Lingafelter. Junior Brennan Welch made second team Outfielder, freshman Holland Anderson got Honorable Mention.

The baseball club ended the season with a 13-10 record and a TRAC West conference title.

**Winola Heart** continued from page 9

Every year, Krueger orchestrates an all-school assembly at the end of their time fundraising. Prizes, class awards for raising the most funds, and a fun, usually messy, incentive are doled out.

This year, due to COVID-19 measures in place, an all-school assembly wasn't possible. Krueger said she was hesitant to have the event this year, "However, I knew that our students and staff needed a sense of normalcy. We have all lost so much this past year: sports, parties, community events. I did not want to add our Kids Heart Challenge to that list."

She knew it had to look different. Krueger was stationed in the library, Tech Coach Steve Miller was on hand and set up a Smart Board there, and used a laptop to do a live video that was then streamed into every classroom. As each winner was announced, cheers could be heard from every classroom, winners came to the library to be on camera.

"I feel like the event went exceptionally well considering our alternative format... it just had to look a little bit different so that we could follow our covid guidelines and also make the event accessible to our remote learners."

The top ten fundraising students got to dump a bucket of confetti on a chosen teacher or staff person.

Kinnick Schiess was the top earner in the school at \$500 fund-raised, second was Aidan Fuller, \$335, and in third place was Jacob Ott with \$265. Seven other students individually raised \$200+.

Raffle items were sponsored by Diamond Ag, anonymous donations, and teachers and staff.

"I wanted to provide fun and excitement in a time where we all need it most," said Krueger.

# TECHNOLOGY: DISTRICT-WIDE

## Music Teacher Orchestrates Digital Music Creation

Sixth grader Maxx Starceвич won "Best in school" in a music composition competition as part of an assignment in music class at Matherville Intermediate. Second place went to 5th grader Landon Clark.

Music teacher Christina Pagett explained the process, "Kids had to use an online music production software program called Soundation. They took loops and tracks and cut and layered them into their own compositions."

She said compositions had to be over a minute in length and have three or more layers to them. There were 3 rounds of

**Shillinger** continued from page 2

Illinois Principal Association's proud tradition of excellence."

State Director for the Blackhawk Region, and Sherrard High School Principal Tim Wernentin said Shillinger rose to the top, "His letters of reference were awesome. He's done a lot of work in his school to make it better, and does great things with his students."

One small way he keeps the focus on students - each year he writes a note of encouragement to every single student at Matherville Intermediate. The school



Shillinger is pictured above writing an encouraging note to a student. Something he said - he's committed to doing for every student in his building throughout each school year. *Cala Smoldt/Communications Coordinator*

competition. Round 1 was best in class, round 2 was best in grade, then, round 3 was best in school.

There's an entire bulletin board in the hall at Matherville Intermediate dedicated to the kids in the competition, awards were given to the winners in each round.

To take this a step further, Paggett used a grant from Lowell Johnson to purchase new MIDI controllers and supplemental equipment to interact with a free online digital audio workstation (DAW) program.

"It will allow students to create the music in the loops using a keyboard



(Left) Sixth grader Maxx Starceвич won first place; (Right) Fifth grader Landon Clark earned second place in a digital music creation contest at Matherville Intermediate. *Photos Submitted*

and drum pad that hooks directly into their chromebook and allows them to manipulate the music they create within



the program - like professionals in the hip-hop and pop industry do every day," said Pagett.

to excellence." Shillinger graduated from Blackburn College-Spring 2001, and began teaching 6th grade at VIT Elementary School,

in Table Grove in the fall the same year.

On top of his duties as principal, he also serves as the Transportation Director for the district.

## Athletes Sign to Play College Level Sports



A Signing Ceremony was held outside to facilitate space for attendees. *Cala Smoldt/Communications Coordinator*

May 14 - The following Sherrard Athletes are officially signed!

- Brady Hartman signing with Illinois Wesleyan to play baseball
- Dayton Auger signing St. Ambrose for XC and Track
- Jacob Belha signing with Loras for XC and Track
- Alex Wilson signing with Loras for XC and Track
- Jordan Maynard signing with Central College for soccer
- Kaitlynn Woods signing with Elmhurst to play softball

- Megan Russell signing with St. Louis Community College to play softball
- Taylor Barber signing with Lake Land College to play basketball
- Hannah Waddell signing with Augustana to play softball
- Juliana Jones signing with St. Ambrose for track
- Gabby Sharer signing with West Minster College for soccer
- Mattie Kindelsperger signing with University of Louisville for xc and track.

# National Honor Society Inducts Sherrard Students



Sherrard National Honor Society inductees pose for a photo. *Submitted by Math teacher Lucas Fritch, NHS.*

The Sherrard HS National Honor Society Inductees for 2021 are: Carly Anderson, Aubren Dominique, Hanna Rinehart, Hailie Shemek, Katelyn Barnhouse, Kyla Elsbury, Ryder Rolf, Emma Smith, Adam Brimeyer, Sarah Gibson,

Dylan Russell, Gina Steckel, Rokia Clauss, Parker Hann, Miranda Saylor, Addison Szymborski, Lauren Copeland, Olivia Meskan, Carson Schar, and Marshall Warner

They participated in an online induction cer-

emony produced by the National NHS office to coincide with their 100th anniversary. It is international in scope, involving chapters from across the nation and in several countries.

# Academic Awards

May 5, 2021 - Seniors and a limited number of guests were invited to the Sherrard High School Academic Awards Night. The annual event usually features every class, but had to be paired down to adhere to COVID-19 guidelines.

Several received scholarships and awards from sponsors: American Legion School Award and Honorable Mention, Farmers State Bank, Illinois State Scholars, Royal Neighbors of America, Sherrard Academic Foundation, Sherrard Booster Club and Sherrard Education Association.

Department awards went to:

English: 1st place, Jessica Vestal, 2nd place Karissa Willems; Mathematics: 1st place, Jeffrey Remy, 2nd place William Epperly; Science: 1st place Jessica Vestal, 2nd place Jeffrey Remy; Social Studies: 1st place William Franck, 2nd place



Above - Science teacher Tom Thompson announced the recipient of the excellence award in the science category. *Submitted by HS Assistant Principal Matt Newquist.*

Carrigan Minch; Vocational: 1st place Ivan Gonzalez, 2nd place Logan Holliday; Fine Arts: 1st place Evan Gagliardo, 2nd place Lydia Robertson; Foreign Language: 1st place Hailie Wasson, 2nd place Emily Hazen

To see a complete list of award winners go to Sherrard.us, click 'Departments', 'Communications', then 'News Archive'. Find the video of the event on our YouTube channel, 'Sherrard School District'.

# Tigers Through Time



A "Tigers Through Time" mural was put up in the high school's 'B hallway' in April.

High School Principal Tim Wernentin had the idea, "It was a group effort.... we wanted to

start covering the large white wall spaces in the school to make it less institutional looking.

We wanted something to show a little history of SHS while including some current events/

students and came up with the 'Tigers Through Time' theme."

The school requested old photos from the public and worked with Edwards Creative to come up with the finished product. Vending machine proceeds funded the project.

"It came out amazing! Many folks helped with the project, which was fun for us to make it happen," Wernentin said.

They plan to install a second wall wrap/mural on the social studies side, with the theme, "Tiger Excellence".

*Cala Smoldt/Communications Coordinator*



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