

#SherrardRoars

Vol. 2 Issue 4

Tigers Today Transforming Tomorrow

October - December 2019

Matherville students make ILMEA



Nineteen Matherville Intermediate students participated in the ILMEA (IL Music Educators Assoc) District 2 Festival Nov. 2.

Students were: Tori

Browning, Peyton Bushman, Ryan Butz, Sophia Carlson, Lucy Coffey, Payton Devlin, Aliza Dominique, Kaleb Dowsett, Keelie Firrell, Kylie Gainey, Coldan Lenz,

Nevaeh Lyons, Megan Mackin, Gracie Milburn, Avree Newton, Vivian Shivers, Adalynn Thomas, Mackenzie Volkert, and Lizzy Westfall.

Christina Pagett is the

Music Director at Matherville Intermediate.



Upcoming Events

- Jan. 15 - School board mtg. 6 p.m. Unit Office
- Jan. 15 - To Be Freshman Registration Begins
- Jan. 18 - Tiger Tip Off - 4/6 Grade Boys
- Jan. 20 - No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 21 - Winola PTO mtg. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Winola Library
- Jan. 22 - Matherville Intermediate DARE Graduation, 6-7 p.m.
- Jan 27 - 31 - Winola Star Lab
- Feb. 5 - Booster Club Mtg, 6-7 p.m. Hs Library
- Feb. 6 - Jump Rope for Heart begins at WG
- Feb. 12 - Early Dismissal - Professional Development 1 p.m. grades 7-12 and 2 p.m. grades K-6
- Feb. 15 - Tiger Tip Off - 4/6 Grade Girls
- Feb. 17 - No School - President's Day
- Feb. 19 - School board mtg. 6 p.m. Unit Office
- Feb. 22 - Tiger Tip Off - 7/8 Grade Boys
- Feb. 26 - Early Dismissal - Professional Development 1 p.m. grades 7-12 and 2 p.m. grades K-6; District Spelling Bee 6 p.m. Hs auditorium
- Feb. 29 - Sadies Dance, 7-10 p.m. Hs Commons
- March 2 - Preschool Screening 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- March 3 - JH/HS Band Concert 7 p.m. Hs Auditorium
- March 4 - Booster Club Meeting 6-7 p.m. Hs Library; Band and Choir Camber Concert 7 p.m. Hs Auditorium
- March 5 - Early Dismissal - Parent/Teacher Conferences 1 p.m. grades 7-12 and 2 p.m. grades K-6
- March 6 - No School Parent/Teacher Conferences
- March 9 - 13 - Spring Break
- March 16 - Choir Concert 7 p.m. Hs Auditorium
- March 18 - School board meeting 6 p.m. Unit Office
- March 20 - Mr SHS 7 p.m. Hs Auditorium
- March 23 - 27 - WG Book Fair
- March 24 - WG Family Night
- March 25 - Early Dismissal - Professional Development 1 p.m. grades 7-12 and 2 p.m. grades K-6
- March 27-29 - 7 p.m. Hs Auditorium
- April 1 - Booster Club mtg. 6-7 p.m. Hs Library
- April 4 - Jazz Showcase/Dinner 4-8:30 p.m. Hs Commons
- April 10 & 13 - No School

Sherrard receives national recognition

Sherrard School District has been named to the National Advanced Placement Honor Roll by The College Board. There are 250 school districts being recognized nationally. Only 11 school districts are from the state of Illinois. To give it some perspective, there are 852 Illinois school districts and 274 Illinois private high schools, so this recognition is a big deal. Selection is based on increasing access to AP courses and maintaining/improving the rate of students getting a score of 3 or higher on the AP exam. The AP courses cover advanced concepts and can be equated to college level curriculum.

Our K-8 schools do an excellent job of pre-

paring the students for the rigors or AP courses. In addition to priming them academically, the staff teaches students to think critically and they influence the students' attitudes and motivation. The following is a list of the AP courses we currently offer:

Statistics
Calculus
Literature and Comp
U.S. History
Language and Comp
Chemistry
Biology
U.S. Government and Politics
Studio Art
Honor Roll information: <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/.../ap-district-honor-roll...>

Survey

You are invited to participate in this year's '5 essentials survey'. This 10 minute survey provides information to the state of Illinois and our district. It is used to help drive school improvement efforts. One survey is to be completed per household, regardless of the number of students you may have in the building. If you have a student at Winola, Sherrard Grade, Matherville, Jr./Sr. High, complete a separate survey for that building. The survey is available at <https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/survey/parent>, select Parent Survey.

ISBE District Ratings

Sherrard School District has received 4 of the area's 10 highest summative ratings from the Illinois State Board of Education. Sherrard High School, Sherrard Junior High, Sherrard Elementary and Winola Elementary were rated as "exemplary" and Matherville Intermediate was rated as "commendable." Only 6 of the other 52 schools in the Quad Cities area received an "exemplary" rating. The ratings were based on a combination of academic test scores, test score growth, surveys, absenteeism, graduation rate, and students on track to graduate.

www.sherrard.us



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Boucher drives backroads to determine travel safety



Sherrard Superintendent
Alan Boucher

“Rain rain go away – come again another day”. I remember chanting that nursery rhyme

when I was a kid. As an adult, I would change the words to “Snow snow go away...”.

As superintendent, I associate snow with worry and hassle. I worry about the staff and students being safe in snowy road conditions and I know there are hassles with snow removal, vehicles getting stuck and making a decision about having school. Here is how I make the decision to cancel school when severe weather arrives.

On the morning of a severe weather event, I get up at 4:00 a.m. and do a quick check of the forecast before heading out to check the roads. To get an accurate idea of the road conditions, I drive on paved and gravel roads that have hills and curves.

I check-in with other area superintendents to see how their districts' roads look and get their opinions about what to do about having school. I also check-in with the maintenance staff to see how the plowing and

salting are going at the schools. A final decision is usually made around 5:15 a.m.

When a decision is made to cancel school, I will pull the car over to a safe spot and send out a quick Tweet. I will also send a text to key people in the district. I then drive home and place an all-call to the District's families and staff. Calls are also made to the media at this time.

If you want to be the first person to know that school is canceled, then follow the school district

on Twitter: @200sherrard – the tweet is sent about one minute after the decision is made.



Have you seen our new district website?
www.sherrard.us

Hofmann is student ambassador for district's inaugural participation in River Bend Foodbank's Student Hunger Drive.

Sherrard students collect for Hunger Drive on Halloween



Emma Hofmann (Left) and Kate Brown (Right) trick or treat Allison Olson (Middle) for food donations in Matherville for Sherrard School District's Riverbend Student Hunger Drive. *Photo submitted*

Emma Hofmann, Sherrard senior, is the student ambassador for the district's first year participating with the River Bend Foodbank.

Sherrard students from the National Honor Society, Senior Senate, All School Senate, volleyball team, and any

other interested Sherrard students are collecting food items for the Sherrard Student Hunger Drive event.

Hofmann planned and organized a 'trick-or-treat' effort. It started Oct. 27 in Matherville during their trick-or-treat hours, and continues

on Oct. 31 in Sherrard / Fyre Lake, Coyne Center, and New Windsor from 6-8 p.m. and Viola 5:30-7:30 p.m. Students will head out in groups of four and trick-or-treat door to door asking for food or money donations for the River Bend Foodbank. River Bend provides food through the district's Tiger Closet to benefit students and their families.

Student Liaison Officer for the National Honor Society, Hofmann helps plan a number of community outreach initiatives with NHS members. Highschool math teacher Lucas Fritch, and science teacher Tom Thompson are National Honor Society Advisers.

“NHS (National Honor Society) is an organization focused on student leadership and service - being involved with the Student Hunger Drive has been an amazing opportunity to see both of these in action. The students have done a great job working with the community to make this event a success,” said Fritch, “We've been very hands off on it, (Emma) has taken care of pretty much every-

thing.”

“I get tons of support from everyone else too. It's just nice knowing we can impact people in such a positive way,” said Hofmann.

The Lady Tigers volleyball team and rival team Orion Chargers worked together to bring in nearly 1500 pounds of food during their Fill the Bus event on a game night in October as part of this year's drive. Hofmann said it was a better turnout than they had anticipated, “It was really a pleasant surprise!” She said.

Another 150 pounds of food was brought in during the recent senior night football game. The community was asked to bring macaroni and cheese boxes to use as shakers and donate for the cause.

The district's final push for food donations will be a classroom competition from Oct. 28 - Nov. 1 between first hour classes at the high school and junior high and home rooms at Winola, Sherrard, and Matherville. The competition will be based on the number of canned goods per student and

the winning class will receive a class prize decided by the school principal.

Hofmann said she's learned a lot about hunger working with River Bend, “It opened my eyes to how much hunger can affect students my age. It's good to know that I'm playing a role in trying to help put an end to that and help them through that situation.”

“So far we've been doing really well, considering it's our first year,” she said, “Sherrard is really supportive here of different things - we're lucky.”

She hopes to pass on the torch to a motivated leader for next year's student hunger drive, “Expanding it more next year would be great,” said Hofmann.

The finale rally is Nov.

Hunger Drive *continued on page 3*



Hunger Drive continued from page 2



Left to right, Logan Slattery, Emma Hofmann, Taylor Williams, and Nate Olson deliver 1500 pounds of food collected during the Fill the Bus hunger drive event held October 9 in conjunction with the Lady Tigers and Orion Chargers volleyball game. *Photo submitted*

14 when all participating schools come together and have a celebration.

According to Riverbend's website, riverbendfoodbank.org, the six week Student Hunger Drive is a, "friendly competition between area high schools that meet a significant community need – hunger." Students organize various ways to engage the community, package collected food and deliver to River

Bend Foodbank's warehouse.

The website says the drive also gives students opportunity to develop organizational and life skills, "as they work together to accomplish a common goal. The Drive has instilled philanthropy and volunteerism in a generation of high school students for over thirty years."

Hunger Drive: Classroom Competition

Students at Sherrard Elementary participated in the district Student Food Drive, Oct. 28-Nov. 1. The kids collected a total of 728.5 pounds of food for the River Bend Food Pantry. Mrs. Bohnert's class won the prize for most pounds collected at 160lbs. Principal Konnie Fry said, "We are happy to

be a part of this food drive and appreciate River Bend Food Bank for their Nourish to Flourish Program that supplies weekend food bags for many of our students."

Matherville Intermediate School brought in 926lbs. Mrs. Tomlin's class won with a total of 216lbs.



District Preschool Screening

All children 3 years old on or before March 2, 2020, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Winola Elementary School 1804 17th Ave. Viola. To set up

an appointment call 309-596-2114. Please bring your child's birth certificate (courthouse original) and proof of residency to

the screening. A summer screening will be held at a later date for children 3 years old on or before Aug. 1, 2020.

Shemek scores 1st place in Illinois bus safety poster contest

Sherrard sixth grader Saidie Shemek, won first place in the Secretary of State School Bus Poster contest in the 3rd-5th grade division. She was one of four winning posters chosen from entries submitted throughout the state of Illinois - one first place winner was chosen from each age bracket.

"I was just doing it for fun. I just got an email that I won first place in state and I was really happy and surprised,"

(On left) 11 year old Saidie Shemek displays her first place poster for Bus Safety Poster Contest through the state of Illinois. Photo submitted by Jacquie sShemek

said Shemek. She drew a bus on the poster with, "'stop' 'to keep our kids safe, please'". The poster was entered into the contest during the previous school year.

The 11 year old enjoys swimming, volleyball and karate. Her parents are Ryan and Jacquie Shemek. Jacquie is a teacher at Sherrard Elementary school, "She is an amazing young lady. Her dad and I are so proud of her. She can't wait to make another poster for next year. Art is her passion. I am excited to see where it takes her," she said.

Saidie was recognized at an awards ceremony at the Hall of Flags at the Michael J. Howlett

building in Springfield in October. The winners from each division are entered into the National poster competition.



"Like" Sherrard School District on Facebook!



Sherrard School District honored veterans with assembly

Special guest speaker U.S Army Captain Jonathan Vallone addressed Sherrard crowd

The Sherrard School District honored veterans day with an assembly Monday, in lieu of a day off from school. Veterans were invited to a breakfast in their honor before the ceremony.

The event, in part, was organized by National Honor Society students. Holly Jacobs (President) and Laila Haley (VP) read names of veterans as they enter the gym.

Superintendent Alan Boucher said having school on Veterans Day has been a 20 year Sherrard tradition.

“The district wanted to have a special event to personally honor and thank area veterans. It seemed appropriate to have the event on the actual holiday rather than

the day before or after.”

Special guest speaker U.S Army Captain Jonathan Vallone said this year is special because it’s the 100th anniversary of the holiday Veterans Day. It began on the first anniversary of the end of World War 1, originally known as “The war to end all wars.” Vallone is a strength manager in the Military Personnel division at the U.S. Army Sustainment Command.

“We are fortunate to be in a community that has such an appreciation for veterans and honoring those who served our country. Being located near the Rock Island Arsenal allows us to have amazing military members engage our small community like Capt. Vallone,”



Special guest speaker U.S Army Captain Jonathan Vallone spoke to Veterans, teachers and students at Sherrard High school during a memorial assembly on Veterans day Monday morning. *Cala Smoldt/Sherrard Dist. Journalist*

School board president Rhys Fullerlove told the crowd. He said the district is grateful for

Vallone’s willingness to talk to students, staff and veterans. Approximately 75 vet-

erans were in attendance for the assembly.



(Above) Band Instructor David Grayson leads the group in playing patriotic tunes during the district’s memorial assembly on Veterans Day.

Cala Smoldt/Sherrard Dist. Journalist



School Board President Rhys Fullerlove introduced the guest speaker U.S. Army Captain Jonathan Vallone “Today is my distinct privilege to introduce our guest speaker... who plays a key role in ensuring we take care of our greatest weapons system... our people.” (Pictured below) *Cala Smoldt/Sherrard Dist. Journalist*



Past and present veterans who attended Sherrard schools were featured in a short film created for the Veterans Day assembly at Sherrard Hs by the Sherrard video production team, overseen by media production teacher Brian Hutton.

Cala Smoldt/Sherrard Dist. Journalist



Approximately 75 veterans attended the memorial ceremony held by Sherrard School District on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2019. Most were escorted by a Sherrard student *Cala Smoldt/Sherrard Dist. Journalist*



“Like” Sherrard School District on Facebook!



Follow us on Twitter @200Sherrard



7th Grade girls basketball team had an incredible season. Their State journey ended today falling in the Elite 8, 30-19 to Quincy St. Peter, Dec. 7 finishing in the top 8 with 23 wins and only 2 losses.

Photo Submitted



Athletic Calendar

To see team rosters, team photos, game schedules, event locations, and postponed games go to: <http://il.8to18.com/SherrardHS>

Sign up for updates:

- Go to the athletic calendar
- E-Mail Alert - on the right side of the page and click the "Click to Join" link.
- Then, "Create New Account"
- Select the sports that you would like to receive email alerts and click - "Add Selected Sports" button.

Also search the Sherrard Boosters Facebook group to stay connected.



Flag flown over Iraq gifted to Sherrard Grade



Sherrard Elementary Principal Konnie Fry (left), accepts a gift to the school from U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Adam Brose in an assembly on veterans day Nov. 11.

Cala Smoldt/Sherrard Dist. Journalist

Sherrard Elementary was gifted a flag flown in Iraq on Constitution Day in a ceremony on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. The flag, now in a commemorative display box with a certificate, was flown on Sept. 17 specifically in honor of the school.

U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Adam Brose just returned from a 6 month deployment to

Iraq- it was his gift to the school. His daughter, Madison Brose, is a second grader at SGS.

"15 years ago I joined the Army, I took an enlistment oath to support and defend the constitution of the United States. It was my chance to give back to a community that's been very supportive during my deployment."

He said he wanted to

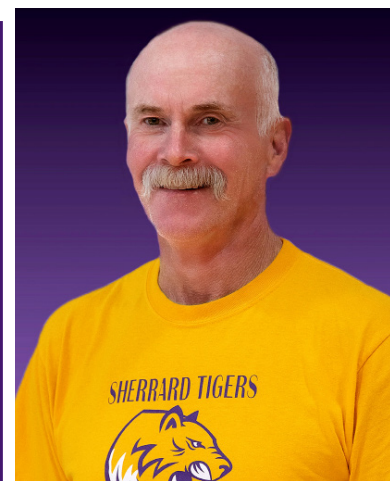
express his gratitude for those who supported his daughter while he was away.

"The sherrard district and community was very supportive. They were there for Madi."

Sherrard Grade Principal Konnie Fry said Brose brought the flag in one day the previous week - instead she asked him to do it in ceremony, "He brought it to me... all cased and everything so beautifully, I said, 'Oh no you can't just hand this to me, this is way nicer.'"

"We were really thrilled," she said.

The flag was flown over Erbil Air Base in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.



Wrestling coach Jeff Garrett (pictured at left) achieved 250th win

Boys cross country (below) qualified for state and finished 24th. Highest finisher - Jacob Belha finishing 67th. Photo Submitted



(Pictured at left) U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Adam Brose (right) told the students why he wanted to gift the school with a U.S. flag flown over Erbil Air Base in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region - to show his gratitude for taking care of his daughter, second grader Madison Brose, (left) while he was away.

Sherrard teenager's organ donation a lesson in selflessness

Sara's story

It's been 16 years since 16-year-old Sara Wyant's tragic death meant life for three organ donor recipients.

It was May 2003 and the Sherrard sophomore had just gotten her driver's license. Right away she signed the back of the card to be an organ donor and promptly told her parents about her decision. It was a selfless act that she couldn't possibly know would have life-changing consequences five months later.

Tracy Wyant, Sara's mother, carries on her daughter's legacy by telling Sara's story.

She spoke about and for her daughter, to seniors in Tammy Crippen's English class at Sherrard High School on Oct. 15. She told the wide-eyed class about the journey her daughter took to become an organ donor and the unexpected accident that made that decision a reality far sooner than anyone expected.

It happened early on Monday, Oct. 27, a clear, crisp, fall morning as she was setting out for school. With her, an assignment for English class, a persuasive speech in favor of organ donation. She had practiced the speech with Crippen - but she never got to deliver it to her classmates. In the end, her choice to be a donor spoke louder than any speech ever could.

"I didn't get my miracle, but I could give my miracle to someone else. I could answer someone else's prayers, I could do that as one of the people responsible for her," Wyant said to the class. ...To me, that was a comfort."

She told the students



Sherrard High School Seniors listen intently to Sara's story, from her mother, Tracy Wyant - and what they need to know about organ donation. *Cala Smoldt/Sherrard Dist. Journalist*

she and her daughter had a close relationship. Wyant remembers riding horses with her daughter and enjoying the outdoors one day the previous summer when she brought up a serious topic. They were talking about a show that told the story of a woman who had been on life support for 20+ years, "she said, "What would you want us to do?"

They both agreed if nothing else could be done, they would want family to let go and, "pull the plug." "It's ironic we had conversations like that... It's unimaginable. That's not something you have in your vocabulary when you're talking about your kids."

By Thursday her brain could no longer regulate the temperature of her body - a first sign that she wouldn't be coming home, according to Wyant.

"The doctors came and asked, 'What about organ donation?' Im-

mediately, my thoughts went back to that conversation... 'yeah she definitely wanted that.'"

Older brother Casey, 19 at the time, agreed with the decision, according to Wyant. "He said, 'If this is what she wanted, this is what we really need to respect.'

Sara's dad, Rob, was unsure which organs he was comfortable donat-

ing.

She said the process was much more overwhelming than they expected.

"We thought it was going to be about signing a paper and saying 'goodbye.'"

Wyant explained the patient has to be clinically brain dead. She told the students the experience was surreal, to go from praying all week that the shunt they placed would drain the fluid from her brain - to praying that her brain would expand, once the shunt was shut off, so

her organs could successfully be donated, "You go from praying one thing to the complete opposite."

By Friday morning, Oct. 31, CT scans showed no brain activity.

Representatives from The Donor Network took the family into a conference room and went over a long list of possible organ donations.

She said based on the condition of Sara's organs,

they were limited on what could be donated. They finally came to a decision, "After a lot of heartache and anguish and talking to doctors and family."

By 11 p.m. that night they found matches for her kidneys, liver, and pancreas. They were donated to three people, men aged 42 and 57, and a woman, 34.

The Wyant's were able to connect with the 34-year-old woman - also named Tracy. The similarities between her and Sara were an affirmation for the family. They both

loved animals, horses in particular, and spent a lot of time in nature.

The recipient, Tracy, received Sara's pancreas and a kidney. She had been diabetic since age 10 and went into renal failure at 32.

"She had to quit her job - one of her letters said she wasn't allowed to go into the lot where cows were, if she tripped and fell she could be trampled or hurt... Her life was very limited." Wyant was excited to hear the other Tracy's body started working with her new kidney right away.

"Our gift of life to her meant she could actually live again, she didn't have to worry the next day she would go into complete failure," said Wyant.

Sara's classmates back in Sherrard had taken letters and cards for the family while they waited for her condition to improve or worsen. The support, Wyant said, was encouraging.

The students decided to name the fall school American Red Cross blood drive in her honor — that same week.

"That was such a huge honor. One thing that makes you the saddest is (the thought) - they'll be forgotten," said Wyant. The Sara Wyant Memorial Blood Drive just concluded its 16th year at Sherrard high school on Nov. 1.

Crippen invited Wyant as part of her 'Friday Feature' for her senior students to learn life skills.

She said the purpose of bringing in various speakers is to, "Help them not just be academically prepared, but socially and emotionally

Organ Donate *continued on page 7*

Grandparents Day

Pictured below - Sherrard Elementary had a wonderful Grandparents Day breakfast Oct. 3. "So many happy faces and lots of hugs. This was a fantastic way to start our day. We love our grandparents! Thank you to all who came to be with us today! A special thanks to SHS School Senate students for volunteering and helping us today!" said Konnie Fry, Sherrard Grade Principal.

Photo Submitted



Organ Donate

continued from page 6

prepared as well."

"Every time a speaker is done, I just feel a little bit better, because I can do a lot of things academically - but once they're out of here... I can't do anything. I feel like I've given them the resources to make their life better in the future," said Crippen.

Crippen said she always talks about Sara and her memory. Her own sister, Danette Stone, chose to become an organ donor because of Sara's story shared by Crippen, just days before she unexpectedly passed away.

"That message she gave today is going with the kids outside of these walls, and that's all you can ever ask," she said.

Crippen described Sara as a "free-spirited old soul - who always spoke her mind...", and a

"hippie."

"It was so funny, she liked to take her shoes off in my class," said Crippen, fondly remembering Sara. She keeps her picture up in her classroom - and other tokens to keep her memory alive.

Sherrard senior Payton Hutchins said her message was, "powerful", and he's interested in becoming an organ donor. Especially on the heels of a classmate and teammate Alyn Hall's untimely death last year. "That's something you don't prepare for and you don't expect to ever."

Wyant's message to the seniors is simple. Make an informed decision and tell someone. Illinois residents can register to be an organ donor at <https://www.lifegoeson.com>, in Iowa go to <https://www.iowaadonornetwork.org>.

"In my mind, when you're dead - your body

is not going to help anybody in the ground, might as well donate the things you can... Somewhere along the way, you may know somebody who passes away and could be an organ donor. If that happens you'll be a little bit more prepared / educated about what that means," Wyant said.

She told students not to worry about bringing up a person who's died to their loved ones, "It's enough to say 'I don't know what to say, but I'm thinking about you.'"

Wyant and her husband make it their mission to attend visitations for young people and to be there for the surviving families. Her message to them, "It sucks, but you will be happy again, you will be okay, you'll make it. But you just have to continue on."

Sherrard band students march in Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade



Closest to farthest away, Evan Gagliardo, Brett Pope, Steven Shaw, Kamryn Linskey, Jared Hood

Photo Submitted

Five Sherrard high school students represented the school in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City - marching with The Macy's Great American Marching Band broadcast on national television on NBC.

Last year, with the help of Sherrard band director David Grayson, now senior Jared Hood opened the door of opportunity when he auditioned and made the special marching band. His experience lead to more interest.

The five students are: senior Jared Hood on Tenor Sax, junior Evan Gagliardo on Alto Sax, sophomore Steven Shaw on Clarinet, senior Kamryn Linskey on Trumpet, and senior Brett Pope on Trumpet.

The Macy's Great American Marching Band is made up select high school student from all 50 states.

"I'm very impressed and proud of these kids," said Grayson.

The Band performed for over 3 million spectators attending the parade, and more than 50 million tv viewers watched the broadcast live on NBC. According to the band's website: www.musfestivals.com/Programs/Great-American-Marching-Band

The group flew out Nov. 23 to begin the nightly rehearsal schedule.

The 93rd Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade was Nov. 28, 9 a.m. - noon ET.

Tracy Wyant (below) recounts the events that transpired leading up to the decision to donate her daughter's organs. *Cala Smoldt/Sherrard Dist. Journalist*



Cops and Kids at Christmas a slam dunk for local children

Sherrard school teachers and staff won against Riverdale school district, 38-34 in a fundraiser basketball game advertised as, 'out of shape basketball' on Nov. 11. The game brought in over \$2,000 for the Rock Island County Sheriff's Department, "Cops and Kids at Christmas" program.

Competition was fierce, a husband and wife pair played on rival teams, Sherrard P.E. teacher Paula Zigler played against her husband, Justin Zigler, a Riverdale Junior High P.E. teacher.

At half time Sherrard Resource Officer Mike Mendoza and Riverdale Resource Officer Jim Miller presented a check for \$8,077.50 to Rock Island County Sheriff's Department Captain Steve Venhuizen from recent combined efforts fundraising for the program.

Winola Elementary's family night, Sept. 30, was a success.

Photo Submitted



Family Reading Night at Sherrard Elementary was well attended and fun for all Oct. 1.

Photo Submitted



Sherrard and Riverdale school district teachers and staff competed in a basketball fundraiser to benefit Rock Island County's 'Cops and Kids at Christmas' program.

Cala Smoldt/Sherrard Dist. Journalist

The crowd enjoyed antics from Officer Miller, including a bacon eating break in the middle of the court. Officer Mendoza issued a challenge for Sherrard cheerleaders to collect \$100 from the audience in a short time frame for him to play the rest of the game in a gold-colored tutu.

The game was well-attended by fans from both districts and included admission by donation, concessions, bake sale items, and half time games to contribute to the night's earnings.

Each year Mendoza takes 10 Sherrard kids for the shopping event.



Sherrard P.E. teacher Paula Zigler caught a pass. She played against husband, Justin Zigler, Riverdale Jr. High P.E. teacher. Officer Mendoza can be seen wearing a tutu after the crowd met a \$100 challenge.

Cala Smoldt/Sherrard Dist. Journalist

Vape dangers outlined for intermediate students



Sherrard Resource Officer Mike Mendoza talked to fifth and sixth grader students at Matherville Intermediate about vaping early December.

He taught students what an E-Cigarette is, and how it works. He explained that you can overdose on nicotine

and the lasting effects it can have on health.

He warned them about peer pressure - and what to do when they're offered a vape, "If it says poison stay away from it. Your parents wouldn't want you to be around poison."

"Are E-Cigarettes better than smoking? We don't know," he said. The alternative hasn't been studied over the long-term, and thus, long-term health risks/affects are unknown.

He told students current research shows that youth who vape

are more likely to start smoking cigarettes.

Fifth grader Kaylee Faccio said she learned a lot from the presentation. She didn't know one cartridge is equal to the nicotine content of one pack of cigarettes.

The conversation confirmed what she already suspected, "I always thought it was really bad."

Mendoza said the purpose of the talk is to, "To make them aware of the negative side of vaping... even though kids think it's a better alternative."

Staff brings holiday cheer to school hallways



Resource Officer Mike Mendoza (left) and Activities Director Michael Applegate (right) show holiday spirit in "ugly Christmas sweaters" the week prior to the district's winter break. *Photo submitted*



Matherville Intermediate staff were encouraged to wear "ugly Christmas sweaters" Friday's in December. Mary Hessman Admin. Asst. (left) poses with Jeff Shillinger, Principal (right). *Cala Smoldt/Sherrard Dist. Journalist*