

#SHERRARDROARS

Vol. 5 Issue 2

Tigers Today Transforming Tomorrow

April - Aug. 2022

Graduates Celebrate - Class of 2022

Ceremony and photos on pages 4-5



Alumni Return to Work Construction



Mike Iverson (above), Crawford Company, '88 Sherrard graduate, worked in the rafters of the new science lab. *Cala Smoldt*

Several alumni have been spotted working on construction projects that began across the district last spring.

Some of those projects have been pushed as far back as next spring - due to supply chain issues. Superintendent Dr. Carl Johnson gave a bulleted run-down:

- The multi-building project is under budget, even after change orders
- Concrete at unit office parking lot is finished

-All delays are "supply chain/availability" issues, not contractor performance issues

Winola Grade

- New AC compressor being installed to utilize existing system
- Unit based system will be installed in the spring/summer of 2023

Sherrard Grade

- Playground concrete & sidewalks poured
- Additional safety fencing installed
- Sod installed and growing

-Precast panel manufacturing has been pushed back several times

- Foundation/floors will not be poured until spring due to panel delay
- Groundbreaking ceremony will happen in the spring

Matherville Intermediate

- Some HVAC units functional Aug 1st
- Ship date for the class-

Construction

continued on page 7



Jakeub Peterson (above), 2020 graduate, worked on-site in several locations throughout the high school with Ragan Mechanical. *Cala Smoldt*

Parents, Students Meet Dr. Johnson



Superintendent Dr. Carl Johnson met parents and students during each elementary backpack night, and junior high and high school orientations.

Cala Smoldt/Director of Public Relations



From the Desk of the Superintendent



Sherrard Superintendent Dr. Carl Johnson

As many of you have already heard, I am overjoyed to be serving as your superintendent! Coming back to my home district has brought back many memories and given me the opportunity to catch up with so many people. I've also been able to meet a tremendous amount of "new" people in the community during our "back-

pack nights' to begin the school year. Having those conversations has definitely reinforced my excitement to be here. I'm proud to once again be a Sherrard Tiger and rejoin the tight-knit community where I grew up. It certainly feels like coming home.

This summer has been an exciting time for me. I not only became a proud grandpa when my daughter gave birth to a healthy baby, but I also asked my longtime love for her hand in marriage (she said yes, in case you were wondering). We also purchased land on which to build our new home in the Sherrard district...so as I said, exciting times indeed!

For students, August begins a new chapter in their lives as they

jump into a new grade level, and for some, a new building. With the excitement, many also experience anxiety as they navigate uncharted waters. We all experience some measure of trepidation when we face new challenges - even good ones.

Our district has phenomenal school counselors who have a passion to serve students. They work hand in hand with families in our district to provide mental health support to our students - your children, to make sure we are addressing their needs as they adjust to the new school year. Importantly, we should all remember September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Schools are no strangers to the tragedy of loss when a student

is the victim of suicide. While we can't control every outcome, we can take steps to identify and support those who find themselves on the slippery slope of despair. We have flyers up in the restrooms at the JH/HS with easy access to mental health resources, including a QR code to easily set up an appointment with a school counselor.

I also want to remind parents to download the P3Tips App. It is the easiest way to submit anonymous tips to any Crime Stoppers organization. Have a conversation with your child about what types of situations necessitate its use and help them become familiar with School Resource Officer Mike Mendoza. He is visible throughout the school day, he makes

stops at all the buildings in the district throughout the school year. You can find his photo on the website under 'our district', 'staff directory'. Student safety is our priority and we are tasked with partnering with you - parents and caregivers - to provide mental health resources and a safe place for learning.

I look forward to meeting more folks in our community as the school year progresses. Be sure and say 'hi' when you see me out and about! This is going to be an amazing school year... and remember... give a student a chance to impress you and they usually will!

Follow Dr. Johnson on Twitter at the handle @Sherrard200Supt

College-Bound Athletes Sign to Play at the Next Level

Six Sherrard student-athletes will be going on to play at the next level.

Each student had at least a 4.0 GPA last semester on top of leading their teams to success.

"The Sherrard community wishes you continued success playing at the next level and thanks you for the legacy you have left!" said Michael Applegate, Act. Director.



Above, Left to right, Blake Wynn - Central College to play Golf, Clayton Matkovic- Monmouth College for Baseball, Avrie Schmidt - Lincoln-Land Community College for Basketball, Charlotte Frere - Augustana College for Basketball and Track, Bella Dean - North Dakota State for Softball, Miranda Saylor signing with Hannibal-LaGrange University for Softball. *Cala Smoldt*

Goodbye Retirees

...Hello retirement!

Sherrard School District retirees were honored at the all-staff breakfast the last week of the 2021/2022 school year.

The following were recognized in alphabetical order:

Superintendent Alan Boucher is retiring after 36 years of public education service - 15 of those spent at Sherrard School District - where he first served as Principal of Coyne Center Elementary 1998-2006, and then superintendent in 2015 to present.

The Sherrard School Board hosted a retirement ceremony in Boucher's honor on May 20 at Pinnacle Country Club.

School Board President Rhys Fullerlove spoke about Mr. Boucher's career. "It's been said that the beautiful thing about learning, and about education, is that it can never be taken away from you. I think that Alan

completely understood, and fully embraced, that philosophy. He wanted every kid who passed through this district to receive an education that would last a lifetime - that would equip them with the knowledge and the insight to take advantage of whatever opportunities which came along and enable them to succeed in their own lives and careers. This was Alan's guiding star - he never lost sight of it, and he inspired so many others to pursue it along with him. That's why we honor him, and why he'll always be remembered.

To be sure, we will miss Alan, maybe more than we know - but, to be honest, we'll carry on without him. We'll keep moving forward because of the progress we made under his leadership, and because he leaves us pointed in the right direction. We will continue to build on what he built here over the

years, and continue to use him as a role model of what it means to be an outstanding educator. His legacy will endure for a long time to come - and, just like the learning which he helped instill in so many students, it will never be taken from us.

Godspeed, Alan, and may your retirement years be filled with joy. You've certainly earned it. Thank you."

Mary Hessman - Secretary at Matherville Intermediate school, previously secretary at Winola Elementary School is retiring after 25 years in the district.

Christy Pagett, music teacher at Matherville had this to say, "I've known Mary for 5 years, she's always a welcoming face to everyone in the office, including staff, parents and students. She'll be greatly missed by everyone in the district. When you're a part of a family you take care of one another, and being part of a

smaller staff, we always say that MV is like a big family and Mary sure has been a big part of it. Mary's been taking care of kids and staff for over 25 years in our district, being a secretary in Winola for 20 years and Matherville intermediate for the last 5 - although her time with us has been short I think I can speak for all of us at Matherville when I say that it's hard to imagine things without her. She's always put the needs of others before her own, she's always kept things running really smoothly, as much as they can in the office - which can get pretty hectic at times."

Brian Hutton - Taught Social Studies/Media Productions (including STV) for 35 years at Sherrard High School.

Kim McCreight, PE and Drivers Ed teacher spoke about Hutton during the all-staff breakfast, "I first met Brian in the

late 90's when he was coaching my son Tyson and Ty was in 6th grade. We came over from Aledo to be in his camp, which was an amazing camp he put on every summer. I was scared. Super scared of him. He was really a great coach, and that was one of the reasons why in 2000 we decided we were going to move over here, and he was a big part of the reason we moved over here.

From that point on I decided I probably better look at getting a spit guard for my son's face because he was always in it. I kept telling Ty, if he wasn't paying attention to you, you probably wouldn't be on the court.

You've been a great mentor for me, a personal friend and I've enjoyed working with you. We're going to miss you. Thank you for being a part of Sherrard, and thank you for being a great basketball coach and a teacher to my kids as well."

Congratulations to all! Thank you for the investment of your time, energy, and talents. Our district is better because of you. Take care of yourselves and remember that you will always be a Sherrard Tiger. Best wishes for a prosperous and healthy retirement.

HS Spanish Class at SGS All-District Lunch

Spanish 5 students became teachers to close out the school year last May when they created Spanish lessons for fourth graders at Sherrard Elementary. Those who volunteered for the opportunity created lesson plans geared towards the elementary age group and visited both fourth grade classrooms in coordination with teachers Jackie Kelly and Riley Welch.

Spanish teacher, Senora Ana Lopez said the students created the entire experience on their own, "It was an amazing opportunity for the Spanish 5 seniors. I want to give Jackie Kelly and Riley Strandgard (Welch) a big shout out. They were the ones that came up with the quick "teaching" experience. My students had the opportunity to choose the topics they wanted to teach. The Spanish 5 students were completely in charge of creating all the materials they would need in order

to teach the four grade class. They worked together in groups to create daily lesson plans, activities and follow alongs. They were so nervous the first day but very excited!"

She said the students had to depend on one another when they were conducting the classes at the elementary school. "Overall, it was a great experience for all of us. The fourth graders were able to learn basic greeting skills, colors, numbers and animals in Spanish and my seniors were able to see the other side of learning Spanish, the teaching side." said Senora Lopez.

"These kids caught on so quickly and they were excited (to learn), said Isabela Dean.

Senior, Blake Wynn said, "I was telling the students we were going to learn numbers next

and one student just started counting in Spanish! I was like, well... I guess I need to rework my lesson." Wynn also said it's been a nostalgic experience for him to be back in the elementary school.

Gabriella Brown, Spanish continued on page 7



Following an in-service training, teachers and staff were treated to pulled pork, catered by Farmhouse Foods/ Joe Stead. Hy-Vee catered the sides - sponsored and served by members of the Sherrard Board of Education. Superintendent Dr. Johnson also helped serve. *Cala Smoldt*



Spanish students pose at Sherrard Grade School after working with fourth graders on the foreign language. *Cala Smoldt*

Class of 2022 “Dream Big & Shoot for the Stars”



Above, the graduating class of 2022 pose for a photo before the graduation ceremony held on May 22, 2022. More photos found in 'Albums' on the district Facebook page, or go to www.sherrard.us. *Cala Smoldt*

Sunday, May 22, 2022 - The school band played “Pomp and Circumstance” arranged by Edward Elgar as graduates walked through a warm breeze onto the track to take their seats. It’s the second year the school held the commencement ceremony outside - and the weather cooperated just as perfectly as it did in 2021.

High School Principal Tim Wernentin, followed by Senior Class

President Charlotte Frere began the ceremony welcoming the audience. The band and chorus performed “Let There Be Peace”, Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, arranged by Douglas E. Warner.

Assistant Principal, and 2004 Sherrard graduate, Alex Johnson, gave the Senior Address.

For the last time, retiring Superintendent Alan Boucher announced and congratulated

students who earned Academic Honored throughout their high school career.

Lily Kregel gave the Class of 2022 Address. She gave the class words from patients she tends to at Mercer Manor, rehabilitation and nursing center, in her role as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA).

“One man said, ‘There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind. To accomplish great things, we

must not only act, but also dream. Not only plan, but also believe. Your life is your story and the adventure ahead of you is the journey to fulfill your own purpose and potential.’ This is one of the most amazing things I have ever heard someone say to me, and I felt it needed to be shared with not only these seniors but everyone here today. Life is too short to worry about the little things, dream big and

shoot for the stars.”

The graduating class of 2022 in alphabetical order: Dilay Sena ACAR, Sydney Louise Adamson, Ella Rae Bickle, Aubrey Ryanna Boyer, Noah Thomas Bradarich, Sophia Olivia Branch, Alan Richard Brimeyer, Gabriella Louise Brown, Nathaniel Leon Bynum, Kali Rachel Cameron, Benjamin Daniel Churchill, Rokia Maria Clauss, William Alan Scott Cook, Erica Elizabeth

Coyne, Morgan Dale Crandall, Alex James David, Robert Lee Davis III, Trevor James Davis, Isabella Marie Dean, Braetan Ross DeHamer, Jacquelyn Noelle Dennis, Hannah Alexis Dochterman, Wyatt David Dochterman, Cody Andrew Dutton, Kayla Ann Easley, Noelle Elizabeth Engels, Fern Louise Ericson, Gage Anthony Franklin, Austin Andrew Fratzke, Charlotte Lisette Frere, Emily Jo

Gainey, Abigyle Lynn Gerdes, Lucas Alexander German, Ashton Caleb Gibson-DeBoer, Jaxon Scott Jonathan Hassebrock, Jacob Tyler Hergert, Alyssa Marie Hileman, Christopher Michael Hogan, Tayven Marie Householder, Bo Michael Johnson, Elaina Irene Johnson, Kylie RaeAnn Jones, Michael Anthony Jones Jr., Connor James Jordan, Chase Aaron Klauer, Addison Ruth Knox, Dylan Michael

Kovacic, Brenin Samuel Krack, Lily Ann Kregel, Terryn Michael Krup, Emily Jacqueline Inez LeMaire, Morgan Elisabeth Lester, Titus Lee Obie Logston, Tyler Allen Lukaszewski, Kevin Madrigal, Blake Ashton Martin, Joshua Michael Mathias, Clayton Daniel Matkovic, Kadence Lee-Ann McCartney, Mariah Ann Meyers, Sawyer John Mital, Nicholas Scott Morrison, Hope Elise Orłowski, Lucas James Pappas, Hailey

Josephine Radloff, Alexis Nichole Reynolds, Ryder Bo Roelf, Ryan Thomas Romine, Dylan Thomas Russell, Addison Olivia Ryan, Miranda Sue Saylor, Benjamin Joseph Schmelzer, Avrie Lynn Schmidt, Ryan Alexander Schomburg, Benjamin Michael Scott, Malinda Jane Sharp, Steven Tanner Shaw, Jaylan J’Shawn Shelby, Corey Alexander Millhouse Short, Belahna Jo Marie Slavish, Lexi Marie Smith, Logan

James Smith, Jenna Nicole Sorrell, Ella Nicole Spengler, Hayden Michael Steagall, Payne Michael Suman, Kacie Marie Swanson, Olivia Rose Lanae Switzer, Logan Jeffrey Thurman, Elizabeth Lynn Tucker, Briar Rose Viager, Marshall Blake Warner, Brennan Thomas Welch, Mason Lee Whittington, Makenzie Lee Williams, Mason Lee Williams, Blake Matthew Wynn, and Ashley Kay Yudis.



Academic Achievement Awards



The Sherrard Academic Achievement Awards was held May 3 in the High School Auditorium and honored several academic grant recipients in each class. *Cala Smoldt*

The Sherrard Academic Achievement Awards honored many students and awarded scholarship funds in May.

Those honored for Academic Achievement (maintaining a 4.0 or higher GPA) include the following:

Freshmen:
Nadia Anderson, Broderick Bender, Matthew Breitenstein, Elizabeth Churchill, Jenna Copeland, Quinn DeLoose, Savannah Hauger, Maya Haynes, Alyssa Layer, Aaliyah McDaniel, Violet Meskan, Clara Messerly, Zoey Rains, Maximilian Serre, Jenna Szymborski, Alyssa Werner, Sydney Wright

Sophomores:
Holland Anderson, Kinley Anderson, Riley Cabor, Kaitlynn DeBlock, Allyson Eckhardt, Isabelle Estes, Noah Fender, Mara Franklin, Kyler Gross, Ava Hartman, Lindsay Holliday, Jaiden Juras, Autumn Kongkousonh, Lillian Russell, Lauryn VanWinkle, Vincent Wiley, Carter Wynn, Eva Zimmerman

Juniors:
Carly Anderson, Kate-lyn Barnhouse, Lauren Copeland, Aubren Dominique, Keaton Egel, Kyla Elsbury, Sarah Gibson, Parker Hann, Olivia Meskan, Addison Pickens, Hanna Rinehart, Carson Schar, Hailie

Shemek, Emma Smith, Gina Steckel, Nathan Strandberg, Addison Szymborski

Seniors:
Dilay ACAR, Benjamin Churchill, Rokia Clauss, Cody Dutton, Charlotte Frere, Ryder Roelf, Dylan Russell, Miranda Saylor, Payne Suman, Kacie Swanson, Elizabeth Tucker, Marshall Warner

Scholarships and Awards from various organizations:
American Legion School Award: Benjamin Churchill and Charlotte Frere
American Legion Honorable Mention: Noah Bradarich and Hannah Dochterman
BJ Luxmore Scholarship: Clayton Matkovic and Dylan Russell
Farmers State Bank: Clayton Matkovic
Illinois State Scholars: Benjamin Churchill, Payne Suman, Rokia Clauss, Kacie Swanson, Cody Dutton, Elizabeth Tucker, Charlotte Frere, Marshall Warner, and Dylan Russell

Midwest Technical College: Ashley Yudis
Royal Neighbors of America: Kacie Swanson
Sherrard Academic Foundation: Adam Brimeyer, Charlotte Frere, Benjamin Churchill, Sawyer Mital, Wyatt Dochterman, and Kacie Swanson
Sherrard Booster Club: Benjamin Churchill, Charlotte Frere,

Erica Coyne, and Kacie Swanson
Suzanne Kain Memorial Scholarship: Charlotte Frere
Sherrard Education Association: Benjamin Churchill, Kayla Easley, and Charlotte Frere
Illinois Air National Guard: Austin Fratzke and Terryn Krup
US Marine Corps: Noah Bradarich
USMC Distinguished Athlete Award: Austin Fratzke

For many years the Milan Chamber of Commerce provided the financial backing for the Academic Achievement Awards. Several years ago, the chamber could no longer commit the money to support the scholarships. This year, thanks to the generosity of 2009 Sherrard Alumni Ryan Carlson, the Academic Achievement awards once again have financial benefit to those receiving the awards. Ryan is the Owner & CEO of Specialty Capital, Inc., a Las Vegas-based private holding company with investments in commercial real estate, development, and private equity. Ryan contributed \$25,000 to be divided up between the first place and runner-up of each of the seven departments presenting awards. Ryan has

already committed another \$25,000 to next year's scholarship fund.

Department Awards:

English:
1st place - Benjamin Churchill
2nd place - Rokia Clauss

Mathematics:
1st place - Payne Suman
2nd place - Dylan Russell

Science:
1st place - Miranda Saylor
2nd place - Rokia Clauss

Social Studies:
1st place - Benjamin Churchill
2nd place - Charlotte Frere

Vocational:
1st place - Benjamin Churchill
2nd place - Morgan Lester

Fine Arts:
1st place - Hannah Dochterman
2nd place - Marshall Warner

Foreign Language:
1st place - Charlotte Frere
2nd place - Payne Suman

Other contributors:
1st Community Bank, American Legion Auxiliary, Blackhawk Bank & Trust, Kyle Gagliardo DDS, Mercer County Retired Teachers Association, Rock Island Optometric Center, Village of New Windsor

Soundation Winners



Matherville Intermediate held a school-wide music production competition, in May. Students submitted a one min, or longer, digital music composition using Soundation (an online digital audio workstation or DAW). "They could use any of the premade loops and cut or mix them, or they could create/add some of their own MIDI (musical instrument digital interface) creations using our new controllers or online MIDI options in the program," said Chorus teacher Christina Pagett.

After three rounds of competition by popular vote, winners were 6th grader Riley Mackin in second place, and 5th grader Brooklyn Relander who won first overall. "The kids really enjoy the journey almost more than the competition. Everyone has a lot of fun creating awesome sounds throughout the year," said Pagett.

Spanish

continued from Page 2

senior, wants to go into teaching. "I think it's really cool to experience teaching kids and see how quickly they catch on and learn things... 'It's 'eye opening' - It shows how much work they (teachers) actually put into what they're going to do and planning everything ahead of time and dealing with the kids and try to keep them contained and entertained in what you're doing." Brown said she plans to attend Western Illinois University, QC Campus. "I'm here because I think it's great that young kids want to learn Spanish," said Dean. "I think it's something they should teach young because it's easier to learn this way. They're catching on really quick

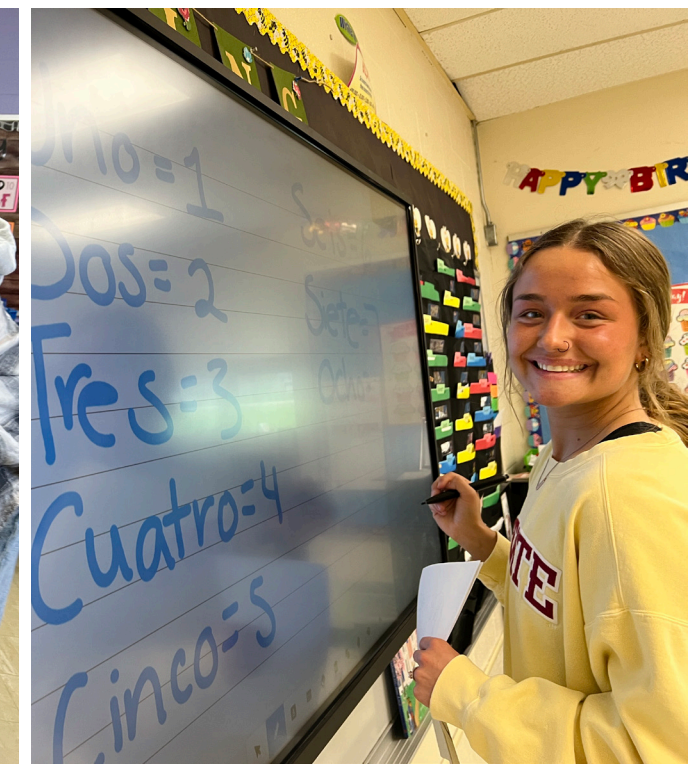


and they actually wanna learn more than we're teaching."

She said it's been stressful, "There's only so much you can cover in only 30 minutes - so you have to choose what's the most important thing to teach them... It's been a lot of planning, that's

for sure. We've spent everyday planning. We did colors today. I spent the last four days making worksheets for them."

Senora Lopez said they hope to have Spanish 5 students teach the younger grades every year - since the launch was so successful.



Construction

continued from front

room HVAC units is 8/24, with anticipated install September

-Gym roof replacement complete

SHS/SJHS

-The new greenhouse

is well underway - this will be a state-of-the-art facility

-Science room case-work/cabinetry is the main obstacle to finishing science rooms

-Canadian holiday among other manufacturing delays

-Lockers were pushed back due to manufacturing delays - currently being installed at the HS

-Roofing project complete

-Gym 2 floor is done, and beautiful!

-Hallway floors install complete



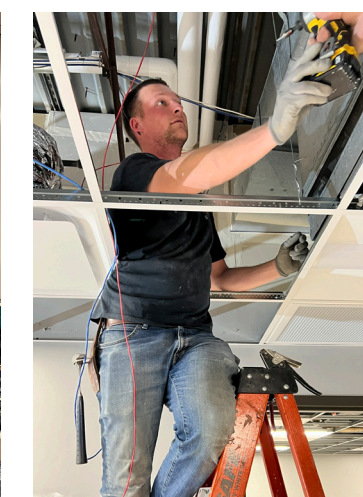
-Opportunity to fix a longstanding problem at the back door (gym/commons area) with ice and water is being taken!

"I know construc-

tion is not always easy, however I assure you it will be well worth it in the long run. Sherrard School District has always provided the very best for our students, and this will continue that fine tradition," said Dr. Johnson.



Above - Gym 2 floor redone, plus fresh paint. Below left, new flooring in the high school hallways. Below right, 2013 Sherrard Grad Nick Nash, Crawford Company. *Cala Smoldt*



Emily Yeater, (above) 2021 Sherrard graduate works at the school as a 'carpenter's apprentice'. *Cala Smoldt*



Brothers Sawyer Long, 2011 Sherrard graduate and Mason Long, 2005 grad work on carpet installation with Long's Carpet, based out of Rock Island. The company employs several Sherrard alum who have worked on the building. The brothers still live in the school district and have children that attend. *Cala Smoldt*

Nourish to Flourish Fights Hunger



Left to right, Stephanie Godke, Kim DeBlock, Alysse DeBlock, Penny Meskan and Charlotte Meskan. *Cala Smoldt*

The Sherrard Nourish To Flourish program provided a washer and dryer set to schools in Sherrard School District thanks to a sizable anonymous donation to the program in December. Matherville Intermediate, Sherrard Elementary and Winola Elementary schools received the sets to help out with accidents or messes made at school.

Nourish to Flourish has provided supplemental food items and basic clothing needs (as well as hygiene items) to children with a need for the past nine years. They served 72 children during the 2021/2022 school year, including both elementary schools and Matherville. Since the inception of the program, they have served roughly 70 students each year.

Penny Meskan and Kim DeBlock deliver boxes of bagged shelf-stable items to the schools each week, purchased with donations from the Riverbend Food Bank. The bag of supplemental food items is discreetly placed in students' bookbags on Fridays to help with food for the weekend.

Alysse DeBlock said she enjoys seeing her mom, Kim, volunteer, "Watching people help other people is nice - and like there are good things going on in the world."

Penny's daughter

**"We've given 'em fish, now we're teaching them to fish."
- Stephanie Godke**

Charlotte Meskan also helps out, "I feel like they're really making an impact on the community. It's special."

They were also presented with \$300 towards their efforts through the Ascentra "Pay It Forward" Program through WQAD in April. They were nominated by Stephanie Godke.

Godke is passionate about the program, and said she applies for any opportunity to fund the work they do, "Since the beginning of this program it's been of huge importance to me that no child in the United States goes hungry. This is the land of the free and we've got plenty of everything. It's just that we make sure we take care of our neighbors. Any kind of program where they could qualify for some

cash, because this takes cash every week, all year round. Everybody works so hard that when these options are available for such a good cause, I'm after it. I want to get that money for this program."

In May, the organization expanded to help kids with food security over the summer.

"Teaching them how to fry an egg, cook up some hamburger, and support them at home. If they're on their own they can at least be independent and know how to do some of those things safely and provide for their siblings that might be there," said Meskan.

Godke, who formerly taught culinary arts at local community colleges - taught 17 students how to cook some basic meal staples, knowledge they could take with them over the summer. Plus they each received a bag of essentials, including food items they just learned how to prepare, and basic cooking supplies in-



Senior Alex David (above) helped teach other students. He had plenty of experience after working as a cook at The New Windsor Depot. *Cala Smoldt*



Stephanie Godke (above), taught students how to safely and properly fry an egg, among other simple cooking measures - so they were prepared over the summer. *Cala Smoldt*

cluding a skillet, measuring cup and spatula. The kits totaled approximately \$1,500 funded by the Nourish to Flourish organization.

They met in the culinary arts room at the high school. They each had the opportunity to prepare food under the supervision of 'Nourish to Flourish' volunteers, and Godke's expert eye.

She taught the kids

how to make boxed pancakes, fry an egg, and safely brown ground beef - for hamburger helper and other meals.

"We've given 'em fish, now we're teaching them to fish," said Godke, "Since these students are now learning to properly cook, they can feed themselves without risk of getting sick or injuring themselves."



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