

# #SHERRARDROARS

Vol. 6 Issue 1

Tigers Today Transforming Tomorrow

Sept. - Dec. 2022

## A Tasty Recess Reward at Sherrard Grade



Front to back: Brynlee Westbrook, Alyssa Enstrom (peaking from behind), Emma Roose, Kingston Boone, Emersyn Mealman, Melanie Floyd and Alexander Davis wait patiently for a freezer pop from Principal Wyant. *Cala Smoldt/Director of Public Relations*



Left to right: Piper Sharer, Jemma Crow, Braxton Bender, Alexander Wiggins, and Melanie Floyd enjoy a freezer pop reward at recess. *Cala Smoldt*

Sherrard Grade students worked hard to earn tickets for demonstrating great character to begin the school year - they had an opportunity to trade those in for a freezer pop at recess.

Principal Casey

Wyant also had fun playing with students at recess. He reminded them to be proud of their good work.

"You were showing responsibility, respectfulness and being safe - we don't just hand these red tickets out,

you earn them with every single positive action.

We will continue to reward you with those things but the feeling that you have right now of pride - walking into this building and knowing that you've

made those positive choices - that's the important part. That's that intrinsic motivation we've been talking about."

Students were also excited to find and inspect a giant horn worm caterpillar ...

causing an excited commotion among the younger grades. Principal Wyant moved the insect to safety after giving everyone an opportunity to see it up close as students lined up for recess.

## Illinois State Scholars Announced: 8 Seniors Named



Back Row (L to R): Olivia Meskan, Carly Anderson, Addison Pickens, Kyla Elsbury, Hailie Shemek. Front Row (L to R): Gina Steckel, Lauren Copeland, Katelyn Barnhouse. *Cala Smoldt*

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission announced Illinois State Scholars, eight Sherrard seniors earned the

title.

They are: Carly Anderson, Katelyn Barnhouse, Lauren Copeland, Kyla Elsbury, Olivia Meskan,

Addison Pickens, Hailie Shemek, and Gina Steckel.

To receive the award, students must score in the 95th

percentile on the test and perform in the top one-half of their high school class.

"Becoming an Illinois State Scholar is quite an accomplishment, and we are extremely proud of these students. The last couple of years have been exceptionally hard with unusual challenges, and these students have continued to persevere," said Sherrard Academic Coordinator Julie Drish.

High schools report performance-based academic data and verification of Illinois residence to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission,

and the commission, in turn, gives out the award. The State Scholar formula calculation uses a combination of the ACT/SAT test scores, unweighted GPA, and class size.

Upon selection, both the student and their high school receive a certificate of achievement from the ISAC. Selected students also receive a congratulatory letter from the commission and a digital State Scholar' badge that can be displayed on their online profiles, social media accounts, and shared with prospective colleges and employers.



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# From the Desk of the Superintendent



Sherrard Superintendent  
Dr. Carl Johnson

Hello Tiger Families!  
As we now have the 2nd semester fully underway, I feel it is important to look back and reflect on the 1st semester; both to celebrate our successes and take advantage of the opportunities for im-

provement. We feel it is best for all educators to embrace this system of “reflective practice” to continually ensure the community is getting an ever improving experience.

This is truly an exciting time for the District, as every conversation about progress can include the tangible results of our construction projects! We are pleased to be finished with the multiple projects at the Jr/Sr High, including the new science rooms and the new greenhouse. Both of these projects have resulted in state of the art facilities the students can utilize to maximize academic opportunities.

The Board of Education hosted a “Grand Opening” for the facilities in the spring. Speaking of ceremonies, our Board of Education, administration, teachers and students also participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Sherrard Grade School addition!

As many of you were able to discover on our district webpage, the staff were able to start off 2nd semester with an extremely positive inservice designed to highlight the efforts and opportunities of all educators in our district, regardless of title. It was a great opportunity for the administration to highlight the efforts

and contributions of all employees! When one starts to think of the many Sherrard district personnel your students may interact with on a daily basis, the opportunity for positive interaction is truly incredible!

And finally, if those are the district highlights, what are my highlights? Well, I have enjoyed attending sporting events, visiting the buildings as much as I can, attending student functions including programs, concerts, performances and just daily activities. Many of you have also related how entertaining the “What’s Up Doc?” segments have been with

our youngest students; we are planning more segments with our older students as well. Last but not least, my beautiful family grew by one as I became a grandpa! Young Easton loves to visit with “Lolly & Pop!” Yes that’s how Allison & I shall refer to ourselves (with a straight face) and I am working hard to adapt to this new role.

In closing, I would again like to thank the community for welcoming me into the district. It has truly been a rewarding experience and I look forward to the many great things we will do!

## Sara Wyant Memorial Blood Drive



Sara Wyant was just 16 years old when she was in a fatal car accident that resulted in her death.. *Cala Smoldt*

It’s the 19 year anniversary of the tragic accident that resulted in the death of 16 year old Sherrard sophomore Sara Wyant. The annual Red Cross Memorial Blood Drive resumed at the high school in her honor , Friday, Nov. 4 - after a two year hiatus during the pandemic.

Her mother Tracy, and several family members were present to talk about organ donation.

“It keeps her memory alive,” said Tracy. Her message is simple - and hasn’t changed in 19 years... “Make an informed decision about organ donation - and tell someone.”

The Wyant family had a table set up with informa-

tion and buttons, as well as a photo of Sara - whose organ donations meant life for three recipients.

“If she hadn’t said she was going to donate - randomly one day - and signed the back of her license... We never would have thought it was anything that would be important. When it was time and she was declared brain dead - they come and ask you, do you wanna be an organ donor - we knew. What 16 year old thinks about that stuff? It’s why I tell kids, go home and talk to your family... Had she not talked to us - I don’t know we would have.”

My message and her legacy is to share that with your family,” said Tracy.

She speaks to senior English classes each year about Sara and organ donation.

Red Cross Club sponsor and JH PE teacher, Karlie Drish said, “We had a large number of students and staff give blood as well as many members from the community reaching our goal of 50 units donated. With this being my first year in charge of the club, I could not have asked for a better group to work with. ... All of the students in the red cross club were more than willing to help and many of them donated themselves.”

Students involved in the Red Cross Club worked in shifts to help set up, retrieve students for their appointments, register those donating among others tasks, and tear down at the end of the event.

Students who helped during the blood drive: Violet Meskan (10), Ryan Butz (9), Madison Crandall (10), Quinn Deloose (10), Laney Baugh (11), Savannah Wick (10), Emilee Palmer (10), Makenna Cameron (11), Jasleen Kaur (12), Olivia Cushman (10), Sandra Avila (12), Katelyn Barn-



The Wyant family attends the memorial blood drive each year to educate those giving blood about blood about organ donation. *Cala Smoldt*

house (12), Celia Buckwalter (11), Autumn Kongkousonh (11), Abigail Anderson (12), Addison Szymborski (12), Ava Egel (9), Ayva Kovacic (11), Hanna Rinehart (12), Kinley Anderson (11), Lauryn VanWinkle (11), Gina Steckel (12).

“They did an amazing job,” said Drish.

Illinois residents can register to be an organ donor at <https://www.lifegoeson.com>, in Iowa, <https://www.iowadonornetwork.org>.



Sara’s brother, Casey Wyant, is now the Sherrard Elementary Principal. *Photo Submitted*



# Cops and Kids at Christmas

## Resource Officer Mendoza New Organizer



Deputy and Sherrard Resource Officer Mike Mendoza took over organizing the Cops and Kids at Christmas event put on by the annual Rock Island County Sheriff's Department on the heels of the retirement of Deputy and Riverdale Resource Officer Jim Miller. *Cala Smoldt*

"The more comfortable and positive interactions kids have around law enforcement the more comfortable they are communicating with us. We are just trying to create a bond," said Rock Island Deputy and Sherrard Resource Officer Mike Mendoza.

Mendoza, the new organizer of Rock Island County Sheriff's Department's "Cops and Kids at Christmas", took over when Deputy and Riverdale Resource Officer Jim Miller retired.

On Dec. 6, the Walmart in Silvis, was a scene of uniformed deputies escorting kids up and down toy

aisles, the clothing and shoes departments, and even the home goods area - and back again, as they shopped for their families and crossed everyone off their Christmas list. The deputies' family members and other volunteers wrapped and labeled the gifts for the kids. At the end, deputies and kids were served a kid-friendly chicken strip dinner and enjoyed time together.

Each December, the deputies and department staff take kids shopping for gifts for their families. This was the first time since 2019 that the entire group of four schools

were able to shop at the same time.

Around 50 kids got to go shopping for the event from Sherrard, Rockridge, Riverdale and Eagle Ridge schools.

Sheriff Darren Hart said it takes \$6-\$7k to put on the annual event. The department fundraisers throughout the year.

"It shows that we care about our community, it allows for a little brighter Christmas for the children and families and a good way for our staff to give back to the community we serve here in Rock Island county."

His favorite part, "The ability to talk with the children. It's the interaction with the children we love so much."

He said they're working on organizing a fundraising event in the spring - a staff basketball game between Sherrard and Riverdale. A repeat of the same fundraising campaign between the district's held at Riverdale. Antics included Mendoza sporting a gold-colored tutu... and a bacon-eating break on the court. That event raised over \$2,000 for the Cops and Kids at Christmas program.

"We hope to have a great turnout like we did in 2019," said Mendoza.

Donations for the program are accepted all year round at the Rock Island County Sheriff's Department earmarked, "Cops and Kids at Christmas".



Bo Johnson, 2022 Sherrard grad, helped kids wrap gifts at the Copy and Kids at Christmas event. He currently serves with the Rock Island County Sheriff's Department. *Cala Smoldt*



Rock Island County Sheriff Darren Hart escorted kids to shop from their lists during the Cops and Kids at Christmas event, put on by the department. *Cala Smoldt*

## "Coffee with Carl"



Before the holiday break in December, Superintendent Dr. Carl Johnson hosted a community meet and greet at The Bean Field in Viola.

"Coffee with Carl" included pastries and district-focused conversation. Dr. Johnson caught up with community members - many he recognized from his time attending Sherrard in his youth. *Cala Smoldt*



# Elementary All-State Choir

Sixteen Matherville Intermediate students earned spots in the Elementary All-State Choir. "More kids made All-State Choir than we've ever had," said Music teacher, Christina Pagett. She said there are typically 7-8 kids who earn a spot.

She explained the process, "After an audition with me (singing a verse of a song of their choice, rhythmic sight reading, and singing the major scale), I had to rank the students in 5th grade separately from 6th grade.

Those scores were sent to the state and they got to select who is allowed to be in the group. Numbers are determined by school size, number of nominations, and what percentage of a school is allowed to make a certain percentage of the state choir."

5th: Henry Ahrens, Madison Brose, Claire

Curry, Ainsley Groth, Eliza Gustafson, Lennon Harris, Paige Hollins, Alaina Volkert (not pictured, Henry Ahrens and Ainsley Groth)

6th: Madilynn Berberich, Lucy Brown, Emily Campbell, Alysse DeBlock, Althea Gnatovich, Liliana Troutwine, John Tucker, and Lane Weber.

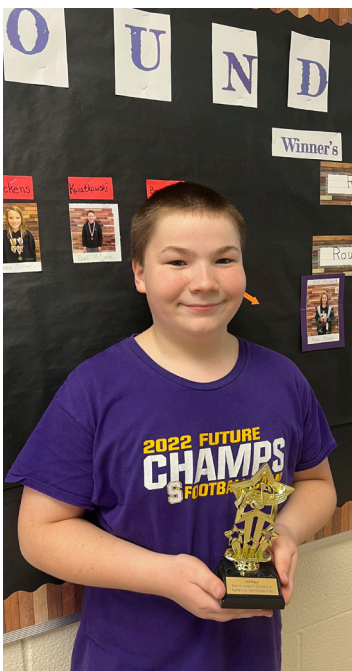
John Tucker, won third place for junior level 'Remix' for his digital composition at the ILMEA State competition.

Tucker was also the overall winner with his composition for Matherville Intermediate's 'Soundation' competition.

Music teacher Christina Pagett explained the process to submit his work for consideration at the state level, "He had to use samples given from another composer and remix them and try to come

up with a composition that was at least over a minute long and less than five. Looking at all of the schools that we're placing, so many were Chicago based schools, it was really cool to see our little school on the map," she said.

Hopefully kids will get more competitive in that category, it's the start of something, I think, for us," said Pagett.



## NHS Hunger Drive



After three months of collecting donations for the 2022 Student Hunger Drive, Sherrard donated, in total 5,600# of food for the 2022 Student Hunger Drive.

With monetary and can donations combined, the Sherrard community donated 10,000 meals to families in need - through the Sherrard NHS

Sherrard NHS President Lauren Copeland said, "It was

truly amazing to see how giving and generous our community was. We were astonished at the number of students and community members who willingly donated cash out of their own wallets to help us reach our goal and at the people who were already prepared with boxes of food when we got to their door for our trick-or-treating event. And we were so

grateful to the elementary schools who stepped up to help us collect food, as well. Not only is this hunger drive benefiting people all around our area, but it also directly impacts our community. The River Bend Food Bank supplies the Tiger Closet at the high school with food and products that allow us to help those in need in our community. So, these donations and hard work will go right back to our community!

Even though our National Honor Society organizes this hunger drive, everyone in our district helped to make it a success!" Copeland was interviewed by WQAD.

## Art Club



HS students in art club with teacher Kaylee Gundling played "painting musical chairs" where they switched paintings every time a song ended. These paintings were collaboratively painted by all 4 students pictured. Kaylee Gundling



# Three Band Students Make All-State



Above left to right, Keaton Egel, Vincent Wiley, and Max Serre. *Photo submitted*

This year, Sherrard has 3 All State band musicians, senior Keaton Egel, Alto Saxophone, All State Jazz Band, junior Vincent Wiley, Bass Trombone, All State Jazz Band, and sophomore Max Serre, Trombone All State Orchestra.

Band Director Michael McDermott explained how the process works, “These students scored high enough after their first audition to represent our ILMEA (Illinois Music Educators Association) district at the All State conference in Peoria this January.

They just finished submitting their second audition recording that will determine what ensemble they will be

performing in. These students competed against students from all schools in our district, not just the ones of comparable size. Our district is fairly large, as it includes all the schools in counties from Rock Island County to LaSalle County on the North edge and Henderson County to Peoria County on the South edge.

This will be Vincent and Max’s first time being selected to All State and it will be Keaton’s 3rd time being an All State Jazz Band member.

We are all extremely proud to have these three students represent Sherrard High School in Peoria.”

# Academic Recognition



A special recognition ceremony and ice cream sundae bar was held in September for High School students earning an Academic Letter and/or pin.

Principal Wernentin gave words of encouragement to the group, “Keep up the great work... Wherever you are keep this hard effort and attitude and you’ll do great things in life. Congratulations to all of you.”

To earn an Academic Letter and/or pin, a student must earn a total of 3 or more academic points during the school

year. One academic point is earned for being named to the Semester Honor Roll, and two academic points are earned for being named to the Semester High Honor Roll.

Congratulations to these 2021 / 2022 letter / pin recipients - 2022: Benjamin Churchill, Rokia Clauss, Hannah Dochterman, Cody Dutton, Kayla Easley, Fern Ericson, Charlotte Frere, Abigyle Gerdes, Elaina Johnson, Clayton Matkovic, Sawyer Mital, Ryder Roelf, Dylan Russell, Miranda Saylor, Avrie Schmidt, Lexi

Smith, Ella Spengler, Payne Suman, Kacie Swanson, Olivia Switzer, Elizabeth Tucker, Briar Viager, Marshall Warner, Blake Wynn 2023:

Carly Anderson, Katherine Ballard, Katelyn Barnhouse, Lauren Copeland, Keaton Egel, Kyla Elsbury, Sarah Gibson, Parker Hann, Olivia Meskan, Teagan Nees, Addison Pickens, Carson Schar, Hailie Shemek, Gina Steckel, Nathan Strandberg, Ad-

**Icecream**  
*continued on Page 6*

# Substitute Teacher Appreciation



Nov. 18 was National Substitute Teacher Appreciation Day. We are so thankful for our amazing substitute teachers at Sherrard School Dis-

trict! “I love it. It’s challenging but it makes me feel happy at the

**Schar**  
*continued on Page 6*

# Three Chorus Students Make All-State



ILMEA District 2 All-State choir members: Mackenzie Volkert, Alto 1 (All State Choir, first photo), Mike Diehl, Bass 1, All State Choir, and Hailie Shemek, Alto 1, (Honor Choir),

“Each student auditioned and was part of the 214 student senior choir from all of District 2 area. These students were among the top scoring auditioners, which is how they qualified for All-State. They will spend 3 days in Peoria in January for the big festival and concerts!

Sherrard has not sent an All-State student for choir in 10 years,” said Choir Director Callen Sederquist.

The cross country team came to support Hailie at the District Choir festival where she qualified for All-State. *Photos submitted*



# Five Earn ‘Tiger Talent’



School board member Kay-Cee Cleaveland presented awards to the five Tiger Talent recipients during October’s school board meeting. *Cala Smoldt*

Five received the “Tiger Talent Dedication” award during the school board meeting on Oct. 19. Those who earned the honor include: High School custodian Ryan Lilly, Junior High English teacher Jen Drish, Matherville PE teacher

Todd Volkert, Sherrard Elementary Special Education teacher Kayla Hollins, Winola Elementary custodian Cyndi Adams. Building principals nominated an employee from their school that exemplified the traits the award celebrates. Dr. Carl Johnson, Each recipient of the Tiger Talent award was nominated by their school administrator and received a metal apple with the words “Tiger Talent” inscribed. They each received a golden metal apple with “Tiger Talent” inscribed to commemorate their hard work, and they were individually recognized for their dedication to helping create a “student-oriented atmosphere,” and, “engage with colleagues and students to make their school experience meaningful, relevant, at times challenging... and even fun,” said Superintendent Dr. Carl Johnson. He said moving forward one employee will be chosen, district-wide, to receive the Tiger Talent award each month. The following was read during the board meeting detailing the guiding principles for choosing the award recipients. A write-up was submitted by their administrator and also read publicly by Dr. Johnson. “The Tiger Talent program began as an idea during my planning efforts after being selected to serve the Sherrard district last winter. I love to be able to recognize those people who we want representing our district; those who we want to talk with our job candidates; those who can sell the positive points of our district just by talking about their experiences. These are the people our students, parents, colleagues and community can count on. This recognition is given to those nominated by their administrator who exemplify the qualities that make Sherrard GREAT. They are self-sacrificial, lifelong learners who strive to create a student-oriented atmosphere, and engage with colleagues and students to make their school experience meaningful, relevant, at times challenging... and even fun. We all remember that one person who said or did something that stuck with us - they made us feel important, they noticed our strengths, and it’s something we revisit in times of struggle... They deserve to be acknowledged for their dedication. This dedication award is for those who model, build and encourage positive character qualities - speaking into students’ lives by word and deed that will resonate for years to come and help guide them to become the leaders and contributing community members of tomorrow.”

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**Icecream**  
*continued from Page 5*

dison Szymborski, Isabel Veronda

2024:

Holland Anderson, Kinley Anderson, Joselyn Bruning, Brianna Bynum, Riley Cabor, Riley Colbrese, Kaitlynn DeBlock, Emma Doty, Allyson Eckhardt, Isabelle Estes, Noah Fender, Mara Franklin, Kyler Gross, Maddux Harksen, James Hart, Ava Hartman, Jack Hatlestad, Lindsay Holliday, Leah Johnson, Jaiden Juras, Autumn Kongkousonh, Navi Lyon, Laney Olson, Samantha Phipps, Lillian Russell, Aiden Switzer, Lauryn VanWinkle, Aurora Wick, Vincent Wiley, Carter Wynn

2025:

Dakota Alexander, Nadia Anderson, Broderick Bender, Matthew Breitenstein, Elizabeth Churchill, Jenna Copeland, Quinn DeLoose, Kylie Foster, Savannah Hauger, Maya Haynes, Jackson Landuit, Alyssa Layer, Aaliyah McDaniel, Violet Meskan, Clara Messerly, Alli Nielsen, Zoey Rains, Illiana Sadoris, Maximilian Serre, Autumn Smith, Jenna Szymborski, Alyssa Werner, Sydney Wright

## Fire Drill & Smiles at Winola Elementary



Above, Firefighters pose with students following a fire drill at the elementary school in October. *Cala Smoldt*



The fire drill at Winola Elementary brought smiles to students who had fun peeking inside one of the fire trucks and talking to firefighters in October. Firefighters: Chief Jim Morrison, Jason Staver, Jay Barton, and Rich Lawson

### Schar

*continued from Page 5*

end of the day that I can help out teachers in this school district,” said Heather Schar. She’s in her fourth year as a substitute teacher. She subs at both Winola Elementary and Matherville Intermediate. Her family has lived in the district for 20+ years, and her three sons are also in the district, Carson is a senior, Jack is in 7th grade, and Max is in 5th. Her path to substitute teaching: She went to school to be a teacher but ultimately decided to stay home and raise her boys. Once they went to school, she wanted to get back into education, but not full time. She enjoys the flexibility of substitute teaching. “I love meeting all the kids in the community and watching them grow... It’s really cool to see them out and about the last 4 years.” According to the National Education Association’s website

about Substitute Educators Day, “These professional educators provide a critical link in the education of public schoolchildren by serving as a bridge to provide continued quality education to children in the temporary absence of regular classroom educators.” “This is a really great school district to work in. The teachers are very helpful, admin are wonderful to work with too. It’s a challenging but rewarding job.”

## Boys Soccer Regional Champs



The high school boys Orion-Sherrard soccer team ended the season a record-breaking, history-making first ever regional championship win. Their record was 21-4-3. *Photo submitted.*



# Third Grade Students Earn Reward for Animal Shelter

## Collaborative Learning Benefits Community



Above, left to right, back row: Patti McCrae, Allyson Williamson, Diana Tapp, and Casey Wyant; front row, Brayden Jones, Kyla Gaul, Conner Hartman, Nolan Kubas. *Cala Smoldt*

Third grade students at Sherrard Elementary earned a visit from Patti McCrae, Executive Director of the Quad City Animal Welfare Center in October.

She brought with her a kitten the students named, “Sugar.” The kitten, and her siblings are available for adoption, plus approximately 200 cats and 40 dogs, McCrae told students.

The visit was an incentive earned by the third graders for demonstrating positive character traits (Tiger Trio: Safe, Responsible and Respectful).

For every “Golden Paw” earned, they donated one dollar to the

center. Some families, and Principal Casey Wyant added to the donation total as well.

It was an idea implemented by Sherrard Elementary 3rd grade teacher, Diana Tapp, who took it from a former co-worker where she taught in Dekalb.

“We used to give out trinkets and other tangible items for good behavior, but this is a great way to see how our behavior can positively impact others. Essentially we tried to move away from extrinsic motivation and move towards intrinsic motivation. I thought it was such a great idea, so I decided to do it this year for my

first year back teaching,” said Tapp.

During the visit, Mrs. Tapp reminded students, “We talked about what it means to give back to our community. Each quarter we’re going to collect and do our very very best to get all of our golden paws so we can donate as much money as we can to the shelter to help Sugar and all of her siblings... and help the vet make sure they can take care of them as best as possible.”

“The shelter is part of our community and it’s a big part of things that we can do. We’re not just being safe, responsible and respectful for us in this school, we’re trying to show that we are well-rounded human beings and we can do great things for our community,” she told students.

She said during her classroom morning meetings they talk about showing kindness and having empathy for others.

“We have been building this amazing classroom community, and I wanted the students to see what things that they can do to help their own community. Ms. Patti taught our students what our donations will do for the animals and how else we can help.” Tapp said

after McCrae departed the lesson continued with conversations about how the class can continue to help (ex. make blankets or toys for the animals). “I’m looking forward to hopefully working on that for

Christmas time!” said Tapp.

Mrs. Tapp and Mrs. Williamson presented a donation, totaling approximately \$200 to McCrae for the Center during the visit.



## Sherrard Alumni Earns Distinguished Honor



Sherrard Grad Earns Distinguished Honor; Army Basic Training Private First Class Lily Kregel, 2022 Sherrard grad, graduated from Army Basic Training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma on Oct. 28. She was selected as the Distinguished Honor Graduate out of 219.

The Distinguished Honor Graduate is the Soldier who, through performance and evaluation by the Drill Sergeants, is rated as the best in the class. She received a Medal of Achievement as part of the honor.

“Receiving the Army Achievement Medal for being the Distinguished Honor Grad felt really good to know that my

hard work and dedication paid off,” said Kregel.

PFC Kregel also earned a Certificate of Achievement, “For groundbreaking performance as a Destroyer Ambassador... Private Kregel’s leadership, professionalism and dedication to duty serve as an example for all soldiers to emulate and brings distinct credit upon herself, the “Peace Through Victory” Battalion, the Destroyer Brigade and The United States Army.” Signed by Mark J. Geisler, LTC, AD Commanding.

She was involved with cheer, dance and was an Officer in the FFA in her time at Sherrard High School – during graduation she gave the Class of 2022 Address.

Currently, Kregel is at AIT in Fort Sam Houston San Antonio, Texas where she will train for her job as a Combat Medic.

“I’m excited for this next step in my military career. There are many opportunities to learn so much from everyone around,” she said.

## 8th Grade Science



Mrs. Selhost’s 8th grade science class experimented with their convection currents labs in the Plate Tectonics unit. *Photos Submitted*



# Veterans Honored at Sherrard Assembly



Capt. William “Hawk” Albracht, a highly decorated Vietnam veteran and retired Secret Service agent, captivated the audience with motivational stories from his book, *Abandoned In Hell: The Fight For Vietnam’s Firebase Kate*. *Cala Smoldt*

The Veterans Day all-school assembly was held in the high school gym on Nov. 11, a tradition long-held at Sherrard schools in lieu of a ‘day-off’.

Guest Veterans arrived early for donuts in the auditorium, and were ushered into the gym while the names of those who served scrolled on a projector screen.

FFA Officers carried flags representing every branch of the military to the front where they stood with the flags for the remainder of the assembly.

The high school choir sang the National Anthem while the entire

gym stood in reverence.

Special guest speakers included, Master Sgt. Matt Schlehuger, stationed with U.S. First Army, Headquartered at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill, and Capt. William “Hawk” Albracht, a highly decorated Vietnam veteran and retired Secret Service agent.

Capt. Albracht captivated the audience with motivational stories from his book, *Abandoned In Hell: The Fight For Vietnam’s Firebase Kate* - A documentary was also made based on his writing.

A special message to Sherrard students from 1986 alumni - Army Lieutenant General

Steve Gilland, 61st Superintendent The U.S. Military Academy at West Point, was broadcast during the ceremony.

“I think this message is doubly important because not only are we honoring our vets and active duty and service members but our students are able to hear from a distinguished alumni who has reached incredible peaks in his service to our country.

We are honored, LTG Gilland would take the time to remember his alma mater in such an impactful way,” said Superintendent Dr. Carl Johnson.

Students across the



The family of CPL Bryant J. (B.J.) Luxmore, a 2005 Sherrard graduate killed in action in Afghanistan June 10, 2012 was in attendance. Above left to right, Brenda Luxmore (mother), Jaimie Johnston (Luxmore Lower) widow, now remarried, Laurie Lower (mother in law), and Leonard Luxmore (father). *Cala Smoldt*



Above, Veterans in attendance patiently waited in the auditorium - where donuts were served prior to the ceremony. *Cala Smoldt*

district were asked what Veterans Day means to them. A compilation of students answers from across the district played during the assembly.

The video can be

found on the Sherrard School District YouTube channel.

The Sherrard Band played The Armed Forces Medley while Matherville students sang to close out the event.



Above, front left to right, NHS officers, Carly Anderson, Aubren Dominique, back left to right, Emma Smith, and Hanna Rinehart helped check in veterans and hand out these patriotic drawings created by elementary students. *Cala Smoldt*



Above, FFA students hold flags representing each branch of the military along with the American flag as visiting Veterans entered the school. They also marched to the front of the gym to begin the assembly, where they remained the entire time. *Cala Smoldt*



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