

# #SherrardRoars

www.sherrard.us

We Inspire We Empower We Prepare

July - September 2018



## Upcoming Events

10/08 - No School Columbus Day  
 10/10-11 - Parent/Teacher Conferences, Early Out, High School 1 p.m., Elementary 2 p.m.  
 10/12-19 - No School  
 10/17 - School Board Mtg. @ Unit Office, 6 p.m.  
 10/30 - HS Fafsa Clinic

11/14 - Early out HS - 1p.m., Elementary 2 p.m.  
 11/20 - School Board Mtg. @ Unit office, 6 p.m.  
 11/21-23 - No School

12/11 - MV & JH Holiday Band Concert 7-8 p.m. SHS Auditorium

12/18 - SHS Holiday Band Concert 7-8 p.m. SHS Auditorium

12/19 - School Board Mtg. @ Unit Office, 6 p.m. Matherville Winter Music Concert 7:15-8:15 p.m.  
 12/24 - 1/08 - No School

## Athletic Calender

To see team rosters, team photos, game schedules, event locations and more visit: <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.

## Students return to new playground equipment: learn the power of working together



Wow! We have the BEST volunteers and community members in Sherrard! Our gravel is spread under our new playground equipment. Big thanks to Jamie Hollins and Jim Hollins for bringing a great willingness to work and a machine to help! Thanks also to Joshua Bynum, Nate Bynum, and Samantha McAtee for shoveling gravel today!! SGS is blessed with wonderful people. Thank you, all!  
 - Principal Konnie Fry

Hollins were instrumental in spearheading the fundraising efforts.

"I'm proud of all of you," she told students, "Who knows, maybe even your kids will be playing on it someday."

Last year a giant thermometer kept track of fundraising efforts.

"Community members really came through for us, with big donations of money, and offered their help," Fry told the group.

The new piece adds much needed slides

Sherrard Elementary Principal Konnie Fry said it was a, "Grass roots effort," that brought the community together to completely fund the \$15,000 needed to purchase and install new playground equipment for the school.

"Everyone worked so hard. We were kind of shocked it came together by the end of the year - it was wonderful."

During a morning dedication ceremony Aug. 30

- she told the kids, "All of you helped to make this happen."

She said that means they need to show responsible ownership and play safe, fair and take care of the equipment.

Fry explained to the assembly of kids, "It's more than just a wonderful piece of equipment."

She told students how the efforts of third-grade teachers Allyson Williamson and Kayla



Principal Konnie Fry told elementary students, "All of you helped to make this happen," during the dedication of new playground equipment Thursday morning.



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# From the Superintendent's Desk



In December, 2015, a new federal law was passed to replace the existing No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). This new law is titled Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). In a nutshell, it is where The District's Title One, Title Two and Title Four funding originates.

Unlike the federally-controlled No Child Left Behind Act, ESSA is controlled by the states that are given some latitude in how to manage the program. There are long-term academic goals all schools are supposed to achieve.

They include:

- 90% of 3rd graders read at/above grade level
- 90% of 5th graders meet/exceed expectations in math
- 90% of 9th graders on track to graduate
- 90% of graduates read for college and career

Schools will be held accountable for the students as a whole, but also in subgroups of 20 or more students. These subgroups include race, poverty, disabilities, and English learners. Each school will be placed into one of four categories signifying the level

of success. In addition to academic indicators, the final ratings will be based on absenteeism, climate surveys, graduation rates and college/career readiness. These school ratings will be made public in October.

It is important to remember that the ESSA school ratings do not fully describe our schools. There are many positive aspects of our district that aren't included in the ratings.

Such things include the fine arts, student activities, access to technology, dual credit classes, Advanced Placement classes or the overall learning environment.

## Sherrard High School Gym Floor Dedicated



A dedication ceremony was held Wednesday evening, Sept. 26, for the newly installed wood floor in the Harry Hunt Gymnasium at Sherrard High School.

The new floor replaces the rubber floor that has been in place since the school was built in 1978.

Rubber floors were popular in the 1970s because they were durable,

waterproof and easy to maintain. Schools quickly discovered, however, that athletes were more prone to injuries because of the floor's hardness.

The cost of the new floor is being paid with sales tax revenue.



Over the summer this group of students harvested vegetables. They grew radishes and they even tried some of them! Garden club worked so hard this summer to grow green beans, peas, cucumbers and radishes. #sherrardroars

## Matherville students arrive ready to begin the school year Aug. 14.



# Former life science teacher works to re-establish “outdoor classroom” at the Junior High

SHERRARD — An overgrown courtyard plot in the middle of Sherrard Junior High is getting a makeover this summer. When former seventh-grade life science teacher Jim Kovac took on the project last fall, he approached the Sherrard school board with his plans. Before providing any funds, the board asked to see a maintenance plan.

“They were enthusiastic about it,” Kovac said. “I’ll have something for them this fall.”

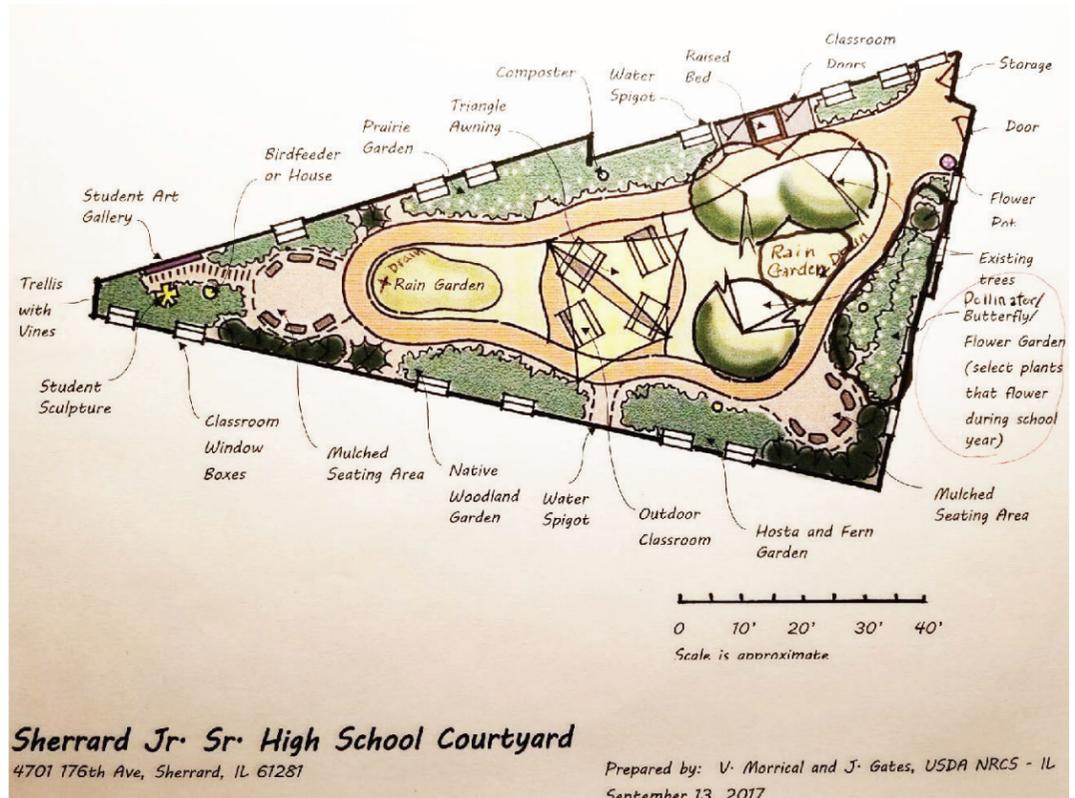
Sherrard Superintendent Alan Boucher called Kovac is a talented landscaper who is very knowledgeable about plants and how to care for them.

“We are very fortunate he is willing to lead the task of maintaining the

Kovac said the now mature trees in the courtyard were planted in 1999. At its inception, with Kovac at the helm, the area garden thrived and provided an outdoor classroom to students. Following his retirement, the area went untouched for seven years.

“After I retired, no teacher wanted to step up to put the time and effort into it,” he said. “It was so bad that they just came in here and ‘weed eated’ it all.”

In 2012, Lucas Boraas renovated the courtyard for his Cub Scout Project to help earn his Eagle Scout rank. He and his volunteers put in 300 hours weeding it, putting in a walking path and building picnic tables and a pond.



**Jim Kovac provided a detailed renovation plan for the courtyard to the school board. He estimates it will take three to four years to complete the courtyard renovation.**

Kovac said that when he maintained the area numerous educational activities were held in the outdoor classroom.

Two junior high science classrooms have doors that open to the courtyard.

“When the weather was nice, the kids would come to class and ask, ‘Are we going to the courtyard?’” he said. “I just hate to see this area go to waste.”

Kovac’s plans for the courtyard include installing a patio with brick pavers in the center, with tables and benches that can be used to create a classroom atmosphere. He also wants to involve Sherrard High School’s industrial arts class to build a pergola over the patio.

He would like to do

an entire pathway with the brick pavers eventually, he said. He hopes to have the center area paved this summer and to start building the pergola in the spring.

“The kids would get some good hands-on experience with that,” he said.

He estimates it will take three to four years to complete the courtyard renovation.

This summer teachers, parents and students are planting a butterfly garden, a woodland flower area and a rain garden to address drainage issues.

The plans came from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, which also provided an \$800 grant for plants. The school can re-apply for the grant annually.

Kovac also said he hoped to establish an area for students to display art projects, and that students would have input on how the space was used.

“The plan is to open this up to the students eventually, those stu-

dents that have earned the right to come in here, during study hall, to be able to use it for what they want to use it for,” he said.

The triangular shaped, enclosed courtyard measures 165 feet at its widest point by 65 feet on one side and 85 feet on the other.

“It’s good size,” he said. “Looks like a star destroyer shape from Star Wars.”

Kovac said the more volunteers, the easier the work would be. People wishing to help can contact him via email at [jkovac1309@gmail.com](mailto:jkovac1309@gmail.com). His group tries to meet once a week to work on the project.



**Teachers, students and parents are working together to renovate Sherrard Junior High’s overgrown courtyard this summer so teachers can utilize the outdoor classroom this fall.**

courtyard, and we appreciate the many hours he invests,” Boucher said.

Kovac’s plans include establishing a courtyard club comprised of students interested in maintaining the garden. He plans to seek a club adviser and to volunteer in an advisory role.

Since that effort, the courtyard has again fallen into disarray.

“I put a lot of time and effort into it when I was a teacher here,” Kovac said of the courtyard. “And I want the students to be able to get good use out of it, and the teachers to be able to come out here and use it.”



**#SherrardRoars**

# The Winola computer lab before and after the remodel

The Sherrard school district is changing the landscape of learning in their elementary schools based on ideas from children. Last May a group of fourth grade students presented their findings to the school board to change computer labs to "innovation labs" by introducing new technology and problem based learning initiatives.

problem solving skills on a daily basis."

When Sherrard Elementary teacher Maureen Basala approached Miller with a similar request, he gave her the same directive.

"From there it expanded to places we didn't even know it was going to go."

board the labs were becoming storage facilities for outdated technology.

"My students were so excited that the school board was on board. They were so proud of their ideas and the reasoning behind them. They could talk you through the entire process from making purchases to the uses

rugs and lamps were added.

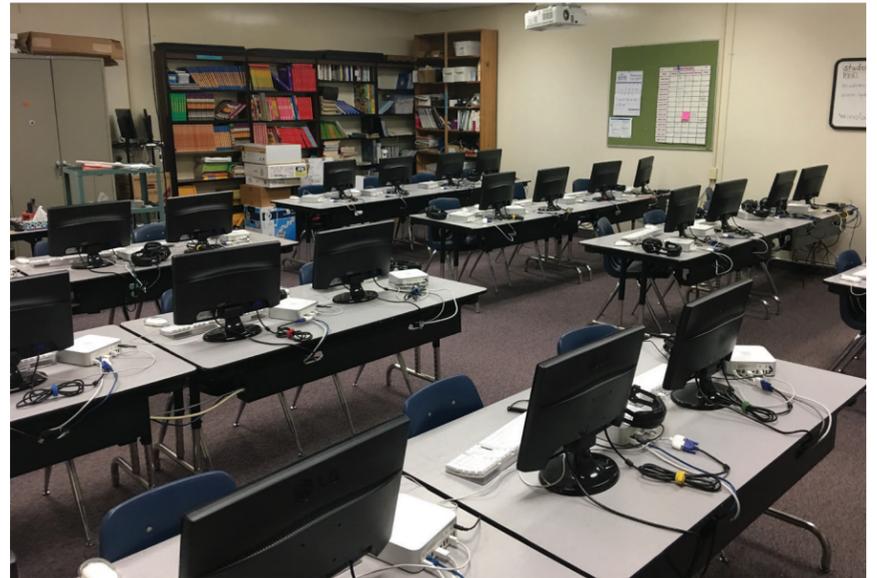
A Wall is now covered with framed logos inspired by innovative companies like Amazon, Netflix, and Google - to resemble apps on a smart device.

New technology includes programmable

inspiration, motivation, and connection."

Miller said the first step in teaching students is to, "inspire and motivate".

"From there we, as educators, will facilitate those connections they need to become future-ready," he said.



The former computer labs turned technology hubs change the focus from computers by moving them to the perimeter of the room, instead of rows throughout the center of the room. The middle now consists of an inviting seating area with size appropriate couches, side tables, and a storage cabinet for robotics technology to help students learn coding and programming skills through collaborative exercises.

It all started with Winola Elementary teacher, Carly Minch and her fourth graders. Last year, following a problem based learning project that supplied less fortunate children with Christmas gifts, Minch asked Sherrard Instructional Technology Coach Steve Miller if he had any ideas for their next problem solving venture.

He gave them a problem, "Create a learning space where students have the opportunity to be creative, collaborative, innovative, and use critical thinking and

Students from both schools learned by using multiple disciplines - measuring spaces, creating a budget, working with spreadsheets, research and development on design.

"It involves all content areas such as math, reading, science, and social studies instead of just delivering one piece of content in one area at a time, which has been what education has been for too many years," said Miller.

Each group came up with similar designs - tailored to their specific locale.

"I'm impressed with what the kids could do. I think they're capable of so much more if we give them those real world situations instead of just spewing content."

Last May students presented their designs to the Sherrard School Board who approved funding up to \$20,000 to renovate over the summer. Miller told the

- by the different age groups," said Minch.

She said with problem based learning projects her students are required to present their ideas to an audience - after completing a physical model of their ideas.

"It puts the learning in the hands of the kids," she said.

Then, a couple months later, school was awarded a technology grant from the Looser-Flake Charitable Foundation totaling \$45,000. It covered the cost to fully equip the labs and added to the overall technology budget.

"The timing couldn't have been better on this, and we are truly grateful to the Looser-Flake foundation for making this a reality for our students. We are overwhelmed by their support," said Miller.

The district spent only \$6,500 on furnishings and decor for the spaces. Walls were painted from white to yellow, colorful

robotics devices like, Dash and Dots, Little Bits coding kits, Edison Robots, and Sphero's, among other things.

"Each piece was specifically chosen because of its ability to make students think creatively and problem solve."

The labs also have a 75 inch interactive, Clever Touch Board. Miller said it's like having a giant mobile device, "Everything is housed within the clever touch, an android module hooks up to it. That's why it makes it so user friendly - teachers, kids anyone."

The tech forces students to collaborate with each other, talk about problems they encounter and work towards a solution.

"Isn't that what we want students to do in their lives? They will need these skills for sure in their future careers. We know that for a fact," said Miller.

"You cannot force kids to learn. You can make kids comply with procedures, but learning requires

"We ultimately hope that the lab will encourage critical thinking and creativity in our young learners that will help them throughout their school years and beyond," said Winola Principal Kari Roberts.

Miller said education is outsourced by Youtube, Netflix, among many other platforms, "You can find anything you want."

He said with problem based learning educators teach them how to use those resources, "You don't have to learn everything technical, you just have to know how to problem solve... and that's what it's all about."



# Tiger closet supports students



The Sherrard School District is implementing an initiative to confront students' needs head-on with a resource room and food pantry. Beginning this school year, all students will have access to "The Tiger Closet" with daily needs such as clothing, hygiene items and school supplies.

Through a partnership

with River Bend Foodbank, the school also will provide seven to 10 days of fresh produce and non-perishable food items to feed 10 to 15 families every two weeks.

"The Sherrard School District report card indicates that 30 percent of our families qualify as low income," Sherrard special education teacher

Brenda Gates said. "Over the past several years, we have seen a greater need to help many of our students with basic classroom supplies, personal hygiene needs, clothes and food."

Gates said that, in the past, teachers kept snacks and clothing items on hand in the classroom anticipating students needs. The

Tiger Closet will "help meet these needs in a bigger, more centralized process," Gates said.

The idea originated in the high school's special education department. Gates and special education teachers Amanda Fritch, Meaghan Jackson and Vanessa Redpath developed the idea after seeing similar efforts in the Rock Island-Milan School District.

"Last school year, we met with the coordinators at Rock Island High School and toured their facility and talked about the process," Gates said. She said Sherrard had had an Operation Santa program for many years.

"But after seeing the Rocky Resource Room, we felt this could be another way to work with Operation Santa to meet the daily needs of our students," she said.

The program also will provide an opportunity for students to build life and work skills. Students in the Secondary Transi-

tion Experience Program will sort, launder and organize products in the Tiger Closet.

The first dropoff of items on Aug. 7 had a large turnout.

"The community amazed us with how supportive they are and the amount of donations we have received," Fritch said.

Sherrard families will begin to benefit from the food pantry program by October. Gates said organizers were thankful to the Sherrard Booster Club for donating money to make the coordinated effort happen.

"The goal is to help get these students out of poverty and help them focus on school so they can go out into the world and do great things," Redpath said.

To donate, send emails to [fritcha@sherrard.us](mailto:fritcha@sherrard.us), [gatesb@sherrard.us](mailto:gatesb@sherrard.us), [jacksonm@sherrard.us](mailto:jacksonm@sherrard.us) or [redpathv@sherrard.us](mailto:redpathv@sherrard.us).

## Weight Room addition moving right along



The Sherrard School Board approved bids for a weight room and wrestling room addition last summer.

Hodges Construction Company was hired as project manager.

"We wouldn't have done the project if it wasn't for the sales tax

revenue," said Superintendent Alan Boucher.

"We did have quite a big number of bidders, a lot of good competition there," he said.

Boucher said the school will pay the balance within a year.

In April the board

decided to make the space larger than initially planned. The addition was approved at 6,900 square feet from 4,600 square feet.

Wrestling Coach Jeff Garrett said, "The weight room's gonna benefit all athletics at Sherrard, and the PE classes, having that expansion there. I want to thank all you folks for what you've done, it's very much appreciated."

"You've made us very very proud of that program," said school board member Larry Stone.

Construction began in August and is set for completion by mid-December.

## Summer landscaping means a fresh look for Sherrard Grade



# Sherrard students share their visions for a future Quad-Cities

In April, the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce hosted the Quad Cities Big Table, a forum to elevate civic conversation, foster new relationships, and inspire collaborative action across the region. On Wednesday, Sept. 14, students from the Sherrard High School National Honor Society got an opportunity to share their ideas and vision for the Quad Cities region with Chamber leadership.

The Sherrard students started the school year with a goal of trying to help their fellow students think about the future. When doing so, they reached out to the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce to see how their plan could tie into the greater Q2030 regional vision. Q2030 is the Quad Cities' shared vision endorsed by more than 240 business, non-profit, academic and trades organizations. Q2030 aims to bring residents together to collaborate on making decisions and drive strategies that grow more skilled workers, jobs, investments and economic opportunities for all who call this area home.

Greg Aguilar, director for Q2030 for the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce, led the students through a series of ice-breaker questions that ultimately focused the student's conversation on thinking locally.

"The collaborative conversations that we are having around this table is all what Q2030 is about," Aguilar said.

"We are discussing, as a community, how do we create a region that is recognized globally by the year 2030 for growing and attracting talent and business. We are focused on creating an energized community

that is diverse and culturally rich, that inspires innovation and drives lifelong learning."

One question Aguilar posed to the students was what is their vision for the iconic riverfront of the Quad Cities. Sherrard National Honor Society President Joelle Gallagher thought it was important to keep

"There are over 20,000 businesses in the Quad Cities. Many think about the larger companies in the area, but there are 20,000 plus business that you can apply for a job and they are all looking for you," Rumler said.

"Talented individuals are their top concern;

might want leave, you might leave and come back.

I spent a considerable amount of time outside the area before I realized that I wanted to come back and make an impact on my hometown."

The hour and a half long conversation continued as Aguilar moved the



dialogue to discussing specific things the students could do to help their fellow students gain employment, which included obtaining some level of post-secondary education.

an active green space along the banks of the Mississippi.

"I think open space, like parks, and not building along at the whole river line," said Gallagher.

"I've gone on vacation where there was a lot of parks and picnic tables. We have that here with the bike path, but it is starting to develop more. We need to make sure we don't lose that openness feel," she said.

Fellow NHS member, Autumn Bell echoed Gallagher's comments. "It would also be nice to have art and sculptures down by the river," she said. "You could have sculptures inspired by local artists and even high school kids."

President and CEO of the Quad City Chamber of Commerce Paul Rumler also participated in the discussion with the Sherrard students.

they don't know where to find them. We want to get inside your head and get some insight so we can share that with our regional employers."

Rumler told the students, when he was their age he wasn't sure what his career path was, so he started at Black Hawk College. He said that this helped him achieve goals and be exposed to opportunities that would set him up for success later in life.

"When I was in the National Honor Society at Moline, I was in your exact position, I had no clue what my life would look like when I was 20, let alone when I was 38, which I am now," he said.

"What you need to think about is what is your path will be, and be open that your path is going to change. You might want to stay here, you

"Part of the responsibility of being a leader, which all of you guys are, is of course doing the best that you can, setting a good example, but helping others along the way. That is the price we have to pay for being a leader," Aguilar said.

"So, what can you do as leaders at Sherrard High School that can help our region to pursue post-secondary education and advance our region?"

Students went around the room sharing ideas. Many of the solutions they offered involved moving out of impersonal communication such as emails, and social media, and focused on finding ways to encourage personal connections with employers, academia and successful alumni.

"We need to stop focus-

ing on communication through our computers; we all have Chromebooks, we use email as our primary source of communication," said Gallagher. "It just doesn't get across with everyone well. Everyone just deletes the email. There is no personal connection. If our classmates talk to others, and realize that there are career paths other than college, that would help a lot."

The Sherrard students thought the meeting was extremely helpful as they prepare to move on to the next phase of their lives.

"I thought the meeting with the Chamber was very insightful and a great way to see the other side of the decision-making process. I think it will help bring a new formality and hopefully a more efficient way to discuss and evaluate topics," said Senior Grant Gagliardo.

"Knowing that there's a set plan for the next 12 years and seeing that plan in action raises my hopes for the area, including Sherrard. It's a good sign that the area is expanding and striving toward becoming a better place," he said.

Rumler left the students with some final thoughts.

"What you described today about what you want to see this place looking like, I want to let you know that you can actually do that and I say that just from personal experience," he said.

"I just want you to know that you have a group here at the Quad Cities Chamber that cares about what you think," Rumler concluded.

"You have a group of employers and people who want to see you succeed here, and we are willing to invest in you."

# Tigers Football

After losing to Kewanee the last time they met, Sherrard decided to demonstrate that turn-about is fair play.

Sherrard dodged a bullet on Friday, Sept. 28, finishing off Kewanee 20-19. The victory was a breath of fresh air for Sherrard as it put an end to their five-game losing streak.

The win bumped Sherrard's record up to 1-5.

The defeat dropped Kewanee's record to 2-4.

Sherrard takes on Erie-Prophetstown at 7:30 p.m. Friday Oct. 5 at Clifford King Field for senior night. Erie-Prophetstown took a loss in their last matchup.



Photo credit: Joelle Gallagher

## Marching Band



The Marching Tigers had their first performance Saturday, Sept. 28 at the Northern Illinois University Competition! It was our best performance yet and I am very proud of not only their dedication, work ethic, and poise during their first competition but also their drive and passion for learning and watching other bands! They are proud of what we have accom-

plished so far this year in Sherrard.

We got a lot of great feedback and as usual, held our own with bands much larger than us. We perform again Monday at Rock Island (7:45pm) and will come back firing at Metamora next Saturday! Don't miss it!

- David Grayson, Director of Bands

To get information on all band competitions and performances go to: <https://sherrardbands.weebly.com>. You can sign up for text updates.

## Rotary

Sophomore Laila Haley was nominated to be the Rotary Student of the Month by the Sherrard High School staff. Laila is the daughter of Andrea and Eric Haley. School activities include stage performances like plays, musicals and talent shows. Laila is a member of the Band Color Guard and works with the school's STV program.

Outside of school, Laila has competed in pageants and has performed in various venues throughout the Quad Cities Area. Recently, she started a fundraising drive called Show Us Your Heart.

Laila's interests include, writing, illustrating (just completed her first children's book!), acting, singing and trying new things. Her future plans are to attend Savanna College of Art in Design where she hopes to get a degree in illustration and film/television.

Sherrard Resource Officer Mike Mendoza introduced the new P3 Campus phone app to the district. It's an anonymous tip app for students and parents to connect directly with authorities.

The app includes several categories for tips including, "The things that we don't see and people are hesitant to talk about," said Mendoza.

Among those include: homelessness, sexual assaults, theft, eating disorders, anger issues, bullying, planned school attacks, suicide threats and drugs and alcohol.

He pointed to an incident at a Moline area school that received several anonymous tips through the P3 Tip app that helped alleviate

recent violence that involved 50-60 kids.

"I'm very excited. Crimestoppers - Sherrard, has led to several anonymous tips, I believe there are people, students and/or adults who would report more things if they knew they would remain 100% anonymous," he said.

A text message will go straight to Deputy Mendoza - and administration will be notified each time a tip is submitted.

"We're grateful to work with our local law enforcement to bring that to our schools - (its) another tool to help us make sure we're finding



ways to reach kids and get the ones that really need help, help," said School Board President Rhys Fullerlove.

Mendoza said they are also encouraging parents to download and use the app - and to begin a conversation with their children about its use and importance.

He said Mercer County Schools will have the app available as well. Several districts in Iowa and Illinois have used the app.

"If it's something serious, the app will tell you to call 911." He said a Quad Cities School District went from 3 - 5 reports each week to Crime Stoppers to reporting over a dozen a week, using the anonymous app.



# Homecoming

## KING AND QUEEN



Sherrard Schools had homecoming week Sept. 16-22. The parade was held Thursday, through downtown Sherrard.

Friday, Monmouth-Rosville came out on top of the Tigers 56-28 in Varsity football.

Saturday's homecoming dance was held in the High School Commons - the theme was 'Space' and the slogan was, "The Tigers are out of this world."

Homecoming King and Queen were Kael Colbrese and Kara Swanson.

Senior Attendants: Joelle Gallagher, Ian Ausdal, Ashleigh Layer, Nolan Lucas, Addison Slavish, Benjamin Kissner, Christina Wink and Gavin Williams;

Junior Attendants: Emma Hofmann, Bryce Davis, Carley Whitsell and Payton Hutchins;

Sophomore Attendants: Jessica Vestal, Kane Jeffries, Taylor Barber, and Kannon Jeffries;

Freshmen Attendants: Kacie Swanson, Tyler Lukaszewski, Ella Spengler and Brenin Krack.

## GRAND MARSHALL



The Sherrard High School Marching Tigers are directed by David Grayson.



High School maintenance man Russell Jenkins, was Grand Marshall of the parade. He has worked for the school for 33 years and is a Winola graduate.



The Sherrard Soccer team



Sherrard Tigers football team rode on a float at the Sherrard Homecoming parade.



Sherrard Resource Officer Mike Mendoza rode in the passengers seat of the Ford Mustang Convertible donated by Eriksen Ford for a raffle to raise money for school safety at Illinois and Iowa Quad Cities schools. The Sherrard Crime Stoppers will benefit from local sales. The winning ticket will be drawn live on WQAD on Dec. 28.

