



BLACKHAWK TALK

Sheridan Community Schools

Web address: www.scs.k12.in.us

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Fall/Winter 2023

This publication contains links to information. A digital copy of this newsletter can be found on our website at www.scs.k12.in.us: **Blackhawk Talk Tab**.

Important Dates

From the Desk of Dr. Mundy

A lot to be thankful for:

As we have recently left a tremendous Thanksgiving break and as a district, we have so much to be thankful for. We are coming off of one of our best fall athletic seasons ever with two sectional titles, a regional win, volleyball setting a record for win totals, and several individual awards including Mr. Prange, our girls' soccer coach, winning the Small School Coach of the Year. We have much to look forward to as our girls' and boys' basketball and wrestling teams have started well.

I say all the time that I am truly blessed to be the Superintendent of Sheridan Community Schools. We have the best students, families, teachers, and all around community. This belief came through again in our VERY successful referendum results. On behalf of myself and the entire district, I can not express enough our appreciation for the community's support at the polls which passed with an 82 percent approval rate. Over a two month period, I was thankful to meet with and learn from over 300 different community members; I really appreciated all conversations that occurred.

The referendum had the support of many local groups including but not limited to: the town of Sheridan; Sheridan Community Rec Board, Sheridan Education Association; Sheridan Elementary PTO; Marion Township; Adams Township; Sheridan Schools Education Foundation led by Sharon and Randy Brimberry and Jenna Jessup; Sheridan Youth Assistance, President Jason Ells; Sheridan Main Street Inc. led by Cindy Keever; One Zone; and Mrs. Paula Boone.

As we look to a very bright future, I look forward to continuing to host meetings in order to allow the community to voice their concerns and aspirations for the future and ask questions about any and all school related topics. If you ever have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at any time.

D. Mundy

dmundy@sheridan.k12.in.us

317-758-4172

**December 21–
January 3, 2024**
Winter Break

January 15, 2024
MLK Day/Flex Day

January 26, 2024
Hardwood Home-
coming 6:00pm

February 12, 2024
E-Learning Day

February 19, 2024
President's Day/
Flex Day

March 5, 2024
SMS/SHS Band
Concert 7:00pm

March 6, 2024
SES Spring Pictures

March 7, 2024
SMS/SHS Choir
Concert 7:00pm

March 21, 2024
SES Donuts with
Grownups
K, 2nd and 3rd
6:45am-7:45am

March 23, 2024
SMS/SHS Musical
2:00pm and 7:00pm

March 24, 2024
SMS/SHS Musical
2:00pm

**March 29– April 5,
2024**
Spring Break



From Your School Board



This indeed has been an amazing year for our Sheridan Schools! In this newsletter, you can see the many ways that our programs, our students, and our faculty members have been honored with awards, championships, innovative initiatives, and the list goes on. The community support of our referendum request has been most reassuring to our superintendent, school board, and, most of all, our teachers and school staff personnel. Your school board members fully appreciate the responsibilities that you have given us. We are honored by the trust you have put in us by approving our referendum and supporting our schools in so many ways. We maintain a sincere attitude of serious stewardship of our school's financial and academic health.

Of all the awards and recognitions that have brought so much pride to our Blackhawk family this year, what came to mind was not which award was the favorite or which award was the most prestigious. What came to mind were all the things seen at our schools that make such a difference in students' lives but will never earn trophies or certificates. These are experiences or occasions that are memory makers, things that have lasting impacts on individuals. A few that come to mind: the staff member on morning bus duty who greets each student with a happy smile and a caring comment; the staff members who took time to create a Thanksgiving dinner theme in the elementary cafeteria (which caused children to say things like "This is the best day ever" and "This is beautiful"); the teacher who gave up her lunch break to stop at each table in the cafeteria to visit with her students and make conversation about their lunches and about Thanksgiving; the school patrons and staff that helped set up a Blackhawk Buck store where elementary students can exchange incentive "bucks" for school spirit items; the joy a child expresses when they master a skill after much effort; the adoring grandparent who attends the school board meeting to see his/her grandchild be recognized in some way; the high school students who shared with board members the tremendous opportunities they had experienced working in internships and how their future planning had been shaped by that experience; students who perform musically and artistically for the school board on occasion and for other community groups. There are countless other examples of these daily interactions that add up to a positive school experience. These are things that we remember as the years pass by and these are the things we who work for the school system are committed to providing for Sheridan students.

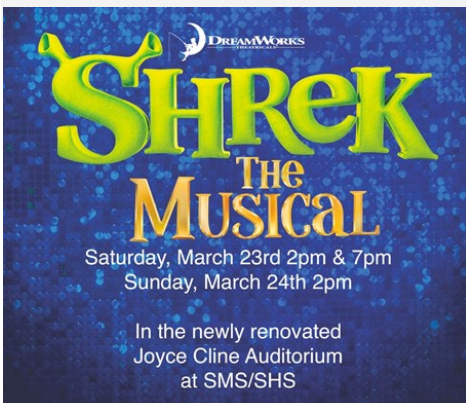
School Board members:

John Hunt-President
Dan Fleming-Vice President
Nancy Boone-Secretary
Tyler Henning-Member
Kim Zachery-Member

School Board meetings are held in the Sheridan Middle School Media Center at 6:30 p.m. each second Monday of the month, unless otherwise stated. Upcoming meetings are:

December 11, 2023
January 8, 2024
February 12, 2024
March 11/2024
April 8, 2024
May 13, 2024

SHS/SMS Muscial



Sheridan Performing Arts is proud to present *Shrek The Musical* on March 23rd and 24th, 2024. As this is our first musical in the newly renovated auditorium, we wanted to choose a full-length Broadway musical that would not only showcase our talented students but the auditorium as well. We are incredibly fortunate to have many veteran theater students as part of this cast and are equally excited to welcome a significant number of first-time cast members. This show demands excellence on stage and behind the scenes. In addition to the 49-member cast, we have an eager stage crew of 22 students. Everyone involved is looking forward to bringing this heartwarming, yet unorthodox, story to life. We hope to see you there. To learn more about the show, please visit our Fine Arts website, which will soon have the show website linked on the home page: sites.google.com/sheridan-schools.org/finearts/

GUIDANCE NEWS

SHS Office of School Counseling Announcements:

New SCS Social Worker - We are excited to welcome Mrs. Kate Lynch to our team as a social worker who will be working with students across the district and at the Northern Hamilton County Academy. Mrs. Lynch has hit the ground running and is doing a great job with our students, and we are excited to add her to our SCS Counseling team. Welcome, Mrs. Lynch!

Schedule Change Requests - Students who need to request a schedule change at SHS for the second semester will need to submit the required request forms no later than December 15th. Schedule changes are not guaranteed. They will be reviewed by Mr. Davis and Mrs. Cantlon.

Employability Skills - Seniors, your Employability Skills forms must be completed and turned in before the end of 1st semester so we can appropriately document them to the state. If you need another copy, please stop by the Office of School Counseling. As a reminder, this is the form that you must have filled out and signed by an employer, coach, club sponsor, etc.

FAFSA REQUIRED - All seniors are now [required by the state of Indiana](#) to file the FAFSA, regardless of their current postsecondary plans. If you choose NOT to fill it out, you will be required to formally opt out. More information to come after winter break. We will be hosting a couple of help sessions and FAFSA/Financial Aid presentations for seniors and their families in the next couple of months. On Thursday, December 7th, INvestEd will be here for a FAFSA information and FSA ID night. If you are a senior and/or a parent/guardian of a senior, I would highly recommend that you attend these evening events. The 2024-2025 FAFSA does not open up until sometime in December so we will have INvestEd return on Monday, January 8th to walk families/students through the actual FAFSA application. Please keep an eye out for information from Mrs. Cantlon about these events.

Scholarships - Scholarship season is upon us, and all seniors need to make sure they are checking their email for information about which scholarships are available and where they can find that information. We are working on updating our SHS website to list them on the website, but in the meantime, please continue to check your email for this information.

Scheduling for 2024-2025 School Year - Mrs. Cantlon will begin meeting with current members of the Class of 2028 about scheduling on Wednesday, December 6th. That evening, there will also be a parent meeting to go over high school scheduling and graduation requirement information. If you are a current 8th grade parent, please plan to attend this meeting if at all possible. You should have received an email with the date/time from Mrs. Cantlon. If you did not receive it, you will need to update your SchoolMessenger settings in your PowerSchool Parent Portal. Scheduling for students in the classes of 2025-2027 will begin after we return from Christmas break.



Interested in joining us?

Call Beth at 317.758.4431 x4460
Or for more information visit
<https://youthassistance.org/become-a-mentor-sheridan> or scan the QR code

SHERIDAN COMMUNITY MENTORING

SHERIDAN
youth
Assistance
PROGRAM



Volunteer Mentor Opportunities with Sheridan Students

Did you know the number one resiliency factor for at-risk youth is the involvement of a caring adult? There are two ways adults can volunteer and make a difference in the life of a Sheridan student.

Lunch PALS is exactly that- volunteers who meet with a child during their lunch/recess time at the elementary school. This is a commitment that can be once a week or twice a month during the school year. The first step is to apply [here](#).

Community Mentors are matched with an upper elementary or middle school student for a calendar year. They meet twice a month at times that work for the volunteer and student, which can be after school, evenings, or during the weekend. Group events are held once a month to provide fun and free activities for mentors and students but are not mandatory. If anyone is interested in becoming a mentor, please visit the Sheridan Youth Assistance Program mentoring page [here](#). Click on the "mentor application form" button.

Contact Beth Sabelhaus at esabelhaus@sheridan.k12.in.us or 317-758-4431 x4460 for more information or with questions about either program.

Moments





SHS Athletics



Hello from Sheridan Athletics and YES, it is a great time to be a BLACKHAWK!

I want to take a moment to recap our outstanding fall season of 2023-2024. This fall, 150 student-athletes participated in seven sports including football, volleyball, soccer, cross country, and girls' golf. Sheridan's student-athletes excelled both in the classroom and on the playing field.

Volleyball had a record-breaking season, winning 15 games before losing to the eventual Sectional Champion Cascade.

Girls' Soccer made history by winning their first-ever Sectional Championship and also won their first IHSA Regional Semi-final game, moving them into the Elite 8. Although they lost to eventual State Runner-up, Ft. Wayne Luers, Senior Emma Alexander garnered several awards, including Defensive MVP, HHC All-Conference, Paul Logan Award, ICGS Academic All-State, ISCA Academic All-State, and ISCA All District 1st Team.

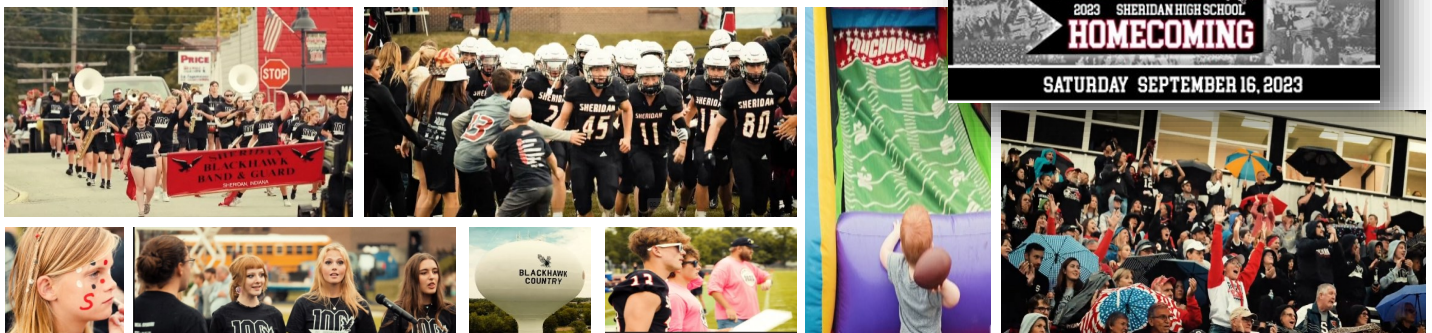
Boys' Soccer had a good season despite a very tough schedule.

Cross Country Coach Elaine Morgan did an outstanding job this year, beginning to build an MS/HS program.

Golf Coach Conner Stumm resurrected the girls' golf program and is working to build on this year's experience.

Football 2023-2024 won back-to-back Sectional Championships, beating Hagerstown, Tindley, and Monroe Central. The Hawks then beat North Decatur to become the 2023-2024 Regional Champion. Although the Hawks lost to eventual State Champion Lutheran in the FINAL 4, we are incredibly proud of all our Sheridan fall sports student-athletes, coaches, and fans.

Congratulations to all programs!
#hardworkwins



I want to express my gratitude to the staff, students, and community for making the homecoming weekend a huge success! The celebration involved a lot of people including those who organized and participated in the pep session, alumni band, dance, tours, dinner, powder puff, football game, shuttles, alumni snacks, student zones, amazing parade, past graduate recognition, and creators of the videos, promotions, and signs. The entire community had a wonderful experience, and I have received nothing but positive feedback through texts and emails. Our goal was to make this event special for everyone, and I believe we achieved it.

Together, we are proud to be a Blackhawk!

Dave Mundy, SCS Superintendent

Sheridan Elementary Highlights

As we reach the midpoint of the 2023 academic year, we are delighted to share some exciting updates and achievements regarding Sheridan Elementary. The collaborative efforts of our dedicated staff, engaged students, and supportive community have contributed to the success and positive developments that continue to shape the learning environment for our young learners.

Over the past few months, our staff has been hard at work to ensure that our school provides a safe, welcoming, and conducive learning environment. We are proud to highlight the academic achievements of our students. ILEARN test scores have shown continued improvement, reflecting the hard work and dedication of both students and teachers. Our commitment to providing a well-rounded education that includes a focus on core subjects, as well as arts and extracurricular activities, continues to yield positive results. Just recently SES was awarded a Science of Reading grant from the Indiana Department of Education. This will not only provide us with needed professional development but will also allow us to add a literacy coach to our staff. We are excited about the possibilities this will bring to our reading programs and overall student achievement.

Our school remains deeply committed to fostering a strong sense of community. We have organized and partnered with our wonderful PTO in various events including Family Book Fair Night, Doughnuts with Grown-Ups, Veteran's Day program, and the popular upcoming Blitzen Barn. The second semester will bring Rising Stars, 5th grade camp, and our annual Spring Carnival just to name a few. We appreciate the support of our local community organizations as well. We give special appreciation for the monetary donations from the Country Gentlemen to our B Buck store, as well as from the Kiwanis Club, Reynolds, The Farmer's Bank, and Mark Heirbrandt to our Robotics Team. Our local Lions Club will soon be seeking donations of needed winter clothing items for us at some upcoming basketball games, too. These partnerships are vital between the school and the community, creating a supportive network for our students. Thank you to all! If you have any questions or would like more information about SES, please don't hesitate to contact us. Your involvement is vital to the success of our students and our school. We look forward to great things ahead in 2024!

Sheridan Middle School Highlights

Sheridan Middle School's 2023-2024 academic year has been a great success, filled with memorable moments and an overwhelming sense of school pride. This year marks the 30th anniversary of Sheridan Middle School and the 100th homecoming of SHS, making it a remarkable chapter in our history. Our students showed real enthusiasm during our centennial homecoming celebration, participating in fun games, themed dress-up days, and enjoyable activities. The spirited week was a great success, and it was a pleasure to see our students come together and celebrate.

Over 85 students participated in football, volleyball, cross-country, and cheer, reflecting the dedication of our school community.

The 6th graders had a great day of team-building, problem-solving, and orienteering at Cool Creek Park. We would like to thank Camptown and Sheridan Youth Assistance for making this memorable day possible for our young learners.

Our "Preparing for College and Careers" (Prep CC) class visited EMC Precision, which gave our 8th graders a glimpse into the world of manufacturing. This experience was valuable in preparing them for their academic and professional journeys.

The arts continue to flourish at Sheridan Middle School with our bands and choirs working hard to prepare for upcoming holiday concerts and winter ISSMA competitions. Their dedication and commitment to excellence are evident in their continued practice.

Middle School Continued

Our exceptional teachers continue to be the driving force of our school's success, providing focused instruction and maintaining high academic standards to prepare our students for future challenges.

As we head into the second semester, we look forward to more accomplishments and growth. We are excited for the opportunities for learning and achievements that lie ahead and are grateful for the support and active participation of the Sheridan Blackhawk family in shaping our school's vibrant community. As the holiday season approaches, let us continue to cherish these moments, spreading joy and celebrating togetherness.

Sheridan High School Highlights

It has been a terrific first semester for Sheridan High School! We have had successes across the board from an evening show performance from the Marching Band & Guard at the State Fair Band Day to our students and staff being recognized for their excellence to fall athletic teams that captured conference, sectional, and regional titles.

We continue to collect exemplary reports from IHSAA officials (6 as of 11/28) and have several student-athletes who have been recognized as all-conference and Academic All-state. Mrs. Waitt was recognized and celebrated by the Indiana Department of Education with the Digital Innovator Excellence Award, and Mrs. Williams has been selected as a NEA Foundation Global Learning Fellowship. Three of our students were honored by the College Board with the National Rural and Small School Award for their academic excellence. Our work-based learning programs continue to grow and students are getting unique experiences in a variety of ways. It is apparent that good, no, great things are happening at Sheridan High School!

As we excitedly roll into the holiday season, we are looking forward to the holiday concerts and events, basketball, and wrestling. We also are deep into planning for the 2024-2025 school year as we look at curricular offerings and will soon begin scheduling. We look forward to the completion of construction and the opportunities and resources the new facilities will provide. We are happy you are along for the ride with us as we continually work to provide an excellent and outstanding education and high school experience for the students of Sheridan High School.

Sheridan High School -Early College

Sheridan High School has had the honor and privilege to be a part of the Rural Early College Network Grant (RECN) for the past two and a half years. This grant, aimed at helping schools develop an Early College Program, has provided information, support, and funding to help initiate and build the Sheridan High School – Early College. The primary purpose of an Early College program is to provide the opportunity, structure, and support for students to earn college credits while in high school. The Sheridan High School – Early College (SHS-EC) focuses on the “3-E’s” where we want all of our graduating seniors to be: Enrolled, Employed, or Enlisted as they graduate from high school. While the name “early college” reflects the foundational goal of earning college credits in high school, we recognize that encouraging students to push themselves academically to pursue dual credits while in high school will provide great advantages for our graduates no matter what they pursue after high school. Additionally, earning college credits in high school is a tremendous money savings opportunity for students and parents. This year, SHS students taking dual credit classes are estimated to save over \$51,000 in tuition costs.

As a component of the SHS-EC, students are now able to earn what is called the Indiana College Core (ICC). The ICC is a program that allows students to “Start as a Sophomore” when they go to college. It requires students to earn at least three credit hours in six competency areas, as well as an additional 12 “elective” credit hours from those same categories. These courses are guaranteed to transfer to any public Indiana college or university after graduation. These six competencies include Written Communication, Speaking and Listening, Quantitative Reasoning, Scientific Ways of Knowing, Social & Behavioral Ways of Knowing, and Humanistic & Artistic Ways of Knowing. Students at Sheridan High School can earn these credits through Advanced Placement and Dual Credit courses offered through the high school and through our partnership with Ivy Tech.

Students and parents interested in learning more about the ICC are encouraged to contact our Office of School Counseling and explore the related online resources:

[Learn More Indiana – ICC & Dual Credit](#)

[My College Core](#)

[Start as a Sophomore Pathway \(Indiana College Core\)](#)



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 Dr. Dave Mundy, Superintendent

SHERIDAN ELEMENTARY

(317-758-4491)
 Valerie Roberts, Principal
 Melissa Hoffman, Assistant Principal

SHERIDAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

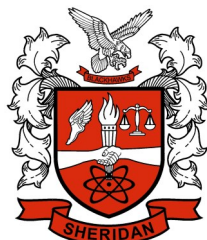
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Feedback is Welcome!

Send your comments to:
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dmundy@sheridan.k12.in.us

SHERIDAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

*We create high leverage, high impact
 learning opportunities for all students.*

VISION STATEMENT

*All students develop skills and attitudes
 resulting in academic excellence,
 career success, and exemplary citizen-
 ship.*

BELIEFS OF THE SHERIDAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

*Students are our first priority.
 Our schools are the focal point
 of this community.
 This community's investment in our
 schools is vital to the
 continued vitality of this community.
 Everyone in the community has a role
 in educating our children.
 Our students deserve
 world-class opportunities.
 Schools must provide a safe and
 nurturing environment.
 Everyone in our community
 deserves to be treated with respect.
 Successful investment in the future
 respects the past.*