

#SHERRARDROARS

Vol. 5 Issue 1

Tigers Today Transforming Tomorrow

Jan. - March, 2022

25 Inducted into National Honor Society



March 24 - 25 new members were inducted into the Sherrard High School Chapter of the National Honor Society adding to the current membership for a total of 52. To be considered for membership students must have a 3.75 GPA, meet a criteria of character standards, service and leadership

- reviewed by an anonymous faculty council.

Together they pledged to uphold the high purposes of the National Honor Society, be true to the principles for which it stands, remain loyal to their school, maintain and encourage high standards of scholarship, service, leadership and character.

Each year NHS students facilitate a hunger drive for the River Bend Food Bank, help with the Tiger Closet, and complete various community service projects including an upcoming, "Pollinator Project" founded by current NHS members. NHS Chapter Advisers are Tom Thompson and

Lucas Fritch.
Officers:
President - Charlotte Frere
Vice President - Marshall Warner
Secretary - Kacie Swanson
Treasurer - Rokia Clauss
Historian - Adam Brimeyer
New members:
Kinley Anderson
Helana Baugh
Joselyn Bruning
Riley Cabor
Kaitlynn DeBlock
Allyson Eckhardt
Keaton Egel

Isabelle Estes
Noah Fender
Mara Franklin
Ellie Goble
Kyler Gross
Ava Hartman
Jack Hatlestad (not pictured)
Leah Johnson
Jaiden Juras
Autumn Kongkousohn
Ayva Kovacic
Lillian Russell
Nathan Strandberg
Elethia White
Aurora Wick
Vincent Wiley
Carter Wynn
Eva Zimmerman

Mr. SHS Entertains All



Pictured above, the sophomore senate continued the tradition of Mr. SHS, Terryn Krup took the crown March 17. Sherrard Junior Senate hosted the 9th annual Mr. SHS event - a variety show fundraiser for prom. The night was well-attended and laughs were had by all. Performers include: Mike Diehl Jr., Pierce Findlay, Sawyer Mital, Nick Morrison AKA Yung Bullet, Carson Schar, Terryn Krup, Brenin Krack, Brody Bernier, and Walker Anderson. *Cala Smoldt/Communications Coordinator*

Learning to Read



Kindergartners in Kim Hutchins class at Winola Grade work on their reading skills. *Photo submitted*



From the Desk of the Superintendent



Sherrard Superintendent
Alan Boucher

February Superintendent
Journal

During the month of February, our country spotlights the history and achievements of African Americans in society. There are many things to honor and celebrate. This year's overarching theme is black health and wellness and

includes the contributions of scholars, medical practitioners, midwives, and herbalists as well as the rituals and activities that help maintain health.

Black history month was implemented in part because the accomplishments of black Americans are too-often neglected. All of us benefit from learning about persons like Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King Jr., John Mercer Langston, Rosa Parks, Fredrick Douglas, and W.E.B. Du Bois. Over the years, our students have participated in an array of festivities to acknowledge these Americans and many others.

The issue of race is very important to edu-

cation. All students must have equal access to a high-quality education and must be successfully educated. Disparities have existed and continue to exist in public education. Progress has been made, but more work needs to be done. Collectively, it is our responsibility to identify obstacles, raise our awareness, and assure that all students have opportunities to achieve.

March Superintendent
Journal

Under normal circumstances, school nurses are extremely important. Add a pandemic to the mix and they become invaluable. Recently, I told the Board that one of the best pandemic decisions

they made was to hire two more nurses so there would be one nurse for every campus. I don't think anyone disagrees.

During non-pandemic times, school nurses manage student health records, administer medication, take temperatures, provide emergency care of injuries and sudden illness, manage the needs of diabetic students, conduct vision and hearing screenings, complete health reports for IEPs, make referrals, answer questions, provide resource materials, manage medical supplies, implement Board policies, and do a host of additional things.

During pandemics, the things mentioned above still have to be done, but

the nurses also have to test students and staff, contact families, consult with the health department, don PPE, order PPE, dispose of PPE, and listen to angry individuals vent, threaten, and demean.

All four of our school nurses have persevered through it all and continue to do an excellent job despite the challenges. I am very grateful for their moxie and pluck. Our district is stronger because of them.

To read more thoughts from Mr. Boucher - go to sherrard.us, on a mobile device click the three lines in the top right corner, choose 'Departments', then 'Superintendent'. Then, click the plus sign, then 'Supt. Journal'.

How to have a growth mindset:

School Counselor Rachel Berogan in the Classroom

The week of Feb. 7 was National School Counselor Week and Winola/Sherrard Elementary Counselor Rachel Berogan spent her days helping students in PreK - 4th grade learn how to have a "growth mindset" with a lesson in resiliency.

Second grade students in Stefanie Hoover's class learned ways to handle frustration from a lesson about having a, "bounce mindset versus a splat mindset... like eggs versus bouncy balls", said Berogan.

"When you're faced with a difficult situation you can either be a bouncy ball or an egg. We talk through some of those coping strategies and how you can push through difficult tasks," said Berogan.

She explained to students, "Here at school if we did things the same way everyday that would get boring, your

teacher's job is to face you with some challenges so you can grow."

Berogan said it's a lesson for teachers too, "It's a social emotional topic but I think it really ties in to what the teachers are teaching. When a kid is really bummed they're not understanding something they (teachers) can refer back to this lesson and remind them, 'Hey, let's be a bouncy ball, how are we going to do this?'"

She used items the kids are familiar with, a bouncy ball and a globble fidget, to show how one bounces back up and the other 'goes splat'. Students were given scenarios to work through and decide the best way to handle a hard situation.

"This is one of my favorite lessons to teach," she said, "It focuses on never giving up, and trying even when things get difficult."

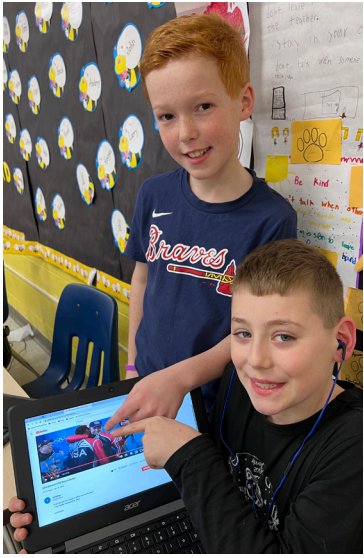


(Above) Berogan checked in with students who worked together to answer questions about what they would do when confronted with various conflict-type scenarios.

(Below) She demonstrated resiliency, comparing the way an egg shatters to the way a globble fidget 'splats'. *Cala Smoldt*



Lessons from Olympic Athlete Dan Steele



John Churchill and Nathaniel Pratt watch videos of Dan Steele competing in bobsledding prior to talking with him live on video.
Cala Smoldt

One Sherrard teacher found a way to bring the winter olympics to the classroom - and show students anything is possible. Sherrard Elementary fourth grade teacher Jackie Kelly invited Sherrard alumni, Olympian and former UNI track and field coach Dan Steele to speak to the fourth grade classes about bobsledding in February - in the midst of the Olympic Games Beijing 2022. To watch a video of the conversation on YouTube, on Sherrard School District's channel.

Kelly and Riley Strandgard's classes had the opportunity to interview the bronze medal olympian by video call. Kelly and Steele were peers at Sherrard High School, graduating two years apart, Steele in '87 and Kelly in '89.

Students researched bobsledding and Steele's background before the meeting and submitted questions to their teachers to ask during their time with him.

He was the brakeman on the 2002 USA Olympic bobsled team that earned a bronze medal in Salt Lake City, ending a 46-year medal drought in the sport for the U.S.

The conversation started with how he

got involved with the sport, how it works, what it's like to crash, and questions about his time at Sherrard.

"At first it was just track and field for me." He said he started bobsledding at 28. "I came close to making the olympic track and field team, but it didn't happen. So I had the bug, and when I had this opportunity it looked like I had a good shot of making the team as a rookie - and I pursued it."

His identical twin brother, Darrin inspired him to pursue bobsledding, "Other than my brother being in it, I probably wouldn't have pur-

"If you're going to do it, you've got to commit fully to it..." - Dan Steele

sued it."

Students asked why the team didn't include his brother Darrin, "We expected to race together, we planned to race together... We thought the two of us together for 4-man would make for a very fast sled.

It was fast, but our load was very bad. Sometimes the team has synergy and sometimes they don't, this one didn't," he explained. "With Darrin, we didn't have a very good velocity, even though we had good start times... Unfortunately, it wasn't going to work with both of us on the same sled. It was very disappointing for both of us."

He described to the kids what a "brakeman" does, "Only the 'driver' drives the sled, the other three athletes push at the start, and then they load into the sled. After that their only job is to stay centered in the sled - so that the center of gravity

in the sled stays in the middle and as low as possible. That's very important to maintain top speeds," he said.

Kelly said students were thrilled to talk to him - and even more excited when he sent the medal to the school, "It made them realize that their own dreams can come true if they work hard. The adoration they had in their eyes when they saw him online was so precious. Someone from our area went to the Olympics and won a medal! The day I brought the medal their eyes lit up and were amazed at how heavy it was," she said.

Students were on

the edge of their seats when he described crashing on a bobsled - something that's happened twice to Steel, "The first time it happened was the scariest moment of my life. We were already going over 80 mph when we crashed, in Austria at the time. It's very dangerous once you go over. You've got a 500lb sled, plus the weight of the athletes all crushing you into the ice at those speeds. It's easy to get injured. You have to take your helmet and press into the ice to lift your whole body and sled off of the ice so your shoulders don't melt off."

His life advice to students, "If you're going to do it, you've got to commit fully to it. Because the people you're competing against are so good and so dedicated - don't ever think you're outworking your competitors. If you think you are,



When Olympian and Sherrard alum Dan Steele showed the kids the bronze medal - they were in "awe".
Cala Smoldt

you're probably not. If you're paranoid you're not working hard enough, now you're on the right track."

"The fact that Dan took time out of his day to talk to them and share his medal meant the world to each one of them. Who knows? We may have a future Olympian in our school in the 4th grade," said Kelly.

A Sherrard native, Steele was the 1992 NCAA Champion in the 400-meter hurdles at Eastern Illinois. Post-college, he won a silver medal in the decathlon at the 1999 Pan-American Games and represented the United States at the 1999 IAAF World Track & Field Championships in Spain.

He earned his B.A. degree in sociology from Eastern Illinois in 1992. Steele was a two-time All-American and two-time Drake Relays champion for the Panthers and was inducted into EIU's Hall of Fame in 2001.

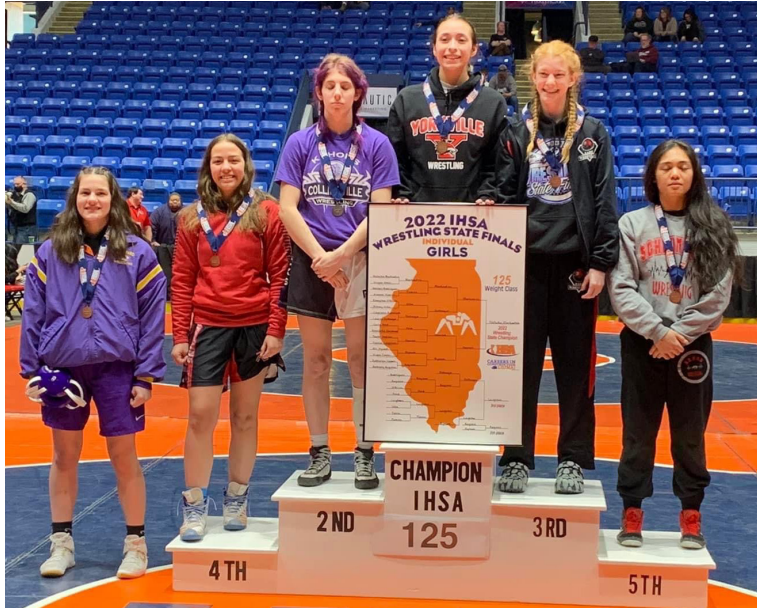
Steele spent his post olympic life coaching college track and field, and in July 2017 had a massive stroke that has prevented him from returning. His book titled, "American Steele: The Impossible Olympic Journey" released on Dec. 3, 2021 chronicles his sports journey,

He is a U.S. Army veteran. He and his wife (Dusky) have three children: Xander, Blake and Indra.



Through a mutual contact, Steele was able to send the medal to Sherrard grade for the kids to see it up close and personal. *Photo submitted*

Girls Wrestling: Bynum @state



Bri Bynum (above far left) took 6th place at the first ever Illinois High School Association girls wrestling state series on Feb.19. “She has more heart than some of the guys. She works very, very hard and it shows with her success. I’m very, very proud of her,” said Coach Jeff Garrett. *Tanya Bynum*

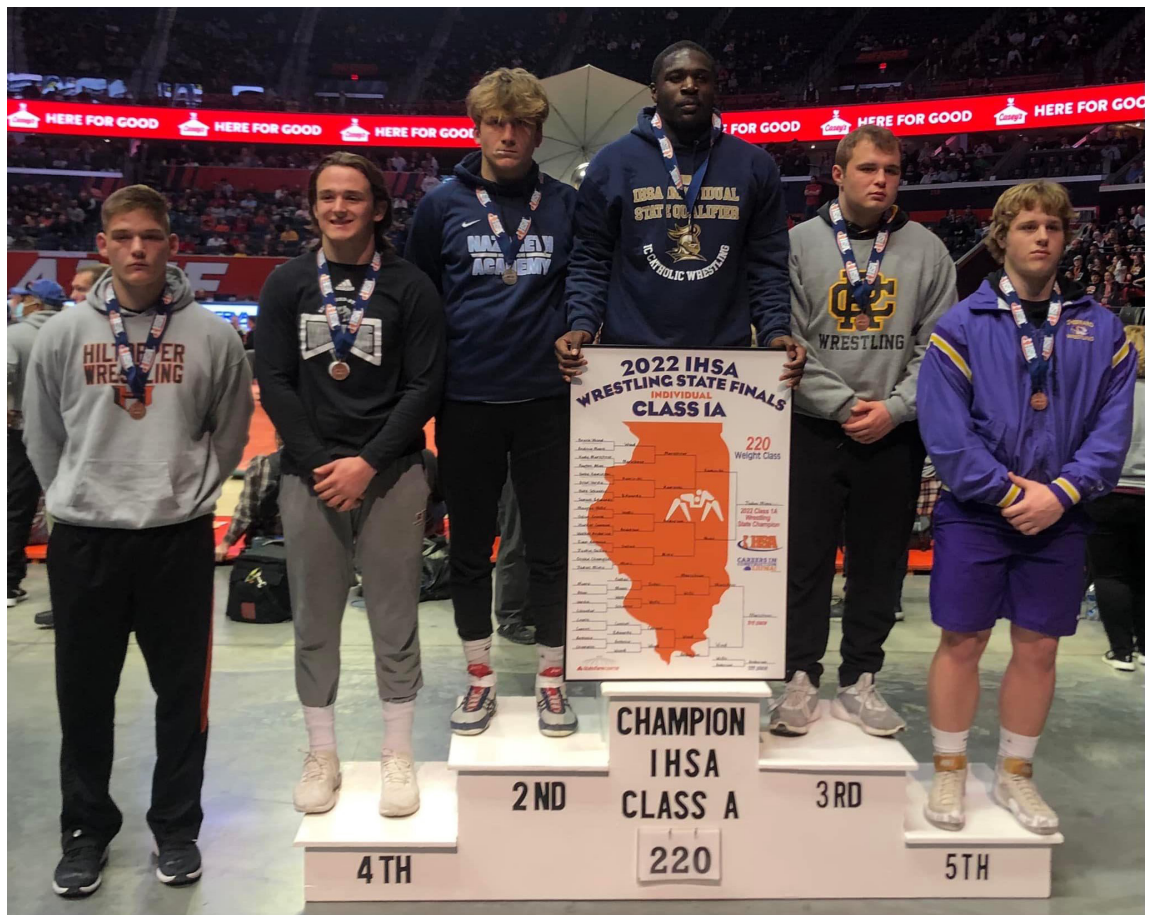
Wrestling Coach Honored



Jan. 13 - Wrestling wins dual victories over Knoxville and Alleman on senior night for Coach Jeff Garrett’s 300th victory.

“(It’s a) Huge accomplishment and proud of seniors that had a part in it. Austin Frazke also gets his 100th career win! Thanks coach for the impact you had on all!”
- Michael Applegate, Activities Director
Photo submitted

Wrestlers Go to State



IHSA Feb. 21 - Wrestling State Finals - Sherrard results:

Walker Anderson (above, far right) took 5th at 220 and Ryder Roelf was top 8 at 170.
Tanya Bynum



Pictured at left: The wrestling team consisted of, left to right, Dylan Russel, Ryder Roelf, Austin Fratzke, Nate Bynum, Noah Bradarich, Walker Anderson and bottom is Brianna Bynum. Of note, this year, Boys HS Wrestling finished the Abe Rumble tournament in 14th place, highest ever in the biggest Illinois Wrestling Christmas Tournament, out of over 70 teams. *Tanya Bynum*

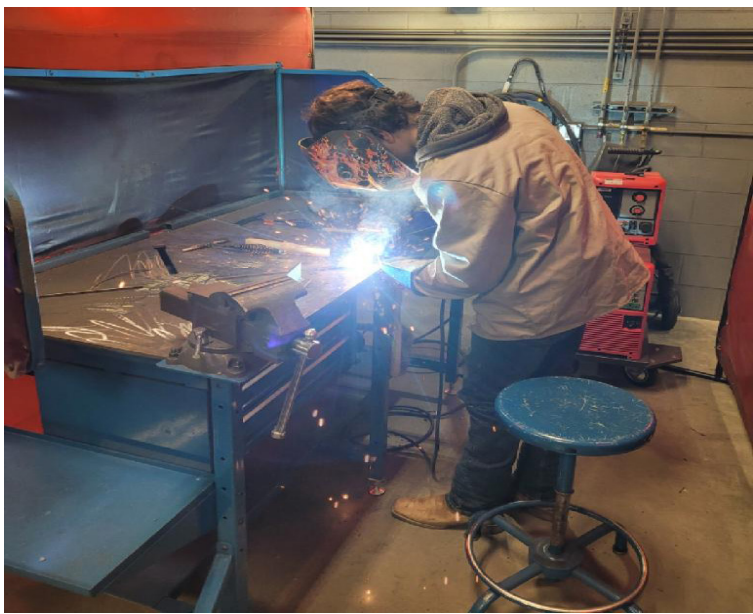
Girls Basketball



Feb. 18 - Girls hs basketball are regional champs - they fell to UHigh at Sectionals 47-49 and finished the season 22-7.

“Thank you to all of the family and friends that made the trip and also those that watched or listened back at home. Thank you to the players for all of the hard work and effort this year. Thank you to our six seniors Syd, Abi, Charlotte, Avrie, Erica, and Lexi for the commitment and dedication over the last four years,” Coach Doug Swanson posted to the Sherrard Tiger Girls Basketball following the loss. *Photo submitted*

Sherrard Welding Team Finishes First



Sherrard welding students took first at the 4th Annual Fillet T-Joint Weld Invitational held on March 16. The event was hosted by Black Hawk College and took place at the Welding and Skilled Trades Center in downtown Kewanee.

Out of 35 students, all six students from Sherrard placed in the top 10. Brennan Welch came in first, Justin Guthrie third place, Lucas German took fifth, Bo Johnson came in 6th, Ryley Zippe took 9th, and Robby Johnson finished tenth.

Sherrard metal fabrication teacher John Rasty said, "I was real-

ly proud of the whole group when I saw the results. I had a feeling they would do pretty well based on what I saw from them leading up to the competition, but to have all six of them place in the top 10 is outstanding."

"Those guys have worked hard in our program and our whole community should be proud of them," he said.

According to a Black Hawk College press release, "The goal is to provide a competitive welding contest in a state-of-the-art welding facility that gives high school students an opportunity to test their

skills."

Seven schools competed with teams of five students. The Top 3 individual scores counted toward the overall team score. Awards were given to the Top 3 teams and Top 10 individuals.

Top 3 teams: Sherrard, Kewanee, and Geneseo

Top 10 individuals: Brennen Welch – Sherrard, Kyle Guerrero – Geneseo, Justin Guthrie – Sherrard, Andrew Burke – Geneseo, Lucas German – Sherrard, Bo

Johnson – Sherrard. Kadin Rednour – Kewanee, Ben Bishop – Mercer County, Ryley Zippe – Sherrard and Robby Johnson – Sherrard

Martin Engineering sponsored the contest for the fourth year. The Top 3 teams will receive their awards March 28 at Martin Engineering in Neponset.

The awards for the Top 10 individuals were presented to the students at their schools the week of March 28.

ILMEA All-State



Keaton Egel (left), and Steven Shaw (right) were in Peoria at ILMEA competition in January. They were named All-State musicians. *Photo submitted*

Keaton Egel and Steven Shaw had the honor of being selected as ILMEA All-State musicians at the end of January.

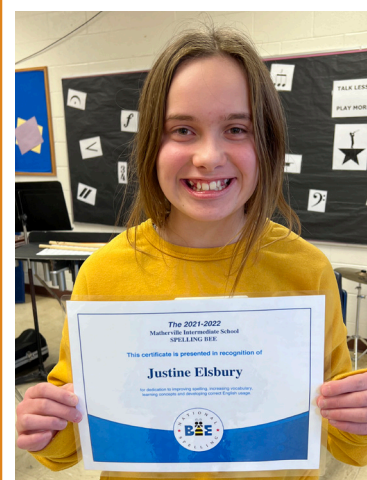
Keaton and Steven attended rehearsals and performances for three days in Peoria with over 600 of the best musicians in the state.

Keaton was selected to perform with the All-State Jazz Band on alto sax, and Steven was selected to perform Eb clarinet with the All-State Honors Band. Both students spent hours rehearsing with some of the country's best music educators and clinicians, meeting and working with students from high schools all across the state and performing incredibly challenging music to audiences of thousands.

"Keaton and Steven did a fantastic job representing Sherrard High School, and had an incredible musical experience," said band director Michael McDermott. In addition to being selected to perform with the All-State Honors Band, Steven also took part in the state wide composition contest. He won second place in the arranging category of the Illinois Music Educators Conference Composition Competition.

"This was a very high honor as the competition had hundreds of entries, and it should be noted that it is very rare that a student both places in this competition and also be selected as an All-State musician," said McDermott.

Spelling Winners



Fifth grader Justine Elsbury won first place at the Matherville Intermediate spelling bee. Jasmine Frerkes, 3rd grade Winola student and 4th grade Sherrard Elementary student Keegan Fletcher also won. They advanced to the Regional Spelling Bee at Augusta in the Centennial Hall. *Cala Smoldt*

In Class



(Above) HS teacher Amanda Fritch taught juniors and seniors about simple, compound and complex sentences in English class today (Jan. 20, 2022). "It's important to be able to write grammatically correct sentences for your job. If you do not, you may be overlooked for a position," Fritch told her class. They also had a visit from Harper, retired teacher Brenda Gates' therapy dog (below). *Cala Smoldt*



Matherville ILMEA



Jan. 31st, the Illinois Music Educators Conference was held in Peoria. Seven students from Matherville Intermediate auditioned and were chosen to be a part of the select choirs.

These students were: Emily Campbell (5th), Bella Cottrell (5th), Autumn Engle (5th), Gracelyn Hamberg (6th), Kendra Matkovic (6th), Glory Wakeland (5th), and Lane Weber (5th).

"They did a wonderful job representing our school and community!" - MV music teacher, Christina Pagett

Photo submitted

Students Earn Sense of Pride; Collaborate to help create innovation lab space



Furniture for the library, turned 'innovation lab', has arrived at Sherrard Junior/Senior High - and students had a hand in putting it all together in March.

Seniors in Tammy Crippen's Tech 2 English class completed the hands-on project-based task to

assemble the equipment within two class periods this week.

"We watch the show 'Apprentice' in our classroom. The students have been looking for a task to complete - the Apprentice receives tasks and must be in teams to execute the task," said Crippen.

She said students were divided into five teams with one project manager.

"We also have a quality control person in charge of output to make sure the task is completed with safety in mind," she explained.

Crippen said the project-based assignment helped her see ways students learn

differently.

"Watching these young adults figure out a task, work together, communicate, and make a positive impact in their community makes my heart beyond proud."

The pride exhibited by each of them the last two days, made me realize our future is definitely bright and that covid

may have 'stolen' some of their high school experiences, but it has added to their life experiences and goals that they have set. Our future is in 'good hands' with these young adults," she said.

The desks and chairs are modular to lend to the theme of "collaboration" for the space.



Kids Heart Challenge

Sherrard Elementary and Winola Elementary raised a combined total of \$12,920.84. Students earned prizes for their fundraising efforts conducted in February and March to benefit the American Heart Association.

Sherrard Elementary Money Raised: \$4,134.43
Top Four Fundraising

Students:
Mackenzie H. \$660.08
Annzlee W. \$591.23
Lex K. \$542.92
Harrison Z. \$441.70

Winola Elementary Money raised: \$8,786.41

Top Four Fundraising Students:

Emma S. \$747.34

Zoey S. \$682.45

Elliana B. \$485.00

Hayden O. \$350.00



Crochet with a Counselor



Kenzie Jones shows ag teacher John Rasty how to crochet. *Cala Smoldt*

The drop-in club "Crochet with a counselor" has seen up to 20 students stop by for a lesson in how to crochet.

Sophomore Kenzie Jones has helped teach several students, teachers and staff the art. She said the club began when school counselor Stacey Blackwell and Julie Drish, Academic Coordinator & AP Coordinator noticed her crochet materials with her during study hall one day.

"I told Mrs. Blackwell how there's a group of my friends that crochet... and she said, 'let's start something!'" The first time the group met, it was in the commons, and several

students stopped for a quick lesson.

"A lot of them were my friends, I knew they were showing up, but then when two of the basketball boys came over... I was like, 'boys actually wanna know how to do this?' Then the whole basketball team all started showing up and crocheting and getting into it," said Jones.

She said they couldn't stay because they had to go to basketball practice.

"It caught me by surprise they wanted to crochet and they were having fun with it. It

was pretty cool."

Student and friend of Jones, Abbie Anderson said, "I like the people in it. And these people... They make me very happy. I like coming here after school and hanging out - and just kinda vibe."

Blackwell said, "I think Crochet Club has been super successful. These girls are doing such a good job, and also recruiting more people to come. It's just a great opportunity to get together after school and learn how to crochet and really build better relationships with each other."



JH Gallery: Science Lab with Beck

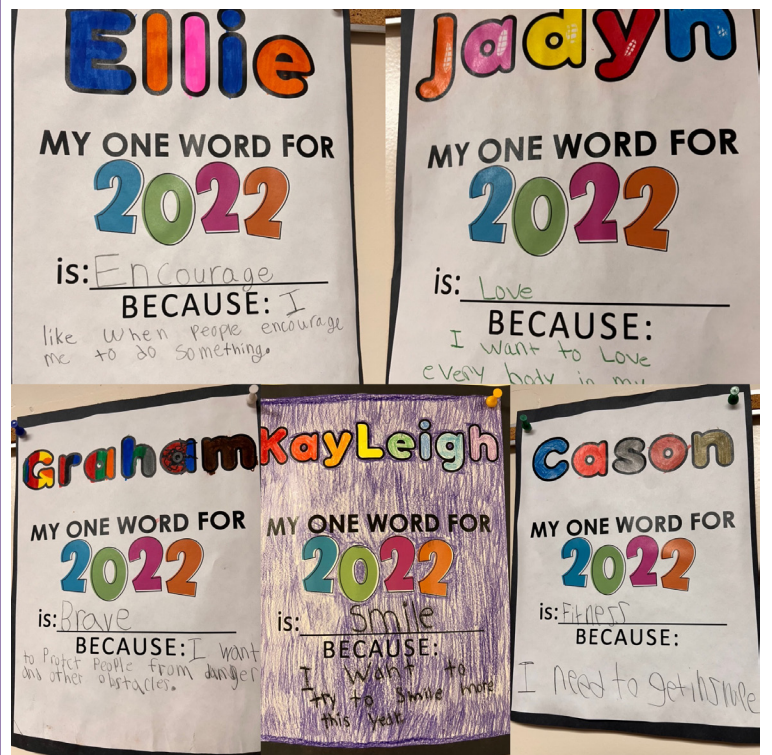
Photo Gallery: Junior High students get hands-on experience doing science labs in Mrs. Beck's class.

"This was part of our cell unit to show diffusion across a semipermeable membrane, as in the cell membrane and how materials move in and out of a cell. We used water, dialysis tubing, cornstarch and iodine," explained Beck.

Cala Smoldt



New Year's Resolutions



At the beginning of the year (2022), instead of committing to a resolution, Mrs. Fishman's 4th graders decided to focus on a single word.

They pondered, "What is one word we want to bring into our life this new year? What word could we work on? What area could we grow? What do we want more of?"

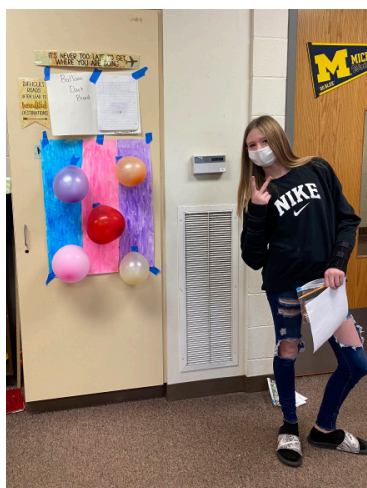
Some of their responses... Eliza chose "Brave, I want to be more brave in the things I do." Breanna chose, "Calm, I like being

calm and when I am calm I focus better." Jadyyn's word is, "Love, I want to love everybody in my life."

"Our goal is to bring this goal to life for the next 12 months," said Fishman. An example to her students - she shared her word of the year... "Growth. I want to grow as an educator and as a person. I want to step out of my comfort zone and try new things," she said.

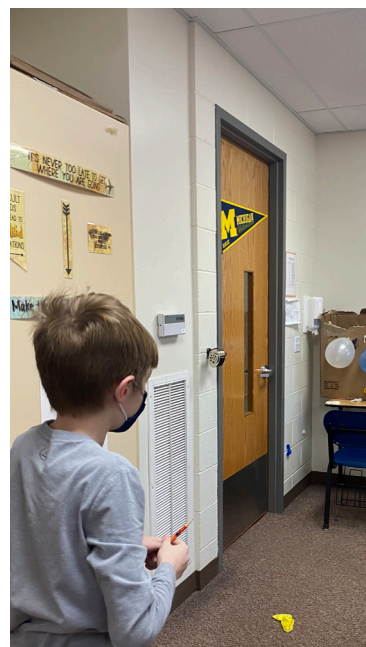


JH Olympics



(Pictured on left and right) 7th graders in Rachel Whelchel's JH Probability and Statistics class created carnival games earlier this year. "Using theoretical and experimental probability, they had to prove whether their game would be profitable if placed within a Carnival. They had to design and have students play their game to collect the needed data. They then had to create a report showing their findings," said Whelchel.

Photos submitted



News from the School Board



The school board voted to replace the district's mask mandate with a strong recommendation for indoor mask use on Feb. 7. *Cala Smoldt*

In an emergency meeting Feb. 7, the Sherrard School Board voted 6-1 to replace the district's mask mandate with a strong recommendation for indoor mask use. This mask-optional protocol affects all students and staff members and will be effective immediately.

"After board review - we decided to make masks strongly recommended per the original intention of the board at the beginning of the school year, prior to Governor Pritzker's executive order requiring indoor masking in August. After reviewing the details of the current litigation, it's the board's belief that putting the decision in the hands of the parents is the best possible outcome," said School Board President Rhys Fullerlove. The change could be temporary depending on the outcome of an appellate court appeal.

"The temporary restraining order issued Friday, Feb. 4 by Sangamon County Circuit Judge Raylene Grischow is being appealed to

the appellate court and we will be required to reassess if the ruling is stayed or reversed. The district will continue to monitor the situation closely and keep everyone up to date," said Fullerlove.

Superintendent Alan Boucher said, "We are thankful for the community's continued patience and understanding as we navigate the most recent changes related to COVID-19 mitigations. The district's commitment to provide a safe learning environment for our staff and students remains unwavering."

He said the district will still follow the COVID protocols for symptomatic and asymptomatic students and masking will continue to be mandated on buses and in the driver's ed car, per federal requirements.

The board also voted to abide by all IESA and IHSA guidelines. "This could mean that students will have to wear masks during competitions. To avoid any interruption of our extra-curricular activities," said Boucher.

Blind Date with a Good Book

February - Mather-ville Intermediate - Students each had an opportunity to choose a book, not based on the cover - but based on a short description on a sticky note.

Matherville Library Aide, Emily Bradshaw said she used to wrap

every single book for this project every year, somewhere around 400 total. Now, she uses red gift bags to contain the mystery books.

Below, Bradshaw leads students through the process of choosing a bag and checking out. *Cala Smoldt*



Two's Day



On 2/2/22, PE teachers Sarah Souhrada (left), and Paula Zigler (right), wear "Two's Day" shirts and tutu's in celebration.

"Hey, Little Ant"



(Above) Second graders in Haley Dyal's class worked on opinion sentences with reading specialist Maureen Basala at Sherrard Elementary.

They gave their opinions based on the book "Hey, Little Ant" by Phillip and Hannah Hoose and they came up with reasons they would or wouldn't squish the ant in the book. One student said she would not squish the ant because, "All creatures great and small matter." *Cala Smoldt*



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