

# SHELBY MIDDLE SCHOOL

FIRST QUARTER 2020-2021

**BARB GREEN**  
Principal

**ANDREW MCFARLAND**  
Assistant Principal

**CHRIS ZUERCHER**  
School Counselor

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

**Barb Green - Principal**

The first nine weeks of the 2020-21 school year have looked very different from previous years. From social distancing in the classrooms, wearing face masks throughout the building, to cleaning and sanitizing all surfaces, our students and staff have adjusted quite well. Most importantly, it is evident that our students and staff have found success within the classroom. Our students have taken advantage of the learning opportunities available to them during this first quarter. Kudos goes out to the families, students, and staff members who continue to face these challenges and make positive contributions each day.

In order to continue the communication between home and school, I invite you to schedule a Parent Teacher Conference to meet with your child's teachers. We will have scheduled conferences on Tuesday, October 27th from 3-7 PM. Please contact your child's teachers directly to schedule a time that works for you. Again for the safety of our teachers and families, teachers will talk with families through a simple phone call or a scheduled Google Meet.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, community, and staff.  
Happy Fall; Go Whippets!

## COVID-19 Policies

We would like to remind students and parents about our policies related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**\*All staff and students are required to wear masks unless they are eating or drinking, per the order from the Governor.** The mask must cover the person's nose and mouth.

**\*Students should bring a water bottle each day since we are not permitted to use our drinking fountains.** At this time we do not have a way for students to refill their water bottles so they should be sure to bring enough water to last the day.

**\*Please do not send your child to school if they are sick!** We are following a CDC protocol recommended to us by our local health departments. With a positive case in our own district, as well as cases in neighboring districts, we must remain diligent about keeping students, with certain symptoms, at home for the recommended time frame. If your child is instructed to remain at home for a 10 day period based on their symptoms, they may return to school sooner with a physician's note indicating they have an alternate diagnosis, or evidence of a negative COVID-19 test.

While our county remains at a level red with a higher rate of transmission, a greater number of students may need to be sent home for this 10 day period. Once we return to a level orange or yellow, we will be back to following a more normal protocol for illness as we have in previous school years (as long as there has been no COVID-19 contact in your family or student). This includes remaining home until your student is fever, vomiting, and diarrhea free for 24 hours. For example, if we send a student home with a fever at 10 AM, they will need to stay home the following day as well for a complete 24 hours free of fever without the use of fever reducing medications.

**We appreciate your willingness to work with us as we try to keep all of our staff and students safe in the best way we know how!**



# ALL ABOUT COMMUNICATION Shelby City Schools Notification System



## NEW RESPONSIBILITIES FOR STUDENTS IN 2020

Andrew McFarland–Assistant Principal

### TEXT ALERTS

If you have not done so already, please sign up for our SMS text alerts. This is a great way to get timely information regarding school cancellations or delays that can be brought on by mother nature. We also send out reminders for school events and deadlines as well. If you have not signed up for these text alerts and have texting or email accessible to you, please do not delay.

### REMIND Text Alerts

Join your child's teachers' REMIND text alert system. Each team of teachers uses REMIND text alerts to notify families and students of assignments, tests, and team and/or school information.

### SMS Facebook Group

Please check out the SMS Facebook group. Simply make a request to join the group and you will see updates and postings about the events here at SMS.

### Twitter & Instagram

You can follow Shelby Middle School on Instagram @sms-whippets and Shelby City Schools on Twitter and Instagram @shelbywhippets. You can use the hashtags #whippetpride or #shelbywhippets.

### Middle School Website

Check out our Middle School Website. We are running the same informational slides on our web page that we are broadcasting on our monitors in the entryway and the commons area daily. You can also see student pictures of events and classroom activities that are taking place here at SMS.

**MASKS** – Students are required to bring a mask to school every day and wear it the right way, over their mouth and nose. We are grateful that we have been able to come to school every day so far as we follow the Governor's orders and Shelby's Restart Plan. Please make sure they are cleaned frequently.

**COMPUTERS** – Every student at SMS has now been assigned their own computer and charger! These are a major daily resource used while in school, and must be brought every day. It is very important that they are charged to 100% at night so that they can be used throughout the day.

### REMINDERS

**DRESS CODE** – Students are now allowed to wear jeans that have holes in them. Please do not abuse this by making sure that holes are not excessive and that they are below fingertip length on the leg.

**MORNING SAFETY** – During the months that are dark in the morning, it is very important that students wear light or reflective clothing/backpacks when walking to school or the bus stop. Please also be alert to traffic and use crosswalks.





# 2020 FALL ATHLETICS



**Mike Walter – SMS Athletic Director**

What a crazy and busy fall it has been. I first would like to thank everyone for having an open mind and being flexible this season. We had no idea what sports were going to look like from the beginning. We were basically on a week to week schedule, so I appreciate everyone understanding and going with the flow week to week. That being said hold on for the winter months!!

The fall sports season has come to a conclusion here at Shelby Middle School. All of our teams have shown great enthusiasm, sportsmanship, and have improved immensely. Our football teams concluded the season October 13th. This was the second year Shelby has played some of these teams since we changed leagues a year ago. Our 7th grade football team played against some tough competition and ended the season undefeated at 8-0! What a way to come out of the gate and start your athletic career here at Shelby! Expectations are high so continue to work in the off season, because many will be giving it their best shot to try and get you next season. Our 8th grade team finished its season with a record of 4-3. Their last game was cancelled due to quarantine. Unfortunately, they did not get to play their last game, but we were happy to play as many games as we did. At the beginning of the season we were not sure if we would play at all. The last two seasons they have a combined record of 10-5 and have continued to get better and improved immensely this past year. Good luck as you head to the high school to continue getting better and strive for league titles. Congratulations to both teams for a hard fought season.

Our boys and girls cross country teams had strong efforts this fall despite a shortened season. Both teams ended the season on positive notes with the boys coming in third place in the MOAC and the girls team was runner up MOAC Champions!! The two teams faced some tough competition the whole season. Congratulations to all our runners and best of luck to you in the future!

Our 7th and 8th grade volleyball teams have played hard and improved throughout the season as well. The 8th grade team had a great season going 11-5 and becoming runner up MOAC champs. They improved greatly this year and topped it off with a hard fought tournament championship game. We wish them much success going to the high school and carrying the Whippet pride with them! The 7th grade team concluded their season with a MOAC championship! They had a strong season with an overall record of 10-6 and knocked off an undefeated Ontario team to win the league. They played well throughout the year and made a great run in the tournament! Work hard and good luck next year defending your title! Congratulations to both teams for excellent seasons!!!

We would like to thank the cheerleaders for all their hard work this season as well. They have done a great job keeping up the positive school spirit throughout this fall season. We appreciate the signs, locker decorations, and hard work on the cheers for the games. Great job to all our student athletes, cheerleaders, and coaches this past fall! You have had an awesome opening to the 2020-2021 school year and should be proud of the fine seasons you had!!!



## WINTER SPORTS

Since the fall sports' season has wrapped up, parents are reminded to take care of all paperwork in advance. Every student athlete must have a current physical paper on file in the middle school office. In order to try-out for a team, the athlete must have a current

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physical. Any student who does not have a current physical should get papers from the office as soon as possible. This paper must be signed by both a physician and a parent, and is good for one year. Another necessary form is a blue card with emergency information on it that can be picked up in the office or the coach will give them out at practice. All other forms must be filled out online from the school district website. Anyone with questions concerning athletics may call **Mike Walter at (419) 342-6587**.

Another item that is important to be able to participate in an athletic event is grades. Students must be passing at least five (5) academic classes in order to be eligible to play a sport. The grades will be from the 1st nine weeks grading period that ended on October 18th. If you have any questions on eligibility contact the middle school office.

Speaking of winter sports, our teams will be ready to begin practices soon. The Girls and Boys Basketball Programs will start their season October 23rd. Wrestling will start the first week in November. Conditioning/open gyms/open mats have already begun for these sports. Please call the office to find out the time and location of these open gyms.

There are many questions concerning what winter sports are going to look like. There normally is a mandatory meeting for any athlete wanting to play a winter sport. However, like the fall sports, there will be a video online to view and the individual coaches will hold their own meeting. These meetings will more than likely take place in a zoom meeting. Further details will come as we find out more information about winter sports and we will pass on the information as quickly to you as we find out more.

Many questions concerning athletics can be answered by visiting the Shelby City Schools' athletic calendar. Shelby Middle School athletic events and basketball practice times are located at this site.

## NEW THIS YEAR – FREE LUNCHES

Shelby School District has received a grant that will allow ALL students to have a free lunch and breakfast each day for the entire year. However, please complete the Free or Reduced Meal Application form on line, if you feel you would qualify for meal benefits. Those that qualify will have school fees waived.

## BTFE – Box Tops For Education

Be sure to download the BTFE “**Box Tops for Education**” app on your cell phone. Designate Shelby Middle School and your child’s name to track purchases of products with Box Tops.

At various times throughout the school year, we will ask you to turn in any cut out box tops and/or electronic savings reports printed from the app. A spreadsheet will be maintained at SMS to document the number of box tops turned in for each individual student’s account.

5th Grade: The money raised goes into the students’ account to pay for Camp Nuhop.

6th, 7th, and 8th Grade: The money raised goes into each student's account to pay for the 8th Grade trip to Washington, D.C.



**BOX TOP**



**TURN IN DAY**

The next Box Top Collection Day will be Friday, February 5. Please remember to turn in the electronic copy and/or trim cut-outs down to the dotted line. The expiration date must be on the cut-outs in order to be counted.



## GUIDANCE

### Ohio Means Jobs Website – Dare Program Guidance Counselor – Chris Zuercher

I hope everyone is doing well during a different school year. We are in the process of getting our 8th graders ready for high school and a few ways we do this is by a Job Shadowing Program and a visit to Pioneer. This year, unfortunately, we can't do the Job Shadowing Program. Our trip to Pioneer is going to be a virtual trip, while normally we are there in person. We are working with Pioneer on how we are going to be able to do this virtually. One thing we have been able to do, so far, is have Jim Sorenson from Pioneer come over and have a three day discussion with our 8th grade students on the Ohio Means Jobs website. This site allows students to look at their future career. It allows students to look at current and future jobs and how to get where they want to go. It also has a great college search program.

Right now the 5th graders are going through the D.A.R.E. program. Each week, students get to meet one time with Officer Swisher as he goes over everything from effects of smoking to problem solving skills and ways to deal with stress. This is a great program and it will continue to the end of the first semester in December. So far, the year is flying by and we are hoping for a great second quarter.



## BUS CONDUCT

Riding a school bus is a vital key for many of our students to attend school daily. With so many students riding on a bus, and safety being our number one priority, it is important that all students understand their role in keeping themselves and others safe. We try to keep things very simple: stay in a seat, talk quietly and respectfully, keep hands to self, and listen to the driver's directions. Please have conversations with your student(s) about their responsibilities on the bus, and that we hope they act as if they are riding in a car with you. If any problems or concerns arise, please encourage your student to talk to a driver, or someone at school so that we can resolve the issue.



## WALKING/BIKE SAFETY

We continue to talk about student safety as our children come to and from school, especially in the morning when it is still dark upon their arrival. Please take a few minutes to reinforce to them the importance of making smart decisions as they cross streets and travel on streets that may not have sidewalks. It's also a great time of the year to check their bikes for proper reflectors.

## CHECK GRADES ON PROGRESSBOOK



Please be sure that you are checking Progressbook on a regular basis. This is a great tool to stay on top of your child's grades. If you are having difficulty accessing Progressbook – please call the office and we can help.

## PROGRESSBOOK PASSWORDS

Please remember to document your student's password.

**PASSWORDS DO NOT CHANGE**  
from year to year.



## Creating Cash for Your Child Plan to order **COOKIE DOUGH!!!!**



Your child will bring home information regarding our **Cookie Dough Sale in January!** This Cookie Dough Sale is not your typical fundraiser where the proceeds go to an organization or the school. **ALL OF THE PROFITS FROM THIS FUNDRAISER GO DIRECTLY TO HELPING YOUR CHILD PAY FOR THEIR 6TH GRADE CAMP NUHOP EXPENSES AND/OR 8TH GRADE TRIP TO WASHINGTON, DC.**

Here is how it works. From January 29–February 12, your child will be selling a variety of cookie dough. If your child sells “X” amount of cookie dough; 50% of the total sales goes directly into their student account that can be used for these two trips only. When the date comes to pay for these two trips, your total amount due will be reduced by the amount you have saved during your time here at SMS. So...rather than Mom and Dad digging into their pockets, if your child has \$100 dollars in his/her account from selling cookie dough, that money is deducted from the cost of the trip. This is the same account where we keep your child’s Box Tops money as well. Please feel free to ask any questions you may have. We will offer this opportunity each year for students to help earn money to offset the cost of their trips. Thank you for your support!

### STUDENT IMAGES AND PICTURES

At various times throughout the school year we will be using pictures and images of students to showcase their talents and what is happening in and around SMS. At no time will we use your child’s name with their image without permission.

Please contact Mrs. Green in writing if you do not want us to use your child’s image or picture.

### SPIRIT WEEK AT SMS

**Monday, October 26th - BEACH DAY**

**Tuesday, October 27th - TWIN DAY**

**Wednesday, October 28th - NEON DAY**

**Thursday, October 29th -  
FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM**

**Friday, October 29th - COSTUME DAY**

## ONLINE FORMS AND FEE PAYMENTS

Parents and students will need to complete all forms online again this year. You can access the forms from the district website [www.shelbyk12.org](http://www.shelbyk12.org) and click on the **Forms Tab** at the top of the page. You will be redirected to **Strategic Solutions** where you will need to create an account. After you create the account you will have access to all required forms. You can also pay school fees online by clicking on the red **Pay School Fees** toward the bottom of the homepage. You will need your child’s ID number, which can be found by calling the SMS office.



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## OCTOBER

**Monday–Friday, 26–30: Spirit Week**

**Tuesday, 27: Parent Teacher Conferences: 3:00–7:00 pm (Phone calls or Google Meets only)**

**Thursday, 29: SMS Picture Retakes at 7:35 AM**

**Friday, 30: Stall Day/Costume Day and Academic Recognition**

## NOVEMBER

**Wednesday, 18: SCRAP Recycling at SMS from 2–4 PM**

**Friday, 20: Mid Quarter Incentive–“Donuts & Juice”**

**Tuesday, 24: Interims Go Home**

**Wednesday,–Friday 25–27: Thanksgiving Break–No School**

**Monday, 30: Classes Resume**



## DECEMBER

**Wednesday, 16: SCRAP Recycling at SMS from 2–4 PM**

**Tuesday, 22: End of 2nd Quarter–Early Release at 12:25 PM**

**Wednesday,–Monday, December 23–January 4 – Christmas Break**



## JANUARY

**Monday, 4: Christmas Break**

**Tuesday, 5: Classes Resume**

**Friday, 8: Grade Cards Go Home**

**Tuesday, 12: 6th Grade Academic Challenge**

**Wednesday, 13: 7th/8th Grade Academic Challenge at SMS**

**Monday, 18: No School–Martin Luther King Day**

**Wednesday, 20: SCRAP Recycling at SMS from 2–4 PM**

**Thursday, 21: Richland County Spelling Bee at 9:30 AM**

**Tuesday, 26: 5th Grade Academic Challenge**

**Thursday, 28: Staff and Group Pictures**

**Friday, 29: SMS Cookie Dough Fundraiser Begins (Sale Ends February 12)**



## NO SCHOOL DAYS

November 25–27 – Thanksgiving Break

December 23–January 4 – Christmas Break

January 18 – Martin Luther King Day



