



SUCCESS

WINTER 2022-23



QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM SHELBY CITY SCHOOLS

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Entering the Holiday Season with Thanks



Tim Tarvin
Superintendent,
Shelby City Schools

As we enter the holiday season, traditionally a time in which we give thanks for the people and events in our lives that are most important to us, I want to thank the community of Shelby for their continual support, and patience as we opened our PK-8 building this fall. We are now blessed in Shelby to have all of our students on one campus for instruction and we have made sweeping changes and upgrades to our athletic facilities. Parents, grandparents, as well as the

entire community have been outstanding partners, as together, we have learned new traffic patterns, bus routes, drop-off and pick-up routines and a variety of other changes brought about by our recent improvements. Despite these monumental shifts in our practices, our families have continually worked with our schools to, thus far, make this a successful school year. Thank you.

And of course, we are not quite done with the enhancements to our district facilities. Partial demolition of the middle school/high school on West Smiley is nearly complete and sometime after the first of the year the Board of Education offices will move from the downtown location in Central to the existing offices of the "old middle school". Following that move, Central Elementary will be razed, as well as the grandstands at Skiles Field, and then, with the exception of the bus garage facilities, our transformation will be complete.

Shelby is a community with strong traditions but of course, traditions are not unique to our little corner of the world. All around the world the holidays are celebrated with meaningful and ingenious customs. Children in some regions of northern Europe leave hay and carrots outside the house on Christmas Eve because they believe Saint Nicholas arrives by horse. In a festive display, folks in more tropical parts of the world adorn their homes with mango leaves and decorate banana trees. Interestingly, historians believe that the first record of a decorated tree dates back to 15th century France. In fact, many believe this tradition was later brought to England by

immigrants who had roots in that region of Europe and missed the ritual of decorating a tree. Traditions exist everywhere and many of them are very similar. That's what is unique about people...for all of our disagreements, we still have more similarities than we have differences. So as you and your family celebrate the holidays and all of your wonderful traditions, whether it's decorating the Christmas tree together or simply enjoying the company of loved ones, keep in mind that traditions, no matter how simple or how extravagant, are the ties that bind. From the staff at the Shelby City Schools to all of you have a safe and joyous holiday season.

Tim Tarvin
Superintendent, Shelby City Schools

Eco Whippets Help Teach Sustainability

Shelby Schools has thousands of students on campus each day. As you can imagine, this equates to a lot of trash going into our landfill. That's why our Shelby Middle School Eco Whippets recently visited the PK-2 and 3-5 pods to talk recycling.

All pods will now have the skills to recycle everyday materials including paper, plastics and cardboard. Mrs. Rowlands, the Eco Whippets advisor, helped her students create lessons that can be taught in the classroom to keep the conversation going.

Eco Whippets is a group of students from grades 6-8 who are responsible for the collection of all recycled materials on a weekly basis. Thanks for sharing these important tips to help us protect our planet!





Financial Update

Beth Lykins, Treasurer

Shelby City Schools is dedicated to fighting for fair funding. However, one of our revenue streams is currently being called into question and public school districts have no say in the outcome.

The Rover pipeline transports natural gas from eastern Ohio to southeastern Michigan where it connects to the existing gas pipeline grid. The Rover and Nexus pipelines span nearly 800 miles in Ohio, run through nearly 100 school districts, and pass through 30 of Ohio's 88 counties.

When the Rover pipeline was completed in 2018, it became subject to Public Utility Tangible Personal Property tax. It was estimated that the pipeline would generate \$88 million per year for school districts in Ohio. The construction of our new PK-8 building and athletic complex was fueled by pipeline funding. In 2019, the Rover pipeline filed an appeal with the Ohio Department of Taxation based on the taxable value assigned to their property as a result of their lost revenues due to the low cost of natural gas sales in their initial years of production.

We will keep you apprised when a final decision is made and what this means for Shelby City Schools.

In other financial news, the district recently began using BoardDocs, which provides easier access to board meeting agendas and minutes to our public. These items are now searchable on our website at shelbyk12.org.

Last, we are proud to have been awarded an Ohio K12 School Safety Grant for \$50,000. The safety of our students and staff is our top priority, and we are excited to be able to upgrade our safety measures district-wide as a result of this funding.

Thank you for your continued support of our Whippet community! Feel free to contact me at 419-342-3530 or lykins.bethl@shelbyk12.org with any questions.

Shelby City Schools Dedicates

More than two years' worth of work culminated in September when Shelby City Schools welcomed students into its new, state-of-the-art, PK-8 building. The building was formally dedicated on Nov. 2.

The ceremony featured several speakers, including district leadership, local and state dignitaries, students, and members of the Garmann Miller and Adena Corp. teams. Those in attendance also heard a performance from the Shelby High School band while students from every grade level in the new building coled the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. A time lapse video highlighted the project's progress from start to finish.

The project officially kicked off in 2019 when the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) Classroom Facilities Assistance Program granted the district \$38.5 million for the new construction. Later that year, Shelby City



Shelby High School Celebrates AAC Awareness Month

AAC or Augmentative and Alternative Communication Month took place in October. Shelby High School recognized the month to show their support of those who need help communicating.

AAC systems, including iPads, speech-generating devices, eye gaze devices, communication boards, and picture books, help those who can't speak by developing their language skills and helping them participate in everyday activities. This year's theme was "Show Your Voice," and student Elijah Wright did just that by using his tablet to say the Pledge of Allegiance over the morning announcements.





PK-8 Building

Schools hired architect Garmann Miller, and alongside district administrators, staff and community members, they set to work designing the perfect building for current and future Shelby students.

The completed school features three pods: PK-2, 3-5 and 6-8. The district's signature colors can be found throughout the building. Additionally, a history wall and other encouraging sayings are strategically placed throughout showcasing the strength and power of Whippet pride. Essays about the new building were read by students and specifically mentioned the impact the additional natural light and extended learning areas will have on students' educational experience.

A community-wide open house was held on Nov. 5 where staff and students enjoyed showing off their new learning space to families and friends.



Shelby Staff Learning About Science of Reading to Improve Literacy

Paul M. Walker, Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum Director

Shelby Schools strives to equip staff with the right tools and resources to provide the best education possible to students. As part of our efforts to improve student literacy, or reading and writing, teachers are participating in 18 hours of professional development this year on the Science of Reading.

The learning will focus on three key themes:

- Letters and sounds: Knowing the sounds letters make is essential for sight-word learning.
- Phonic decoding: Understanding sound patterns enables students to develop their knowledge of letter sounds, including how words sound, and are spoken and written. This is especially important through first grade.
- Orthographic mapping: This is the process that occurs when unfamiliar words become automatic sight words.

This professional development opportunity will allow staff to implement a Structured Literacy approach, which employs methods that support the learning of every student.



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Important Dates

December 21

Early release

Dec. 22 - Jan. 1

Christmas Break

January 16

MLK, Jr. Day - No School

January 20

Early release

February 20

Presidents' Day - No School

Cross Country Runners Finish Season Strong at State Meet

Senior Kayla Gonzales made Shelby Schools history on Saturday, Nov. 5. Her fourth-place finish at the Division II state championship at Fortress Obetz earned her the highest finish of any other female Whippet runner. Gonzales holds the record for Shelby High School for the 5,000 meter race with a time of 18:06 and was also awarded All-Ohio honors for the second year in a row.

Similarly, Huck Finnegan earned all-state honors and finished 30th in the state boy's race. His finish helped secure 10th place in the boys' standings for the Whippets.

Congratulations to both teams!



Community Joins Wizard of Oz Cast for Free Breakfast

At Shelby City Schools, we are all about community, as evidenced by events like the one held on Nov. 2. All Shelby senior citizens and residents were invited to enjoy a free hot breakfast, complete with entertainment provided by the cast of the "Wizard of Oz!" Spread the word! The next breakfast event, which will again be open to senior citizens, will be held Dec. 7 at 9 a.m., and will include musical entertainment.

