



Success

Fall 2025



QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM SHELBY CITY SCHOOLS

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

A Strong Start and a Season of Celebration



Michael Browning
Superintendent

The school year is off to a whirlwind start, and Shelby is brimming with Whippet pride. With crisp mornings, changing leaves, and the excitement of fall in the air, our students and staff have brought energy, enthusiasm, and Whippet pride into every classroom, hallway, and athletic field.

There's something special about fall in Shelby. From the cheers on Friday nights

to the smell of fresh notebooks and sharpened pencils, this time of year brings a sense of possibility and purpose. Classrooms are alive with curiosity, students are setting goals, and our staff is laying the foundation for another year of growth. You can feel the momentum building across every grade level.

One of the most exciting pieces of news this fall is our 4.5-star rating from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, the highest in Richland County. We're especially proud of earning 5 stars in Gap Closing and 4 stars in Achievement, Progress and Graduation. While our Early Literacy and College and Workforce Readiness ratings came in at 3 stars, we see these as opportunities for growth. The College and Workforce

Readiness category is new this year, and we're eager to dig into the data, explore strategies, and continue raising the bar for our students' future success.

Fall sports are in full swing and our student-athletes have already delivered some incredible performances and big wins. Homecoming Week was another highlight with spirited dress-up days, a packed stadium on game night and students dancing the night away at the homecoming dance. It's been a season of celebration both in and out of the classroom.

As you read on, you'll find stories about new athletic records being set, powerful tributes to 9/11 and our POW/MIA heroes, a new workforce lab, classroom fun and so much more. None of this would be possible without the dedication of our students, the support of our families and the commitment of our staff and community.

Thank you for being part of everything that makes Shelby such a special place to learn, grow, and lead. Go Whippets!

Michael Browning
Superintendent
Shelby City Schools

Seat of Honor

On September 19, Shelby FCCLA hosted a heartfelt POW/MIA Chair of Honor dedication at the Shelby Athletic Complex with support from ArcelorMittal. The empty chair serves as a permanent reminder of the brave men and women who were prisoners of war or remain missing in action. Though they are not with us, their sacrifice is remembered and honored always.



Eco Champs of Shelby

Shelby Middle School's Eco-Whippets are turning trash into triumph. Over the past two years, these young changemakers have recycled a staggering 14,000 pounds of electronics and brought home a first-place trophy from the Take Pride Earth Stewardship Awards. Their passion for the planet is powering real change right here in Shelby.



Update from The Treasurer



Madison Ratliff
Treasurer

Dear Shelby Community,

In the world of school finance, change is always on the horizon and Shelby City Schools is ready. This year the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce introduced a new format for financial forecasting. Instead of a five-year outlook, districts will now submit a four-year forecast twice a year with updated deadlines in October and February. By the 2026–27 school year, those submissions will shift even earlier to August and February.

But at Shelby we know smart planning goes beyond meeting state requirements. Our team regularly looks beyond the four-year window to track long-term trends and get ahead of any challenges. This kind of proactive thinking helps us keep our schools strong, stable and prepared for what's next.

So what exactly is a financial forecast? Think of it as a roadmap. It charts the district's expected revenues and expenses using real data and thoughtful assumptions about things like enrollment, funding and the local economy. It helps us answer big-picture questions: Are we investing our dollars where they matter most? What's sustainable long term? What should we adjust today to protect tomorrow?

As we prepare our forecast, we are also monitoring state and county proposals that could significantly impact school funding. This includes a potential constitutional amendment to eliminate property taxes and local exemptions that could reduce district revenue by \$335,000 annually starting in 2026. While we agree that tax reform is important, it must be balanced and not come at the expense of essential local services and public education. We remain committed to fiscal responsibility and will keep the community informed as these developments evolve and as we assess their potential impact on the opportunities and services we provide our students.

We are proud to approach school funding with care and clarity. Every dollar we spend supports the heart of our mission—giving Shelby students the opportunities, experiences and support they need to thrive.

To view our most recent forecast, visit shelbyk12.org/district/treasurer/.

Sincerely,
Madison Ratliff
Treasurer

Shelby Brings Home Highest Report Card in Richland County

Shelby City Schools has earned an impressive 4.5 stars on the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce report card, the highest score of any district in Richland County. Our students and staff are delivering results worth celebrating.

But the numbers tell an even more powerful story. Across Ohio, there's a well-documented link between income and report card results—yet Shelby is breaking that pattern. On the 2025 Performance Index, Shelby ranked 226th out of 607 districts, placing us in the top 37 percent statewide, while our income rank is 456th, in the bottom 25 percent.

That's a 230-place swing, placing Shelby among the top 40 districts in Ohio—the top 6 percent statewide—for outperforming expectations.

Shelby is proving that income doesn't define outcomes—our commitment to excellence does. Together, we're showing what's possible when high expectations, hard work, and Whippet Pride come together to drive student success.



Little Big Adventures

Shelby's youngest learners got an up-close look at some very big community helpers during the Touch a Truck and Preschool Family Picnic! Families explored a school bus, post office truck, fire truck, police car, farm tractor and several city trucks. The crowd favorite was the live K-9 demonstration that had kids cheering and pretending to be officers, firefighters and drivers for the day!



New Workforce Lab Kicks Off

Shelby's new Industry 4.0 course is off to a strong start, with over 40 students signed up to explore high-tech manufacturing careers. Backed by a \$1.2 million state grant, the former library is now the Whippet Workforce Lab, where students get hands-on with equipment and skills that can lead straight to in-demand jobs. It's a bold step forward in preparing students for what's next.



Buckle Up, Shelby



Shelby Middle School FCS students kicked off the year with a Back-to-School Seat Belt Safety Campaign full of energy and imagination. Through skits, songs, slogans and coloring pages, they brought the “Buckle Up” message to life with the elementary students they were paired with. Their creativity is helping keep our community safe, one seat belt at a time.

Shelby Remembers 9/11

On September 11, students and first responders came together in a powerful tribute of remembrance and resilience. Side by side, they climbed the stadium stairs to honor the lives lost, the heroes who served and the families forever changed. With every step, they carried the weight of memory and the spirit of unity. Special thanks to State Trooper B. Imars for capturing this moment and to the Shelby High School community, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Shelby Fire, Ohio Army and Air National Guard and the Mansfield Law Director’s Office for showing what it means to never forget.



Little Dots, Big Ideas

Mrs. Shell’s first graders celebrated International Dot Day with creativity, color and a whole lot of heart. After reading “The Dot” by Peter H. Reynolds, they crafted crowns, designed their own unique dots and explored how one small mark can spark big ideas. The day was all about believing in themselves and cheering each other on to make their mark in the world.

Preschoolers Go on Apple Adventure

Preschoolers have been diving into all things apples this fall, exploring how their five senses come alive through sight, touch, smell, taste and sound. From peeling apples for warm applesauce and crunchy crisp to running their own pretend apple and pumpkin market, our young learners are tasting, counting and discovering the sweet side of science and math!



Shelby’s Royal Duo

Shelby showed up in royal style as juniors Trent Rodman and Paytan Byrd were crowned 2025 Richland County Fairgrounds king and queen. These standout FFA members are leaders in every sense, shining with passion for agriculture, service and their community. Their achievement is a proud moment for Whippet Nation and a perfect example of Shelby excellence on full display.



STEM Fun

In Mrs. Ream’s STEM class, students brought creativity and heart to Crestwood Care by designing custom games for the residents. The room was filled with laughter, connection and meaningful conversation. It’s tough to say who had more fun—the students or the seniors.



ELA Tackles Puzzle Time



Students in Mrs. Bogner’s ELA class took on a fast-paced puzzle challenge that put their teamwork to the test. Guided by “Leader in Me” strategies, they learned to keep the end in mind and lean on one another to reach their goal. It was a powerful reminder that great things happen when minds and efforts connect.





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SAVE THE DATE



Tickets: \$10 Adults
\$5 Students and Seniors

Showtimes:
Thurs., Nov. 20, 2025
7:00 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 22, 2025
2:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Sun. Nov. 23, 2025
2:30 p.m.

Shelby's Champion Season

What a season for the Shelby Whippets! For the 31st time in school history, they're league champs, and this one came with a perfect 10-0 record. The team played with heart all season long, making big plays when it mattered and bringing the community to its feet week after week. With the playoffs on the horizon, our undefeated Whippets are charging ahead with determination and heart. Way to go Whippets!



From Underdog to Unstoppable

As an eighth grader, Madison Henkel knew she was behind the top volleyball players around her. So she got to work, pouring herself into club teams and daily training with a fierce drive to improve. On Sept. 30, that determination paid off when her third kill against Ontario made her the newest member of Shelby's 1,000-kill club. Now a senior with 1,011 kills, Henkel stands among the best to ever play Whippet volleyball.



Whippets on the Move

Shelby's 3rd through 5th graders turned up the energy at this year's Fitness Challenge, charging through obstacle courses, tugging their way to victory in tug of war and dancing like nobody was watching. From relay races to parachute fun, every station brought cheers, laughter and a whole lot of Whippet spirit. Thanks to their hard work and big hearts, students raised funds for future adventures and cooled off with snow cones from the Snowy Bus to top off a day full of sunshine and smiles.

