



SUCCESS

Winter 2026



QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM SHELBY CITY SCHOOLS

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

From Snow Days to Winter Whippet Pride



Michael Browning
Superintendent

Dear Shelby Community,

It's hard to believe how quickly this school year is moving. It feels like we just welcomed students back, and already our classrooms, stages and athletic venues are filled with activity. Each week brings new accomplishments, new learning experiences and new reasons to be proud of our students. Through it all, the energy, flexibility, and good humor of our Shelby community continue to shine.

Even with an aggressive winter, there is so much to celebrate and look forward to across Shelby City Schools. Our students are hard at work preparing for Music of the Night Revue, which will take the stage on April 18. It is always a joy to see our young performers shine. We also invite you to join us for our next

Shelby Community Breakfast on March 4, a great chance to connect, enjoy student performances, and celebrate all that makes Shelby strong.

As you read through this winter newsletter, you will find countless examples of the good happening every day in our schools. From our third through fifth graders donating an incredible 1,242 pairs of socks to the Shelby Helpline, to our seventh-grade Power of the Pen team bringing home top honors, these stories reflect the kindness, effort, and excellence of our students. And that is just the beginning. There is so much more worth celebrating inside these pages.

Thank you for your continued support of Shelby City Schools. Whether you are cheering from the stands, volunteering your time, supporting our students, or simply staying connected, you make a difference. Together, we continue to build something special for our children and our community.

Shelby Socks It to Hunger!

Our amazing third, fourth, and fifth graders pulled off a slam dunk, donating a whopping 1,242 pairs of socks to Shelby Helpline! A few lucky students even won a raffle for their sock-sational generosity. Meanwhile, our awesome teachers and staff packed up boxes of non-perishable goodies for the FISH food pantry, proving once again that Shelby gives with heart. Way to go, Whippets!



One Word, Big Impact

Mrs. Callender's class kicked off the year with purpose by reading "One Word for Kids" and choosing their own personal "one word" to help them be their best selves in 2026. Each student then crafted a bracelet with their word to keep that motivation close at hand all year long. Talk about starting strong!





Update from The Treasurer

Understanding Property Taxes and School Funding in Ohio



Madison Ratliff
Treasurer

Dear Shelby Community,

Shelby City Schools is proud to serve a community that values education, fiscal responsibility, and thoughtful planning. While much of our work is visible in classrooms, another critical part happens behind the scenes. The Treasurer's Office works closely with district leadership to manage public funds responsibly, ensuring staff are supported, programs remain strong, and long-term decisions are made with care. This steady approach to financial stewardship has

helped Shelby City Schools remain a trusted and valued part of our community.

As Ohio implements changes to property tax law, many residents have questions about how schools are funded and what those changes may mean locally. Understanding the basics of school funding can help provide context as these updates unfold.

Public education in Ohio is funded through a partnership between the state and local communities. For Shelby City Schools, general operating revenue comes primarily from state funding (45%), local property taxes (34%), local income tax (12%), and other sources (9%). The state determines its share largely based on local property values and income levels. As those values rise, the state assumes a greater local ability to fund schools, shifting more responsibility to local taxpayers.

Over time, this shift has changed who pays school property taxes. In the early 1990s, businesses covered a much larger share statewide. Today, homeowners account for nearly two-thirds of school property taxes, increasing the impact on families, seniors, and veterans. Rising property values have added to this concern. During Richland County's 2023 reappraisal, residential values increased by an average of 28%, with values rising approximately 29% within the Shelby City School District.

However, higher property values do not automatically result in increased school revenue. Ohio law limits growth through House Bill 920, enacted in 1976, which requires tax rates on most voter-approved levies to be adjusted downward as values increase so they generate roughly the same revenue over time. One exception is the "20-mill floor." Once a district reaches that level, tax rates can no longer be reduced, and revenue may begin to grow with rising values. Shelby City Schools currently receives support from 5.2 inside mills.

Additional property tax reforms passed by the Ohio General Assembly in late 2025 further slow the growth of property tax collections as values rise. While these changes add predictability for taxpayers, they also mean school districts, including Shelby, should expect less revenue over time than previously projected.

These limitations come as districts face rising costs, particularly for staffing. Education is a labor-intensive service, with salaries and benefits accounting for about two-thirds of school spending statewide. At the same time, the state funding formula continues to assume greater reliance on local revenue, even as new laws restrict how quickly that revenue can grow.

Despite these challenges, Shelby City Schools remains committed to careful financial planning, transparency, and long-term stability. Through responsible budgeting and ongoing evaluation of programs and services, the district is preparing for future uncertainty while continuing to maintain high-quality learning experiences for students.

We are grateful for the continued trust and support of the Shelby community. As Ohio's property tax system evolves, our priority remains unchanged: ensuring students receive a strong education while honoring the investment and confidence of our taxpayers.

Middle School Summit Builds Leaders

Shelby Middle School's 6-8 pod took center stage at the third annual Leader in Me summit, held at the high school this November. With students leading the way, the event showcased confidence, collaboration, and a whole lot of Whippet pride!





Preschoolers Dig Into Apple Adventures

Preschoolers explored the world of apples through their five senses, learning about tree life cycles and apple parts along the way. To celebrate, they peeled different apple varieties and helped whip up applesauce and apple crisp. The smell of cinnamon and sugar filled the room as little chefs tasted and described each apple as sweet, sour, juicy, crunchy, and more. It was a delicious way to bring learning to life!



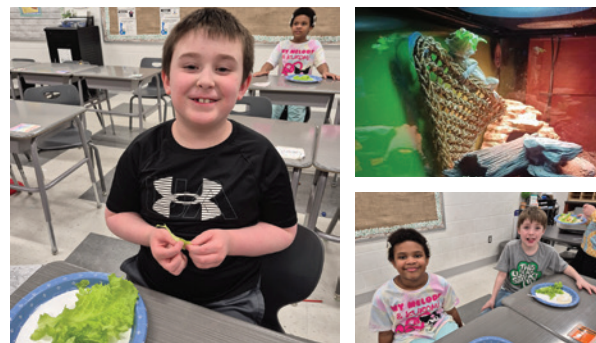
Whippet Winter Market

Several Shelby High School students turned their classroom into a holiday wonderland marketplace, complete with handmade ornaments, peppermint lip balm, snack mixes, and more. Staff lined up to shop, and every single student sold out of their creations. Thanks to support from the Alumni Association, these young entrepreneurs are now cashing in their success with spring field trips funded by their own hard work.



Lettuce Celebrate the Gardening Club

Shelby's Gardening Club dug into the fruits of their labor with a crisp, homegrown salad straight from their indoor Tower Garden. Students proudly harvested the lettuce themselves, and some even brought extras home to share. One lucky bearded dragon got a taste too—and gave it two claws up!



Leader in Me Brings the Fun

Shelby Elementary's 3-5 pod came alive on January 9 with Leader in Me Club Day, where students explored everything from hydroponic gardening to beekeeping. A local middle schooler shared her honey-making business with the Bee Club, while others got creative in Drawing, Photography, LEGO, Crafts and Snacks, and more. Big thanks to our incredible staff for turning passions into possibilities!



Power of the Pen Packs a Punch

Shelby Middle School's Power of the Pen team brought the heat to the Northeast District Tournament at Ashland Middle School, competing against over 100 writers from across Ohio. Two seventh graders and two eighth graders earned top-12 medals, and the seventh-grade team took home first place out of 15 teams. Way to write your way to the top, SMS!







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SAVE THE DATE



Music of the Night Revue

Experience an unforgettable evening of music featuring high school students in stunning solo performances, dynamic group numbers, and powerful instrumental selections. This showcase highlights the incredible talent and creativity of our students in every form!

Saturday, April 18, 2026 – 4:00 p.m.
Tickets: Donations accepted

Calling All Future Whippets

Parents of future Kindergartners, please scan the QR code to complete important information for your child. This form should be completed if you have a child who will be five years old before August 18, 2026, and is not currently enrolled in Shelby City Schools Little Whippets Preschool. More info coming soon. Questions? Call the District office at 419-342-3647.



You're Invited!

Join us for our next Community Breakfast! Enjoy a delicious, free meal.

Shelby PK-8 building

Wednesday, March 4 | 9 a.m.

Wednesday, April 1 | 9 a.m.

Wednesday, May 6 | 9 a.m.

