



SUCCESS

Spring 2026



QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM SHELBY CITY SCHOOLS

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

A Year Shelby Won't Soon Forget



Michael Browning
Superintendent

Dear Shelby Community,

Shelby is a tight-knit community that continues to show up again and again in ways that never cease to amaze me. Just when we think we have witnessed every incredible thing that could happen in this school district, something new reminds us why Shelby is such a special place.

Now that summer has arrived and our halls are a little quieter, I've had the opportunity to reflect on another remarkable school year. Every year brings memorable moments, but this one was especially full of accomplishments worth celebrating.

From history-making athletes to writing contests, art shows, and countless classroom successes, Shelby students continue to raise the bar. Their talent and commitment to excellence make us all proud to be Whippets. As you read through this newsletter, you'll find stories that showcase the many ways our students and staff continue to make a difference, including one inspiring story that is sure to stay with you.

Shifting gears, we'd like to take a moment to recognize our retiring staff this year. You have served this district with pride and certainly deserve this time to relax and enjoy your next chapter. You have not just shaped classrooms but also lives.

Speaking of recognition, congratulations to the graduating Class of 2026. You have accomplished so much already and your best days are still ahead.

As we celebrate the successes of this school year, we are also looking ahead with excitement and optimism. Every year brings new opportunities, new challenges, and new reasons to come together as a community. What gives me confidence is knowing that Shelby always rises to meet the moment.

Thank you for another outstanding year. Shelby City Schools wishes you a safe, and well-deserved summer. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the fall and continuing the great work ahead.

Go Whippets!

Michael Browning
Superintendent

Hats Off to the Class of 2026!

Congratulations, Class of 2026! Just yesterday, you were walking into school with a backpack bigger than you were, learning how to write your name, and wondering what the future might look like. Since then, you've grown through every lesson, challenge, and unforgettable memory into young adults ready to take on the world. We are proud of who you are, excited for who you are becoming, and cheering for you every step of the way.

Photo Credit: Mindi Blum



Standout Athletes

Let's give a big round of applause to Madison Henkel and Brayden DeVito on being awarded Shelby High School's 2026 Outstanding Senior Athletes. Congratulations on this outstanding achievement!





Update from The Treasurer

Treasurer Highlights Closing Out the Year



Madison Ratliff
Treasurer

Dear Shelby Community,

This past year has brought significant changes to school funding and property tax policy across Ohio. District leadership, including the Board of Education and staff, has worked together to ensure Shelby City Schools remains financially responsible and sustainable amid ongoing uncertainty.

Recent legislation has restructured certain school levies and limited future growth in property valuations. These reforms are intended to reduce

the large property tax increases many homeowners experienced during recent reappraisals, but they will also limit future revenue growth for school districts. Our goal is to maintain stable revenue that keeps pace with inflation and rising operating costs.

Another issue being discussed statewide is a proposed constitutional amendment that would abolish property taxes in Ohio. If approved by voters, the impact would extend far beyond public schools. While schools receive approximately 60% of local property tax revenue, the remaining funds support services such as police, fire, EMS, libraries, townships, counties and infrastructure projects.

Despite this uncertainty, Shelby City Schools remains in a strong financial position thanks to careful planning, responsible management and continued community support. As a result, the Board of Education has decided to allow the Emergency Levy, originally approved 20 years ago, to expire. We are proud to be in a position where this levy is no longer needed and hope its expiration provides some local tax relief.

The Board of Education, Superintendent Michael Browning and I have also been developing a comprehensive tax policy to guide future levy decisions. The policy will establish clear expectations regarding when additional funding may be needed, what type of levy would be considered and how long funding is expected to support district operations. We anticipate finalizing and adopting the policy during the summer.

I am proud to serve the Shelby City Schools community and grateful for the continued support of our families, staff and taxpayers. Together, we are making a meaningful investment in our students and their future.
Sincerely,

Madison Ratliff
Treasurer

Congratulations Retirees!

Help us celebrate this year's retirees! We extend our deepest gratitude to a truly extraordinary group of individuals whose years of service have left a lasting mark on Shelby City Schools. Through their dedication, patience, and care, they have helped shape the experiences of countless students, families, and colleagues across our district. Congratulations on a well-deserved retirement!



L to R:
Alma Allen, Geoffrey Allen, Patti White, Anne Finn, John Gies
Pat Lewis, Patience Lewis, Jackie Fike, Larry Stacklin, Caren Carson
Derin Roberts, Scott Milliron, Michael Hunter

Welcome, Mr. Morabito!



Shelby City Schools is thrilled to welcome Joe Morabito as the next principal of Shelby High School. A longtime educator and experienced school leader, Mr. Morabito brings not only years of knowledge and leadership experience, but also a clear passion for students, school pride, and building strong relationships. We are excited for students, staff, families, and the entire community to get to know him and officially welcome him to the Whippet family.

Community Connections

A big thank you to the Rotary Club of Shelby, Ohio for bringing smiles and stories to our kindergarten classrooms! From reading with students to gifting each child a brand-new book to take home, Rotary members helped spark a love of reading and created a memorable day for our students.





Write to the Top

Shelby Middle School's Power of the Pen teams brought creativity, confidence, and serious writing talent to the Regional Tournament at Kent State University on March 7. The seventh-grade team powered its way to an impressive second-place finish, proving that Shelby students know how to make their words shine on the big stage!



Calling Future Nurses

Big dreams, bright futures, and a passion for helping others are already leading the way for Shelby High School seniors Ruthie Faith, Adalie Miller, and Aniya Clark! After completing the Future Nurses of Avita program on April 27, these outstanding students are stepping into exciting opportunities with eligibility to work for Avita Health System and the chance to receive full tuition reimbursement while pursuing nursing degrees at North Central State College.



Capitol Adventures

From standing in the shadow of the Marine Corps War Memorial to walking the historic grounds of Gettysburg, Shelby students brought history to life one unforgettable stop at a time. Throughout the trip, students explored the stories of courage, sacrifice, and service that shaped our nation while creating memories and learning experiences they will carry with them for years to come.



Heroes in the Hallway

Real-life heroes stepped into action at Shelby High School when teachers Bayle Wright and Adam Schroeder responded in seconds after student Ayden Smith began choking in the hallway. Thanks to their quick thinking and lifesaving teamwork using the Heimlich maneuver, Ayden is safe today, and our entire Shelby community is grateful for the courage and care these staff members showed in a critical moment.

Scan the QR code to read the full story and watch the incredible life-saving moment!



Lady Whippets Capture State Relay Title

The Shelby girls 4x100-meter relay team of Princess Timko, Ashley Montgomery, Karlie Walp and Madison Henkel raced to a Division III state championship in 47.76 seconds. The victory marks just the second girls relay state title in school history. Fantastic job, Lady Whippets!



Whippets Set State Record on Way to Championship

Shelby's boys 4x100-meter relay team of Brady Bowman, Brayden DeVito, Renner Gano and Gavin Baker claimed the Division III state championship with a state meet record time of 41.30 seconds. The win secured Shelby's third boys relay state title in program history. Congratulations!



Madison Henkel Repeats as State Champion

Shelby senior Madison Henkel closed out her remarkable career by winning her second consecutive OHSAA state long jump championship. Her winning leap of 19 feet, 11½ inches set both a state meet and stadium record. Way to go, Madison!






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Pitch Perfect Performances

Shelby's middle school musicians hit all the right notes at the OMEA District 10 Solo & Ensemble event at Northmor High School, showing incredible talent throughout the day! Our seventh and eighth-grade students took part in an impressive 36 events, earning Superior, Excellent, and Good ratings while proudly representing Shelby. Way to go Whippets!



Thank You, Mr. Gies

After 35 years in education, including 24 years at Shelby City Schools and 20 years as principal of Shelby High School, we proudly celebrate the remarkable career of John Gies.

For generations of students, staff and families, Mr. Gies has been a steady presence at Shelby High School. He led with humility, consistency and an unwavering commitment to students, helping create a culture built on relationships, respect and doing what is best for kids.

A proud Shelby graduate, Mr. Gies returned to his alma mater to invest in the community that helped shape him. Throughout his career, he understood that education is about more than academics. It is about helping students discover their potential and supporting a school community where everyone can succeed.

Among his most meaningful memories were watching his own children walk the halls of Shelby High School and eventually cross the graduation stage, a full-circle moment that reflects his deep connection to this district and community.



As he begins retirement, we thank Mr. Gies for the countless ways he has impacted Shelby City Schools. His influence will continue to be felt through the students he encouraged, the staff he supported and the culture he helped build.

Congratulations, Mr. Gies, on a well-earned retirement, and thank you for your extraordinary service to generations of Whippets.

Stay Connected

Be sure to complete your child's FinalForms and sign up for district text alerts to receive important school updates, announcements, and reminders throughout the year.

Important Back-to-School Information

OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

Shelby High School (PAC)
Monday, Aug. 10

- Grade 9 & New Student Orientation: 6-7 p.m.
- Grades 10-12: 7-8 p.m.

Make-Up Session

- Friday, Aug. 14, 10 a.m.

Grades 6-8 (Old SMS Gym/ Board Office)

Tuesday, Aug. 11

- Grade 6 & New Students: 5 p.m.
- Grades 7-8: 6 p.m.

Students will meet in the gym before tours and schedule pickup.

Grades 1-5

Wednesday, Aug. 12

- Grades 3-5: 5-6 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 13

- Grade 1: 5-6 p.m.
- Grade 2: 6:15-7:15 p.m.

Preschool

Tuesday, Aug. 18

- AM Preschool: 5-5:45 p.m.
- PM Preschool: 6-6:45 p.m.

Kindergarten

Wednesday, Aug. 19

- Group A: 5-5:45 p.m.
- Group B: 6-6:45 p.m.

Kindergarten families will receive group assignments prior to Open House.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Grades 1-12: Aug. 18

Preschool: PM Aug. 19 | AM Aug. 20

Kindergarten:

- Group A: Aug. 20 & 24
- Group B: Aug. 21 & 23

DAILY ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL TIMES

SCHOOL	Drop-Off	Tardy Bell	Pick-up
High School	7:15 a.m.	7:40 a.m.	2:35 p.m.
Middle School	7:15 a.m.	7:35 a.m.	2:30 p.m.
Elementary	8:15 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	3:20 p.m.

PRESCHOOL

- AM Session: 8:15-11 a.m.
- PM Session: 12:30-3:15 p.m.