



HOOFPRIENT



Shickley Public Schools - Preparing Students for Success

The Grind with Mrs. Coffey

Tis' the season for gratitude and generosity!

There is no place like Shickley and we have so much to be thankful for!

- Back to Back Class D2 State Volleyball Champions
- Class D2 Sportsmanship Award Winners
- CRC One-Act Runner-up
- Community Foundation Grants received this fall in the amount of \$10,500
- Our staff, students, volunteers, supporters, Board of Education, and families that make SPS such a wonderful place to be

There is no place like Shickley because of your generosity and support!

- Beef Boosters: Shickley Public Schools accepts monetary donations as well as animal donations (beef and pork)
- Beef Booster Steaks are available. Do you need some for the holidays?
- When you shop Amazon, be sure to shop Amazon Smile and choose the Shickley Community Foundation as your designated foundation (ZERO cost and easy to do; more information within the Hoofprint)
- Green Gala event on February 22, 2020 (more information within the Hoofprint)

A Lesson on Adversity and Never Giving Up

Fifteen sets! If you didn't get the privilege to watch all 15 hard-fought sets of the BDS state volleyball tournament you sure missed out on an amazing show! Some might say you actually missed out on getting stomach ulcers, a case of anxiety sweats, or mild heartburn, but in the end it was all worth it to see our girls raise that championship trophy up high!

Each game was met with adversity, but our girls and coaching staff persevered with smiles. From dropping the first two sets on opening night, to overcoming four match-point attempts by their opponent in the semifinals, to victory after being up the first two sets to then play three more of the championship match, our team persevered!

They were "ungetatable" in every sense of the word. They didn't let anything get to them; they simply took one play at a time and remembered to smile (sometimes with some prompting from the coaching staff). Can you be "ungetatable?" Can you take one day at a time and strive to be better tomorrow than you were yesterday, better next week than you were last week, better next year than you were last year, etc.? Maybe you need some "prompting;" maybe you need someone to help remind you to smile. As we move into the next year I hope you continue to grow personally and professionally, and that you are able to become more "ungetatable" by persevering and remembering to smile.

9 sets would have been ok, but those 15 I will never forget!

Persevere and Smile!

Mrs. Sadie N. Coffey, Superintendent



Thank You Businesses

The students at Shickley Public Schools want to thank all of the businesses who participated in our annual Halloween parade! The children were so excited to show everyone their costumes. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated!

Ice Cream for Addition and Multiplication Facts

Students in Miss Hansel's Title classroom are currently working on mastering and memorizing addition and multiplication facts. Students are eagerly practicing their math facts at home to earn each item of an ice cream sundae (spoon, bowl, sprinkles, etc.). Weekly, students are given a set of math facts to practice and at the end of the week students complete a timed test to show their speediness and mastery. At the end of the unit, students will have earned each piece of their ice cream sundae.



We can't wait to share with you our successes and celebrate with our ice cream party!

Reading Fluency at Home, by Miss Hansel

Reading fluency is such an important piece in reading success and comprehension. Reading fluency is the ability for your child to read smoothly, accurately, and with expression. Through the *Parents Make the Difference Newsletter*, we have a great way to evaluate how parents and guardians are helping develop your child's reading fluency.

Answer yes or no to the questions below to find out if you are helping your child develop this valuable reading skill:

1. Do you set aside time for your child to read to you in addition to the time you spend reading to him/her?
2. Do you let your child pick what to read? Even if you think it's too easy, nothing succeeds like success.
3. Do you try not to interrupt when your child reads a word incorrectly?
4. Do you offer help if your child asks how to pronounce a word, and then encourage him to keep reading?
5. Do you discuss a book after your child is finished reading?

How well are you doing?

If most of your answers are yes, you're helping your child develop fluency. For each no answer, try that idea.

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Holiday Concert, by Mrs. Morrison

We would like to invite you to the 2019 Holiday Concert on December 12 at 7 p.m. Our performances feature the 5 - 12 bands and 7 - 12 choirs. This will be the first ever band performance for the 5th grade! Along with learning their first "big piece," they have been learning concert etiquette. The Junior High Band has been working in small groups this semester, but is back together working on Christmas music suitable for the whole band. Alyssa Nolt will be a guest conductor for this group. The high school ensembles are tackling more challenging music even though they have fewer rehearsals than usual. Join us for some classic Christmas songs and other festive tunes this December.

Poinsettia Sales

The Shickley Greenhouse will have Poinsettias for sale starting on December 4th. Red Poinsettias in 8-inch pots for \$15 and Marble Poinsettias in 12-inch pots for \$20. Contact Miss Witte to purchase.

Happy Holidays from Mr. Schroeder

While the holidays provide a chaos that people somehow find a way to enjoy, it also is an indicator that a lot of classroom chaos is about to begin! No, I'm not necessarily talking about kids going crazy on holiday cheer (even though that does tend to happen), but instead it is about the chaos of the month of December for getting things done before the holiday break.

In the classroom, I've been very pleased with the overall work ethic of the students I get to work with daily. Thank you for encouraging this because while we can encourage and work on that at school, educational importance starts at home with parents and families taking an active part in not only their kids' education, but being an active role model in their lives. Thank you for caring about your kids, we do notice!

One thing that I commonly see with the age group that I work with (Grades 5, 6, and 7) is that pride, peer pressure, or in some cases, slight paranoia can overtake a student when it comes to getting their work done the way it is meant to be done. The kids at Shickley take a lot of pride in doing work on their own and showing what they are capable of in front of their teachers and friends. The "problem" with that is (if you look at it as a problem) that even the brightest of our bright will run into a problem where they just may not know, or may not be sure and need some guidance on how to solve the problem. Here is where the pride, peer pressure, and paranoia kick in. "If I ask a question, my friends will notice I need help," and "I'm pretty sure I know, but I do not know for sure, I'll just try it and see what happens." If help is needed, we don't always seek out the help (that is ready for the taking) because of pride, peer pressure, and maybe even a little paranoia. I bring this up, because no matter how much I encourage asking questions and even double checking to make sure we are on the right path, our students will sometimes avoid getting the help they may need. Please encourage your child to ask questions and to make sure they aren't losing out on learning opportunities. Many times the difference between knowing and not knowing, the A or the B, the success or the failure, is the 30 seconds it takes to get up and be proactive to make sure we are doing the job right. Again please encourage your kid to use the resources available all the time! It leads to success!

Finally, a few heads up as how the chaos of December affects the classroom. We will be taking MAPS tests the first two weeks of December. I do my best to schedule these on Tuesday, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. I have a tentative plan set at this time, but the dates are not definite other than I will make sure it's in the mid-week days of those first two weeks. We will have an end of quarter party the last Friday before the break. Also, as the kids' are well aware, basketball season has started which means my mind starts running in a different gear (Go back to chaotic time of the year). If you think of anything that I may be missing or have any questions about things going on, please reach out to me and ask.

Hope everyone has a great holiday season and that the chaos remains manageable! Thanks for all you do!

Boot and Coat Drive

The FBLA and FFA will be hosting their annual Boot and Coat drive December 2nd through the 18th. If you have gently used boots and coats please bring them to school for the donation boxes near the front entry. Thank you for your support.

National FFA Convention, by Miss Witte

National FFA Convention was held in Indianapolis October 30th through November 2nd 2019. There were six members who attended convention: Sam Margheim, Brock Swartzendruber, Nolan O'Brien, Cadden Carlson, Eli Noel, and Seth Stengel. While attending convention they were able to network with other FFA members, attend sessions, leadership workshops, and see agriculture exhibitors and colleges in the exposition. Students even toured the Dallara car factory to learn about the science behind the Indy cars. Nolan O'Brien, said "I had the chance to meet lots of people and it was fun seeing the national parliamentary procedure finals." Thomas Mick, a college member of the Shickley FFA attended convention on Saturday, November 2nd where he was awarded the highest degree in the FFA, his American Degree. Also receiving their American Degree but not attending was Wyatt Deepe.

Shickley Welcomes Foreign Exchange Students

Punnavit (Pun) Visuttachan and Rong (Jeff) Yang are two foreign exchange students attending Shickley Public Schools for the year. Pun came to Shickley from Bangkok, Thailand and Jeff came from Taipei City, Taiwan. Pun enjoys playing basketball, soccer, and eating Doritos. Jeff enjoys riding bikes and taking pictures. Both boys are active in Yearbook, One Act, FFA competitions, basketball, and are considering participating in track. Some of the things the boys like about Shickley are the friends they have made and how friendly everyone has been to them, Geometry, P.E., and their host family. Their favorite meals at school have been the teriyaki chicken, because of the rice, and cinnamon rolls. Even though they are in Cornhusker country, Pun does not like corn. When Pun and Jeff first came to Nebraska, they lived with their welcoming family, Cassandra and Jeremy Row, and are now residing with Reg and Monica Noel where they will stay until the end of the school year in May.



Seniors Learn Basic Skills, by Mrs. Noel

The College and Career Readiness students have spent the second quarter learning more about basic life skills such as healthy and unhealthy relationships, self-defense, how to tie a tie, and cooking. On November 14, the students learned some basic self-defense moves from Superintendent Mrs. Coffey. She showed them how to use the strongest parts of their bodies, their elbows and knees. She also discussed with them some common knowledge ways to keep themselves safe such as locking their doors after they enter their car or while they are loading items into the trunk, walking in a group at night, knowing and being aware of their surroundings. The kids were then allowed to practice some of the skills taught to them on each other. Later in the month, the students learned how to tie a traditional tie. It took a few tries, but in the end, each student was able to do it on their own. The class is pictured to the right with their ties on. Finally, the students spent the end of November and will spend most of December learning how to cook food they can prepare when living on their own and sewing skills such as sewing on buttons, hemming pants, and fixing seams.



Cargill Giving Tree

The Cargill Giving Tree is in need of much more help to make Christmas brighter for youth in the area. They have a record-breaking 142 students from Bruning-Davenport, Shickley, Deshler, Deshler Lutheran, and Thayer Central schools that need assistance this holiday season. Please let Logan Worden (Logan_Worden@cargill.com) at Cargill in Carleton know if you would like a tag for your family, office, or a group that you're a part of. Please help spread the word so all students have something to look forward to on Christmas! All gifts need to be to Cargill by December 13th.

Commissioner's Recognition for Student Excellence In Career & Technical Education

Regan Alfs was among many Nebraska students at the State Capital Rotunda on Monday, November 25, 2019.

Regan was recognized for her outstanding third place finish at the FBLA National Leadership Conference. Regan received third in the nation with her Business Plan at National FBLA in San Antonio, Texas. Regan is pictured with her parents Bryan and Kari Jo Alfs.





Announcing Shickley Public Schools first ever Green Gala!

Save the date: February 22, 2020

Place: Shickley Community Center

In the past we have conducted a silent auction alongside a fall high school football game, but this school year we are spicing things up a bit!

The Green Gala will be an evening filled with excitement; a silent auction (with many class-created projects), raffles, appetizers, social hour, a meal, daycare, and live entertainment.

Watch the announcements for updates and to find out when ticket sales begin.

Students will be reaching out to area businesses over the course of the next month. Please consider doing one or more of the following:

- sponsor social hour with a monetary donation
- donate one or more auction items
- buy one or more tables for your employees and family

Your support of Shickley Activities is greatly appreciated!



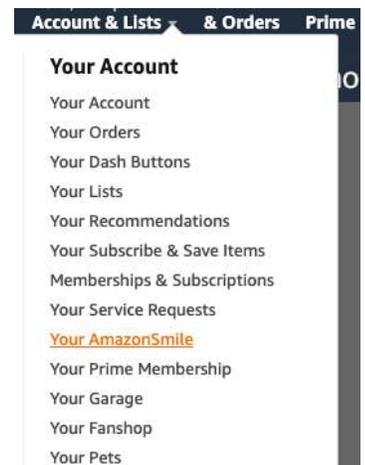
Everyone seems to shop Amazon <https://www.amazon.com/> so why not shop Amazon Smile this holiday season and beyond: <https://smile.amazon.com/> and support the Shickley Community Foundation?

Did you know that you could select Shickley Community Foundation as your designated foundation on Amazon Smile at no cost to you? (Amazon Smile has the same perks as Amazon Prime!) Amazon will then donate a portion of their proceeds to the Shickley Community Foundation! To date the foundation has received over \$500 from Amazon Smile.

When you see Amazon Smile you know you are at the right place!



To choose the Shickley Community Foundation simple go into your account and click on Your AmazonSmile:



You can see your current charity. Don't have a charity yet? Click change/add charity and search for the Shickley Community Foundation:

Your current charity

[Change charity](#)



Shickley Community Foundation Inc

Location: Shickley, NE

Mission: The Shickley Community Foundation Was Established To Provide Funding For Community Improvement Projects Of The Future. Contributions Made Provide Seed Monies For Future Projects. The Foundation Is Committed To The Cause Of Keeping The Shickley Community A Vital, Forward, And Healthy Place In Which People Can Live, Raise Their Children, And Retire.

Share your support: [f](#) [t](#)

Remember to save the AmazonSmile site in your bookmarks and do all of your Amazon shopping at this site.

When you shop Amazon and it shows you are supporting the Shickley Community Foundation you are doing a great service to the Foundation and its great endeavors for the community of Shickley.

Shickley Public Schools has been the recipient of many grants through the Shickley Community Foundation and for this the school is very thankful.

Principal Notes

The holiday season is upon us. Please take time to relax and enjoy time with family and friends. We have so much to be grateful for!

Every five years, Nebraska schools are required to have an External Visit conducted by educators outside of Shickley Public Schools. These visitors observe our school and assess our effectiveness in meeting our goals highlighting what we do well and perhaps suggesting things we can do to improve. While this is mandated under Rule 10, it should serve as far more than a process we go through for mere compliance. Our school improvement process should create a clear map and vision for the direction our school is moving towards and be something that we all embrace and strive for. I would like to share with you the goals that have been identified by members of our school improvement committee. These goals will drive a lot of what we do for the next two and a half years as we prepare for our 2022 visit.

Our team has identified the following three goals.

- 1. All students will improve their reading comprehension.**
- 2. Shickley Public Schools will continuously improve the culture of the district.**
- 3. Shickley Public Schools will improve the social and emotional awareness of every student.**

A recent Education Week article titled *Screen Time is Up as Reading Scores Drop. Is there a link?* discussed that across the nation, student reading scores are in decline. The article stated, "A little more than 1 in 3 American students read proficiently in grades 4 or 8, according to the 2019 National Assessment of Educational Progress". While I can tell you that our numbers in Shickley are far better than the national average, we do have room for improvement. I believe reading is one of the most important and foundational aspects of education and I am glad that we are going to target reading improvement as a school goal. In addition to the reading that takes place within our curriculum, we also utilize accelerated reader, Axis 360, and IXL. Students' scores and growth are evaluated by our state and school assessments. We utilize the data to drive our instruction and help all of our students improve their reading comprehension.

Our school and community are exceptional because we care about each other. Our reputation for being exceptional in academics and athletics has been earned because we have a strong culture. In his book *From Good To Great*, Jim Collins said, "the enemy of the great is the good" and therefore, we are going to work to become even better. One of the indicators of our culture consists of perceptual surveys completed by our students, staff, and community members. Our students and staff just completed theirs and we will be providing a link on our daily bulletin in the near future to hear from members of our community. We value and appreciate all of the feedback we receive.

One of the most pressing issues in schools today is centered around social and emotional health. Here are a few statistics I wrote down while viewing a short film produced by I Love Public Schools. I would encourage you to watch the film at: <https://iloveps.org/films/the-mind-inside-episode-two>

- 95% of teens have cell phones
- 45% of teens say social media makes them feel overwhelmed by drama
- 43% of teens feel pressured to only post content that makes them look good
- 26% of teens say social media makes them feel worse about their own life.

As a school, we are going to intentionally develop relationships with our students beyond the content that we teach. We are going to utilize curriculum such as Second Step and Common Sense Media to have meaningful conversations about social and emotional health.

As principal, I am thankful to be in Shickley and thankful for our students and staff. I look forward to the future as we strive toward reaching our goals.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks,

Mr. Sokol





