



# HOOFPRIINT



Shickley Public Schools - Preparing Students for Success

Mark your calendars for the following important dates:

January 7th  
Teacher In-Service.

January 8th  
School Resumes.

January 11th  
Preschool Make-Up  
Day for Monday &  
Tuesday Group  
& 4 Year Olds

January 14th  
School Board Meeting  
at 7:30 PM.

January 18th  
School Dismissed  
at 2:30 PM.

Please check Joyce's calendar for more events.

## The Grind with Mrs. Coffey

Welcome to the new year! 2019 sure has big shoes to fill around Shickley Public Schools and the Shickley community after 2018 provided us with much to be grateful for. Many of our school accolades will be highlighted next month when we share the Shickley Public Schools' Annual Report to patrons. The report will spotlight achievement, finance, membership, and much more. One achievement award was recently published in the Lincoln Journal Star. Shickley Public Schools was named one of only 28 schools across Nebraska receiving the highest level of classification in the 2018 state assessments, the classification of "Excellent." In the state of Nebraska, a school can be classified as needing improvement, good, great, or excellent. We strive to continue this tradition in all areas of our curriculum, aspects of our teaching and learning, and we are excited for our students and their hard work.

When I reflect on 2018, so many amazing things that I had the privilege to be a part of come to mind: My daughter Frankie's birth on January 8, 2018. My daughter EmyJay learning to read. My son Tucker being one of three individual winners from over 8,000 entries across the country for the "If Kids Could Cure" contest. And shortly after all of these amazing things happened, I took a chance to apply for Superintendent of Shickley Public Schools. It absolutely amazes me how one decision, moment, idea, etc. can make such a big difference in a person's or family's life. How blessed we (my family and I) are to be a part of the Shickley community and school. Thank you for allowing the Coffey family to be a part of 2018 in Shickley!

When I think about the great things 2019 has in store, I focus on what I want to acquire, develop, and *cultivate*:



I hope you have found your *word* for the new year or other great ways to keep your resolutions alive this year.

Watch out 2019, Shickley has big plans for you!

Mrs. Sadie N. Coffey  
Superintendent

## “¡Feliz Navidad!” (“Merry Christmas!”) from Mrs. Rytych

No matter where you look...Christmas is definitely “in the air”! Amid the scurrying to find appropriate gifts and attending family events, many seasonal school activities increase the excitement. On Thursday, December 6th, the Shickley preschool through sixth grade students gave an excellent performance in their elementary vocal music Christmas program, which was enjoyed by many family members and friends. After the program, several sixth graders, who had many speaking parts and actions throughout the program, were heard to exclaim enthusiastically, “That was FUN!” They especially liked it because of all the action and excitement throughout the program!

The Christmas spirit was extended into the Spanish classes in 5th, 6th, and 7th grades and in Spanish 1 and 2 in high school, as the students used the internet to learn about a wide variety of Christmas customs throughout the twenty different countries that speak Spanish. In many countries the Christmas season actually begins with intensity after the first week of December and extends through the “Día de los Reyes” (The Day of the Kings...or Epiphany), on January 6th. High school students prepared slide presentations about some customs in each of their country of choice, with links to videos for information and to colorful pictures for the younger students. All Spanish classes have also enjoyed making some creative “Ojos de Diós” with yarn, cutting “papeles picados” (“cut paper” art projects) for Christmas decorations, creating pop-up Christmas cards (in Spanish, of course), and singing some Spanish Christmas carols.

Not only will the high school Spanish 1 and 2 classes celebrate the Día de los Reyes in their own classes with gifts and games, but the seniors are planning some exciting activities to commemorate that day for the 5th and 6th graders. However, those celebrations will be a few days later than January 6th, since the Día de los Reyes falls on Sunday, and we will have to wait until we return to school after Christmas vacation. It will be exciting to start the new year with a celebration.

“¡Feliz Navidad!”

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## Justin Elwonger, 7-12 Science Teacher, by Raegan Fiala

Mr. Justin Elwonger is going on his second year of teaching at Shickley Public Schools. He lives in Fairmont with his wife Abi and their six month old son Micah. Mr. Elwonger attended high school at Falls City Public Schools and then went to UNL for his undergraduate in Geology and his masters in secondary education. In his free time, he enjoys backpacking, camping, hiking, and spending time with family. One thing that really sticks with Mr. Elwonger since he started teaching, is the Science Fair. The amount of creativity and thought he gets out of the students really amazes him.

When planning for a major project or unit, he usually starts with what he wants kids to get out of it, and then work backwards from there. “I start with the big ideas and then figure out the quizzes and the test, or how I want students to understand that idea and then I’ll put together lessons or projects that teach that information,” stated Elwonger. One thing that sticks out for him about Shickley is that everybody is close and it’s just a nice community.



## Infant Room (0-18 months), by Sue Loseke

We started the year out by moving some of our infants to the toddler room. They were ready to adjust to the “big” room. It is neat to see them transition. It is a great feeling when they show signs of adjusting and accepting new ideas and more advanced concepts. It is sad to lose them from my room, but I feel fortunate that they are ready to move. I see them often, as I walk through their room. I always enjoy a hug and smile from them.

Logan Rosenquist joined the infant room in August as a paraprofessional and is a great asset to our room. The kids love her and enjoy having her take care of them each day. Logan is a great worker and is always willing to do what needs to be done.

In October we participated in the Homecoming parade. We dressed for the decades. We had a good time.

In our infant room, one of the most rewarding experiences is the reading to the children. As you can see from the picture, books are a common favorite.

We have two students that come visit after school when their schedules allow. Our kids love it when they sit and play, read, and cuddle with them. It is great to see them interact with the kids.

We will be adding another member to our daycare family in February. We are happy and proud to continue adding infants. Our room is always open to visitors. If anyone is interested in joining our class, please let me know. I can be contacted by email: [sloseke@longhornpower.org](mailto:sloseke@longhornpower.org) or by phone: 402-759-2622.



## Second Grade, by Mrs. Mosier

The Second grade has been doing some amazing things this past month. We wrote letters to Santa and to our pen pals. We made poinsettia flowers and ornaments for our parents. We wrote a story about if we were a gift and then decided who we would give ourselves to. We ended the month with our Christmas party and enjoyed exchanging gifts with one another. In reading, we learned about wild weather and how it affects us. Some of the skills we practiced were main idea and key details, synonyms and antonyms, and asking and answering questions. In math we learned how to add and subtract double digits and how to count money. For A.R. reading we are very excited because our whole class has made their goals each month since school started. We are looking forward to a great 2019 and we wish all of you a very Happy New Year!

## Boot, Coat, and Food Drive

Shickley FBLA, FFA and the 1st grade held a Boot, Coat, and Food drive for Blue Valley Community Action. Donations were collected through the month of December. They want to thank everyone for their donations as they were able to collect over 150 clothing items and 30 pounds of food. This wouldn't have been possible without the support of the community and staff members.



## Life Skills Being Taught in College & Career Readiness Class, by Mrs. Noel

Knowing how to do basic skills such as cooking and sewing are a necessity when living on your own. The seniors spent a great portion of December learning self-defense, sewing, and cooking skills in their College & Career Readiness class. When the students began these three units some did not have any experience doing the skills. The units provided basic skills that they can add to and improve on as they get older.

After completing the relationships unit, the seniors were given the opportunity to learn and practice some maneuvers they can use if they are put into situations where they need to escape close contact encounters. The self-defense showed the seniors what to do if they are grabbed from behind, how to escape if their wrists are grabbed, and how to get away from someone who is sitting on top of them.

In the sewing unit, the students learned how to sew three different types of buttons onto a cloth swatch, sew a button onto a shirt, fix a hem that has come undone, and sew a seam back together.

The cooking unit allowed the students to cook and bake some common foods that they now make at college. These foods included: macaroni and cheese (both homemade and boxed), spaghetti, eggs (fried, scrambled, and sunny-side up), egg salad sandwiches, deviled eggs, soup, brownies, and cookies.

Overall the kids really enjoyed the hands-on learning and will be able to utilize the skills they learned as they continue their lives into college and beyond. A special thank you goes out to our guest instructors Jan Noel, who taught the sewing unit and Mrs. Coffey, who taught the self-defense unit.

In the picture on the left Caleb Hendrickson watched as Jadyne Kleinschmidt and Caitlin Mosier practiced some self-defense moves. In the picture in the middle Josiah Kamler was being taught how to sew a button on by Jan Noel. In the picture on the right Jackson Grote, Jadyne Kleinschmidt, Josiah Kamler, Caitlin Mosier, and Isaac Kamler were cooking in the teachers' lounge.



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#shickleylonghorns



## Mrs. Swartzendruber, by Nolan O'Brien and Aaron Mick

Mrs. Marge Swartzendruber has been a paraprofessional at Shickley Public Schools for 16 years. She has degrees in social work and dietetics from Hesston and Goshen Colleges. Her favorite thing about working at Shickley Public Schools is getting to see children and her co-workers. A normal workday for Mrs. Swartzendruber includes working one on one with the students.

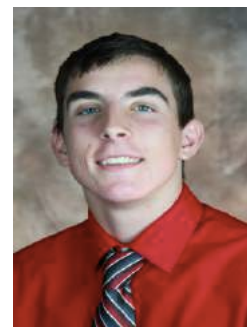
Mrs. Swartzendruber has three children. In five years she sees herself being a grandmother and traveling. We asked her if having children affected her work life. She thought for a second or two and replied, "No, but I tried to make to all of their activities."

Mrs. Swartzendruber is an important member of Shickley Public Schools' staff and seeing her in the halls always brings a smile to the students and staff.



## Josiah Kamler, by Harlie Grant and Tyler Grote

Josiah Kamler is a senior at Shickley Public Schools. He is leaning toward studying Aviation at Hesston College in Hesston, Kansas. Josiah is looking to attain an Associates Degree in Aviation and hopefully one day fly commercially. Josiah participated in a lot of activities during his high school career: BDS Football, Basketball, Track; Shickley Golf, Speech, One Act, Student Council, FFA, FBLA, FCA, NHS, and St. Mary's CYO. As you can tell he was a very active student-athlete. Josiah has described his senior year of high school so far as fast. Josiah's favorite high school experience is growing up in Shickley where you are always supported by the community. Josiah's advice for younger students is to "enjoy high school while it lasts because you really don't notice how fast it goes until you're nearing the end." When asked where he sees himself in ten years he responded, "In ten years I see myself flying with a commercial airline and providing for a wonderful family." Josiah is looking forward to graduating in May 2019.



## PowerSchool App for Parents



Parents can download the PowerSchool app to check your child's grades and lunch balance right from your phone or iPad.

District Code: RWMR

If you don't know your username and password, please contact the school at 402-627-3375.

## Striving For Your Best

As I reflect on events associated with Shickley Public Schools over recent months a common theme stands out – ***Striving For Your Best***. Individually or collectively as part of a group effort striving to do your best is not as commonplace as it should be in our society. Too often individuals and organizations settle for mediocrity as the path of least resistance. I am proud of several individuals and groups in our school system who have recently demonstrated a willingness to go “above and beyond” the normal level of effort and achieve a level of excellence that most only dream of. Here are a few examples:

- Senior Caleb Hendrickson was recently selected as one of only two students in the state of Nebraska to attend the United States Youth Senate and receive a \$10,000 scholarship.
- Librarian Amanda Hansel – Received her Masters of Education in Instructional Technology.
- Shickley One-Act – District Champions and State Competition Participants.
- BDS Volleyball Team – District and State Champions.
- Superintendent Sadie Coffey – Received her Education Specialist Degree.

Striving for your best in everything you do is a personality hallmark of successful people. It is also a fundamental character trait. Our society is full of temptations, individuals, and groups leading people to take the path of least resistance. The Shickley community is successful because we have people who buck that trend and strive for something better. I am very proud to see individuals and groups in Shickley Public Schools who are demonstrating a better way and living a life ***Striving for Their Best!***

John Mick, Shickley Public Schools Board President

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## Thank you Judy Lichti and Stan Johnson

Our music program this first semester was a key example of the “Shickley Way.” Judy and Stan stepped up to the plate to assist the program for an entire semester while we searched for the right certified teacher to join our staff. The amount of time, dedication, hard work, energy, and heart these two individuals put into the program as a whole is unprecedented and our students, staff, program, and community cannot thank them enough. There are so many great accomplishments our students completed under the direction of these two individuals, but I want to point out two that really stood out for me during the final Christmas concert: 1) Watching the 5th and 6th-grade band. Not only did they sound great, but you could also see the look of confidence and accomplishment on each band member’s face after the final number. Playing in a band is a very selfless act; one that requires each individual to do their best for the betterment of the entire group. 2) Watching the 7-12 grade students sing their final number. Some seniors, not even involved in vocal music, participated in helping showcase the number and the singers then performed a tear-jerking rendition of “Silent Night,” with the final verse done in sign language. It was absolutely beautiful!

Judy and Stan have not only helped create better musicians, but they have guided individuals in becoming better people.

Thank you again for all that you have done for the Shickley Music Program.

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## New Music Teacher

I am Alyssa Olsen, the newest Band and Choral Director at Shickley Public Schools! I grew up in Lexington and currently live in Hastings. I am a recent Music Education graduate from the University of Nebraska Kearney. I primarily studied saxophone along with conducting and percussion. Although I have spent my whole life in various instrumental groups, I have recently found a passion for singing while student teaching in Minden. I want to share my love of different music genres with the students, such as jazz and modern music. I also want to give the students many opportunities and experiences that inspire them to be great. I am very excited to become a part of the Shickley community and school district!



## The Last Week of First Semester, by Principal Mr. Erik Sokol

Our first semester closed with as much excitement as the school year started. I would like to share a few highlights with you from our recent events.

On December 17th, we held our annual Christmas Concert. I would like to thank all of our junior high and high school members for their participation. The night came to a close with a rendition of Silent Night in three languages. I cannot thank Mrs. Judy Lichti and Mr. Stan Johnson enough for their dedication, commitment, love, and passion for our Music Program. They poured in countless hours working with our students and organizing the band room this past semester. I know we are all sad to see them reduce their roles while at the same time, we are eager to welcome Mrs. Olsen to our staff. She spent a few days with us prior to the Christmas break and I know she is very eager to get started. Here is a picture from the concert.



On December 18th, our staff, board members, and volunteers along with their spouses gathered at the community center for our annual Christmas Dinner. I would like to thank Bubba's for preparing and serving a delicious meal. We spent the night playing games, sharing stories, and enjoying one another. It was a lot of fun and I enjoyed the opportunity to strengthen our relationships. Below are pictures from our gathering.



On December 21st, we held our Academic Awards Celebration and recognized students for their accomplishments from Kindergarten through twelfth grade. Students in grades K, 1, and 2 were given special certificates as nominated by their teachers. Students in grades 3 through 12 received recognition for their scores on the MAP tests, NSCAS statewide tests, and ACT tests. We had 43 students (grades 3-12) who scored in the 81st percentile or above on at least one of the MAP subtests in either Reading, Language Arts, Math or Science. There were 49 students recognized for the MAP Growth Award, which means that they exceeded the projected achievement growth for one year's time measuring from winter of last year to the winter of this year. 15 students earned the College and Career Ready Benchmark on at least one subtest on the NSCAS statewide assessment and/or the Exceeds Standards on the NeSA Science statewide assessment taken last spring. I would also like to share that we have 5 students in the high school who have already earned a score of 25 or better on the ACT test. All together, we have some exceptional students and teachers who are worthy of our recognition. In fact, I would like to share this recent post, that is to the right, from the Lincoln Journal Star. As you can see, Shickley made the top 28!

**State's top districts**  
Among all school districts statewide, 28 earned classifications of excellent in the latest state assessments. They are:

Alma	Elmwood-Murdock	Potter-Dix
Arcadia	Franklin	Riverside
Bloomfield	Freeman	Seward
Bruning-Davenport	Kenesaw	Shickley
Crofton	Mitchell	Sioux County
David City	Mullen	Stuart
Diller-Odell	Newman Grove	Sutton
Doniphan-Trumbull	Osceola	Wahoo
Elkhorn	Pender	Wausa
		Wisner-Pilger

Online: View classifications for all districts and individual schools @JournalStar.com.

Lastly, I want to give a special thanks to Darlene, Colleen, and Pam in the kitchen for their help in allowing our students to bake and decorate holiday treats to share with those in our community. This would not have been possible without their flexibility and willingness to help. In addition, the rest of our staff certainly put in a little extra to make this work and I am grateful. A big thank you to all of our clubs and sponsors, as plates of goodies, toys, clothes, and monetary donations were given to spread the holiday cheer. Here is a picture of the students and staff decorating cookies in the lunchroom.



Such a great school we have! I can't wait to see what we can accomplish in our 2nd semester!