



HOOFPRIINT



Shickley Public Schools - Preparing Students for Success

The Grind with Mrs. Coffey

Welcome March and I hope to say "Welcome Spring," very soon! After seven months into the school year, I would like to inform you about all of the great things our teaching staff has been working on throughout the year.

The whole staff began the year implementing the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) from the "I Love U Guys" Foundation. This made any response to any issue within the school consistent for all teachers and students. Staff was also educated on Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) for their annual suicide prevention training. Also, at the beginning of this year, grade levels K-6 implemented the new Wonders Reading Series and grades PK-8 implemented the new social-emotional learning series, Second Step.

Each certified staff member wrote an Individual Professional Development goal; something he or she really wanted to work on during the year, learn more about, and implement into his or her professional life. Each teacher also created Student Learning Objectives (SLO's) in an area he or she determined. These SLO's are used to determine student growth, next steps, and help a teacher determine "best practices" for that area or skill.

To build consistency across grade levels, expectations have been discussed and determined for all of the following assessments and programs: NWEA MAP (district and federal level assessments), NSCAS (state assessments), DIBELS (district assessments), STAR (district reading assessment), AR (reading program), ACT (state and national assessments), Learning Management Systems (programs for classrooms' assignments), SAT (student assistance team: district-level support for students), TestWiz (state testing preparation program), and John Baylor (ACT test preparation program).

About mid-year, our staff created a PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support) team to assist our district in becoming a PBIS school. A PBIS school is a school that has developed the framework to maximize the selection and use of evidence-based prevention and intervention practices to support the academic, social, emotional, and behavioral competence of ALL students. A quick example of a PBIS practice that has been implemented at Shickley Public Schools is the "Positive Office Referral." Students are referred to Mr. Sokol's room because of something they have done exceptionally well. Maybe the student got "caught" holding the door open for other students, maybe he helped another student clean up a mess, maybe she worked extra hard on a project and accomplished her goal, the reasons for a "Positive Office Referral" are only as endless as the teachers' imaginations. The student and referring teacher explain to Mr. Sokol the reason behind the positive referral, the student's picture is taken, and the picture is added to the "Positive Office Referral" wall for special recognition.

Did you know our daycare and PK is now Step Up To Quality certified at Step 3? Step Up To Quality was implemented in Nebraska and other states to assist parents in finding high-quality daycare due to the extreme importance of the first five years of a child's life and development. Learn more in future *Hoofprints* and at <https://www.education.ne.gov/stepuptoquality/>.

Our staff has also found two areas of focus when it comes to working and aligning curriculum. Moving into next year, our staff would like to create an updated writing and science curriculum guide for PK-12, utilizing the Nebraska College and Career Ready English Language Arts and Science Standards. This is quite an endeavor; lots of time, collaboration, and energy will go into creating these curricula, instruction, and assessment guides. In the end, all teachers, no matter his or her grade level, will know what is expected at each grade and how to meet those expectations. This will help Shickley Public Schools create a curriculum cycle for the future areas of focus determined by our teachers.

All of this could be considered just the tip of the iceberg. Our teachers are voluntarily participating in a book study of *Kids Deserve It* guided by Mr. Sokol, the Continuous School Improvement team has met and redeveloped its five year goals, all staff have participated in professional development in the area of technology to continue to improve technology integration, a half-day data review was conducted to analyze many types of data and to determine areas of need, and our staff continues to participate in the Blue River Cohort and spends two full days each year with four other school districts on a multitude of different subjects.

We have a very caring and hardworking staff. This staff continues to find more and more ways to reach more and more students so they can make a difference each and every day.

Mrs. Sadie N. Coffey, Superintendent

Mark your
calendars for
the following
important
dates:

March 1st
School
Dismissed
At 2:30 pm.

March 8th
No School
Spring Break.

March 11th
School Board
Meeting at
7:00 PM.

March 15th
School
Dismissed
at 2:30 PM.
End of 3rd
Quarter.

March 16th
Prom

March 29th
School
Dismissed
At 2:30 pm.

Please check
Joyce's
calendar for
more events.

FFA Members Complete Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs)

Shickley FFA members spent time reflecting on their Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs) as they completed proficiency applications for district competition. The FFA Agricultural Proficiency Awards honors members who through their SAEs have developed specialized skills that can apply towards future careers. Students completed the applications and then they were forwarded to the district for review. The chapter had 27 applications that were submitted and 11 of them were selected to represent the district at the state contest.

Agricultural Mechanics and Repair - Placement

Cadden Carlson - Gold State
Aaron Mick - Gold State

Agricultural Services Placement/ Entrepreneurship

Raegan Fiala - Gold State
Caleb Hendrickson - Gold State

Beef Production Entrepreneurship

Austin Plock - Silver
Brock Swartzendruber - Silver

Diversified Agriculture Production Placement/Entrepreneurship

Nathan Nelson - Silver
Justin Stengel - Silver
Zach Mosier - Bronze
Dalton Kleinschmidt - Bronze
Blake Schlegel - Bronze

Diversified Crop Production Placement

Sam Margheim - Silver
Josh Swartzendruber - Silver

Diversified Livestock Production Placement/Entrepreneurship

Regan Alfs - Gold State

Home and Community Development Placement/Entrepreneurship

Kenzie Bohling - Silver

Landscape Management Placement/ Entrepreneurship

Isaac Kamler - Gold State
Nolan O'Brien - Gold State

Turfgrass Management Placement/ Entrepreneurship

Isaac Kamler - Gold State
Nolan O'Brien - Gold

Sheep Production Placement/ Entrepreneurship

Reid Richards - Silver

Outdoor Recreations Placement/ Entrepreneurship

Josiah Kamler - Gold State
Caitlin Mosier - Gold State
Kaylee Noel - Gold
Jadyn Kleinschmidt - Silver
Macy Kamler

Vegetable Production Placement/ Entrepreneurship

Briana Janing - Gold State

Health and Human Services Placement/Entrepreneurship

Bryn Kadel - Silver

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#shickleylonghorns



FBLA Chapter Hosts Annual Elfie of the Year

In December the FBLA chapter hosted their annual Elfie of the Year contest. The participants were: Freshman - Adam Alfs; Sophomore - Blake Schlegel; Junior - Josh Swartzendruber; Senior - Jadyn Kleinschmidt; Teachers - Ms. Nutter. The five contestants competed in the following categories which create the acronym ELFIE - *earn, love, fun, intelligence, and entertain*. During the week they competed in the *earn* and *love* categories by receiving monetary donations from the student body and staff. Pennies were positive votes and all other currency were negative votes. The money raised will be donated to the Nebraska FBLA Foundation. We raised a total of \$44. For the *love* portion, individuals donated gently used toys as a vote for their favorite candidate. The chapter donated over 180 toys to the Hastings Crossroads Center second-hand store. The contestants then competed in the *fun, intelligence, and entertain* categories by completing a promotional video, dance contest, and obstacle course. After all the votes were tally, Ms. Nutter was crowned the 2018 Elfie of the Year.

FBLA Chapter Celebrates FBLA Week

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) students at Shickley celebrated FBLA Week February 11th-15th. This week provided members the opportunity to demonstrate how FBLA educates their members in the fields of business, technology, and career skills. Moreover, members showed their appreciation for FBLA as they continued to “Create, Inspire, and Lead.” Several of the weeks’ activities allowed the chapter to receive recognition at the State Leadership Conference in April.

The special ribbon activities held during the week included the “Jammies for Babies” fundraiser for the March of Dimes. Students and faculty donated money to wear pajamas to school and raised \$140 for the March of Dimes. The FBLA chapter promoted their “Go Green” project by holding a coloring activity for the elementary students and they also hosted a “Go Green” day which students wore green. A Career Day was held for the K-6 grade students. Members had a good time celebrating FBLA Week and completing their activities!

Pictured below on the left are students and some staff who wore green to show their support for “Go Green” day. In the picture on the right, third grade students pictured participated in the Career Day hosted by the FBLA chapter. Pictured is Cameron Wilson (accountant), Veronika Flint (teacher), and Eli Margheim (farmer).



Spring Sports - Track and Golf

The BDS high school track team will kick off their season on March 15th at the 2019 Bulldog Track & Field Challenge at Concordia University while the junior high track team will kick off their season on March 27th at the Blue Hill Meet. See the complete schedules below.

High School Track - Varsity Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
3/15/19	4:00 pm	Concordia University
3/28/19	10:30 am	Thayer Central Community School
4/1/19	10:00 am	Friend High School
4/9/19	1:30 pm	Heartland Community School
4/13/19	9:00 am	Freeman High School
4/16/19	9:30 am	McCool Junction Junior-Senior High School
4/23/19	9:15 am	McCool Junction Junior-Senior High School
4/27/19	9:00 am	Osceola Public Schools
5/2/19	10:00 am	Sandy Creek High School
5/8/19	9:00 am	Districts - TBA
5/17/19	TBD	State - Burke High School
5/18/19	TBD	State - Burke High School

Junior High Track Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
3/27/19	TBD	Blue Hill High School
4/2/19	9:30 am	McCool Junction Junior-Senior High School
4/6/19	9:00 am	Johnson County Central
4/9/19	10:00 am	Sandy Creek High School
4/18/19	10:00 am	Deshler High School
4/26/19	9:00 am	Cross County High School
4/29/19 1	2:30 pm	Sutton High School

The Shickley Boys Golf team will tee off for the season on Thursday, March 26th at Superior High School. See the complete schedule below.

Boys Golf Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Team</u>
3/26/19	4:00 pm	Superior	Superior Golf Course	JV/Varsity
3/28/18	9:00 am	Superior	Superior Golf Course	Varsity
4/1/19	9:30 am	Osceola Public Schools	Ryan Hill Country Club, Osceola	Varsity
4/9/19	10:00 am	Fillmore Central School	Hidden Hills Country Club, Geneva	Varsity
4/11/19	9:00 am	Red Cloud	Red Cloud Golf Club	JV
4/16/19	9:30 am	Sandy Creek	Crooked Creek Golf Course, Clay Center	Varsity
4/23/19	9:30 am	Blue Hill	Red Cloud Golf Club	Varsity
4/30/19	9:00 am	Sutton	York Country Club	Varsity
5/3/19	9:00 am	York	York Country Club	Varsity
5/6/19	9:00 am	CRC Meet	Hidden Hills Country Club, Geneva	Varsity
5/13/19	TBD	Districts	Indianhead Golf Course, Grand Island	Varsity
5/20/19	TBD	State	TBA	
5/21/19	TBD	State	TBA	

Kindergarten Class Making Big Strides as the Spring Semester Unfolds

By Gwen Schultz, Kindergarten Teacher

The spring semester always brings a bit of excitement for students and teachers alike as students begin to take off in both reading and writing, and their understanding of numbers deepens. The students in kindergarten have been working diligently on sight words, nonsense words, and phonemic awareness skills, and it is certainly paying off. At this time of the year, we see students begin reading books, and realizing that they do, in fact, know how to read real books! In writing, they evolved from learning how to do the motor task of writing and expressing their thoughts in words to now writing a five sentence paragraph with a topic, three details, and a conclusion. Finally, math studies have taken them from simply learning to count, sort, and complete patterns to now representing numbers as large as 30 in a variety of ways. Students demonstrated how to use tally marks, place value blocks, addition sentences, and a hundred chart to represent a number. In a culminating event, the students even made a video that was shared on our class Facebook page teaching the many ways to represent a number. The school year is flying by and our class is having so much fun with all of the new exciting things we have learned!

5th-8th Grade Speeches, by Mrs. Noel

The 5th-8th grade students have been diligently working on their in-class speeches that will be presented on March 13th in their respective classrooms. The 5th graders will be giving informative speeches, the 6th graders persuasive speeches, the 7th graders entertainment speeches, and the 8th graders got to choose between the three modes. Each student got to choose his/her own topic, research information, write the speech, and will perform it in front of his/her peers. The speeches will begin at 8:15 on March 13th and guests are welcome to attend.

The top three students from each grade will then give their speeches at Speech Night on March 18th for the community. The state-bound high school speech members will also present their speeches this night after the elementary and junior high students. Please plan to attend and support both groups of individuals.

Class Registrations for Next Year, by Mrs. Noel

The 7th-11th grade students will begin registering for classes in March. Registration information will be handed out on March 4th, and each student will meet individually with Mrs. Noel to develop a preliminary class schedule during the first week in March. From there, each student should be discussing with their parents their future plans, courses that would benefit their career pathway, and finally determining a class schedule for next year. Parentally signed forms need to be returned to Mrs. Noel by March 14th.

For those students wanting to take classes online or for dual credit, that information should be available in the near future. As a reminder, online and dual credits are a great option for Shickley students, but not all students should be taking online or dual credit classes. Those that are taking online or dual credit classes need to be self-motivators, have high academic integrity, and the willingness to work hard. They need to realize that although the professors are there to help them, it is the student's responsibility to monitor and hold themselves accountable to complete assignments and meet deadlines. If there is any doubt, it would be suggested that the student not take an online course. The schedule created for secondary students is diverse and has many options for those students who find success with face-to-face instruction.

Improving Executive Functioning Skills, by Mrs. Cogswell

What are executive functioning skills? Executive functioning skills are the brain skills that everyone needs and uses to help them accomplish tasks in their daily lives. Specific skills can be categorized into planning, organization, time management, task initiation, working memory, metacognition, self-control, sustained attention, flexibility, and perseverance. Research has shown that executive functioning is a skill and through continued practice can be improved. The following are some fun activities that teach executive functioning skills:

Preschool Age

Sorting games
Hide and seek games
Songs with movement and repetition
Rhymes
Imaginary play
Finger plays
Simple puzzles

School-Age Kids

Card games
Board games
Guessing games
Simon Says
Solving puzzles
Brain teaser books
Physical Activities
Playing a musical instrument
Singing
Dancing
Strategy games

Teens

Logic puzzles
Yoga and meditation
Volunteering
Journaling
Doing the laundry

Specific Games to Improve Executive Functioning Skills

Blurt	Brainteasers
Scrabble	Chess
Pictionary	Sudoku
Distraction	5 Second Rule
Jenga	Freeze

BDS Boys' Basketball Season

The BDS boys' basketball season wrapped up in Fairbury in Sub-District Semi-Final action with a 61-30 loss to Sutton. The loss brought their record to 14-8 for the season. The Eagles entered the season with a lot of question marks essentially starting from scratch in terms of experienced players returning after losing 8 seniors to graduation and returner John Christensen to injury that would keep him out for the year. Coach Schroeder's overview, "We were hopeful that we would have some seniors ready to step into roles and knew we would need some younger kids to step up to varsity this year and we would go from there. I felt like if we were to forget a rough two-week stretch where we struggled to score, the overall season was pretty successful."

The Eagles started the season well with a 6-1 record before Christmas. The middle third of the season was up and down for the Eagles as there was a two-week stretch when there seemed to be a lid on the basket. This led to a couple tough losses heading into the conference tournament. The Eagles rebounded from this tough stretch and finished out the season winning 4 of their last 5 before losing to Sutton in the sub-district semi-finals. "There was nothing easy about the season losing John, and then moving up to C-2 this year and being in one if not the most competitive districts in the state. I was proud of the boys for always giving full effort when it would be easy to use excuses to throw in the towel, but they had too much pride for that." The Eagle players and coaches want to thank everyone for their support throughout the year: parents, families, fans, support, and staffs for everything that they do to help us be able to have successful sports seasons.

Letter from Mr. Sokol, Principal

You wouldn't know it by the weather outside, but we are already nearing the end of February. I would like to thank those that clear the snow and ice around the school and community. I know you have been very busy the past few weeks and we appreciate you! I will speak for all of us and say that I am hopeful spring is near.

Congratulations to our Shickley students who competed in the Fillmore County Spelling Bee on Tuesday, February 19th. In the fifth and sixth grade competition, Shickley was represented by Coen Eitzmann, Jaxen Heath, Evan Swartzendruber, Jacob Beavers, Malinda Kamler, Hayley Sliva, and Grace Tobias. Congratulations to Coen Eitzman for his second place finish and Grace Tobias who finished in third place! In the seventh and eighth grade competition, Shickley was represented by Bow Grant, Hanna Kadel, Lauren Richards, Hannah Miller, Ashley Schlegel, and Gracie Swartzendruber. Congratulations to Lauren Richards who finished in third place! All Shickley competitors are pictured to the right in front of the court house.



At the time of writing this letter, our basketball season is coming to a close. I would like to thank our coaches for all of their energy and efforts to help our athletes improve on and off of the court throughout the season. Congratulations to our girls team as they will be competing in Lincoln in the State Tournament. I have certainly enjoyed watching our athletes compete and I am grateful for the community support that attends our games on regular occasion. Our Speech team is finding success when the weather cooperates and allows for a speech meet. Despite the limited number of speech contests, they are committed to practice and looking forward to districts and state.

Our spring sports practices have begun. I would like to wish all of our coaches and athletes in track and golf successful seasons. Athletes, please be sure to pack clothing for any kind of weather as it can change abruptly this time of year.

We are participating in Read Across America Week February 25th - March 1st. This annual event was started in 1997 by the National Education Association to motivate and encourage literacy among all students. The theme of the week will be focused on Dr. Seuss. As a school, we work hard to protect time for students to read each and every day. The research is clear that reading is one of the most beneficial activities to increase student achievement and create lifelong learning. Parents, please make time to read with your children at home or encourage them to pick up a book. Pictured to the right are a couple of the doors that were decorated for Read Across America Week.





