



HOOFPRIINT



Shickley Public Schools - Preparing Students for Success

The Grind with Mrs. Coffey

September! Ace serves, pick sixes, state fair, the fight song playing, laughter in the classrooms, and school staff making a difference while walking hand in hand with our students, families, and community. September is also the month that every School Board across the state approves the annual budget for the current school year: September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021.

What are some examples of our financial goals as a district?

- Have at least 3 months of operating expenses in cash reserves. This cash on hand is necessary in order to continue business during the months where we receive smaller tax draws from the county treasurer's office. An approximate, projected amount for one month would be \$300,000. Therefore, over time, we want to build our general fund cash reserves to approximately \$900,000.
- Utilize a 10+ year capital improvement plan to project completion dates of projects, the estimated costs associated with those projects, and the tax asking needed in order for the improvement plan to come to fruition.

What does the draft budget look like for the current year?

- 2.87% decrease in property valuations for the district.
- General Fund increase of \$300,000 in tax asking.
 - To build approximately \$150,000 into our general fund cash reserves.
 - To build approximately \$150,000 into the depreciation fund (to continue building and purchasing based on the 10-year capital improvement plan).
- If we were to utilize the previous year's valuations, we would be a little over an 8 cent levy increase for 20-21.
- QCPUF had a tax break last year and is projected to go back to the original tax asking seen in previous years.
- Total tax asking for all funds grow a little over \$408,700 when compared to last year.

Fund	2019/20 Budget Information			2020/21 Budget Information	
	2019-2020 Property Tax Request	2019 Tax Rate	Property Tax Rate (2019-2020 Request Divided By 2020 Valuation)	2020-2021 Proposed Property Tax Request	Proposed 2020 Tax Rate
General Fund	2,975,070.00	0.589292	0.606719	3,272,727.00	0.667421
Special Building Fund	196,970.00	0.039015	0.040169	202,020.00	0.041199
Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund	148,485.00	0.029411	0.030281	254,545.00	0.051910
Total	3,320,525.00	0.657718	0.677169	3,729,292.00	0.760530

Speaking of finances, did you know that Shickley Public Schools was the recipient of TWO Nebraska Community Foundation Matching Grants with our local Shickley Community Foundation? In total the school will receive approximately \$40,000 (\$20,000 from each Foundation) in order to purchase Chromebooks (already here and being utilized in grades 3-6), iPads (for 1:1 integration in grades K-1), and RedCat amplification systems for students with hearing loss/concerns and also to combat the residual hearing concerns that may occur during mask-wear and social distancing.

We have a lot to be thankful for in our little town; the support of the Shickley Community Foundation and our tax paying constituents allow our school to build on a solid foundation.

Mrs. Sadie N. Coffey
Superintendent

Art Room News, by Ms. Nuss

Greetings from the Art Room! The first few weeks of school have been really wonderful and it is a great feeling to be back in classes with the students. The weather has been nice and sunny, which has given us the opportunity to enjoy class outside. In elementary classes, we have had fun identifying native plants and exploring texture by making crayon rubbings. In keeping with the outdoor theme, students grades K-12 are currently working on a project sponsored by the Little Blue NRD. The project consists of making artwork that reflects the significant role that pollinators play in our state. The art room is filled with drawings of flowers, bees, birds, and butterflies.

Lastly, I would like to give a shout out to last year's graduate, Kaylee Noel, for winning the American Legion Auxiliary's Northwestern Division Poppy Poster Contest for Grade 12. This contest included entries from Colorado, Montana, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Congratulations to Kaylee and thanks to the local Legion Auxiliary for sponsoring our local Poppy Poster contest.

Pictured Below: 2nd Grader Brooks Kresser drew a hummingbird (left), and Kaylee Noel's winning entry which references the poem, "In Flanders Field" (right).



Important Note

Due to COVID-19 there are a lot of ongoing changes to our athletic and activities schedules. Please continue to check the daily announcements and the crcne.org athletic calendar for the latest changes and updates.

The announcements will also have the latest information regarding who will be able to attend these events and mask wearing protocol at them.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we all work together to ensure the safest environment possible during these times.

6th Grade, by Mr. Schroeder

Wow, this is all interesting isn't it? One thing that never ceases to amaze me is how resilient students are when it comes to change. Obviously there have been a lot of new things that we are implementing for various reasons concerning COVID-19 issues. However, from a personal standpoint, it has been amazing to see the students overcome and deal with it. I know they are handling it better than me.

The beginning of the school year is always interesting, because from the teacher side, we don't always realize how far our last class came through the year, so when the new class starts it's easy to think "Wow, how are we going to ever get anything done?" But we always do, and it's no different this year after a couple of weeks into the school year. Students are picking up on the new day to day routines. They understand what they will need for classes and the expectations of those classes. They are learning how to navigate new responsibilities, maintain and build friendships with both former students and new ones, and develop rapport with their teachers.

One of the changes that K-8th grades are implementing this year is a new math curriculum. The setup of this is much different than what we were doing in the past. Speaking for the 6th and 7th grades, our setup is basically on a two days per lesson approach. Day 1 is intended for learning and practice, day 2 is a quiz and "remediation" or self learning. The remediation days allow those that understand a concept to apply it to higher ended questions and expand the lesson. If students are having difficulty on a lesson, the remediation allows for students to get extra practice and have time specifically devoted to them to grow and improve with their teacher. The students seem to be liking the new format. We will get a better idea of how our retention is, but at this point the results have been positive.

The month of September will present a handful of of days where we will have Growth Testing through our MAPS tests. With all the circumstances of the past few months, do not be shocked or concerned one way or another with the results of these tests. The goal of MAPS is to get a quick snapshot of where we are at so we can guide our focuses for the year. I'm sure there will be quite an interesting array of results to take in.

Hopefully we will get to continue moving forward with everything this year. We ask that everyone continue to stay strong and willing. I think we would all agree that it is worth it to have kids in school whether we agree with the stipulations or not. I feel sorry for the kids that have already been taken out of school due to their situation in other towns. Seeing that makes me feel like our little sacrifice is pretty minimal when it comes to being able to see our students, our co-workers, and to see the community that a school is able to bring together within its grounds.

Stay smart, stay safe, and if you ever have any questions please feel free to reach out to me.

New Staff at Shickley Public Schools

We are excited to introduce you to several new staff members this year. Miss Jessalyn Schrock is our agriculture teacher and FFA sponsor. Mrs. Bonnie Noel is our 9-12th grades Language Arts teacher. Mrs. Brandee Domeier is joining us full time this year as a para in our Early Learning Facility. Brandee is a familiar face at Shickley Public School as she has helped us out in many areas the past few years. We also have a new service provider this year. Sue Gelster is a Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner and will be with us on Thursdays. Lori Reinsch joined as after the school year started. She is helping out in the lunchroom and with the after school daycare program.

Jessalyn Schrock - Agriculture teacher and FFA Sponsor

I grew up outside Bennet, NE where I attended Norris High School, graduating in 2005. I was an active member of the FFA chapter, serving as a chapter officer for 2 years. I was on the Girl's Golf Team, Girl's Swim Team, and shot trap. I attended the University of Nebraska - Lincoln, majoring in Animal Science and Agricultural Journalism. I was part of the 2007-2008 UNL Meat Judging Team. I graduated from UNL in 2010, and then went to Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, OK. I graduated in 2012 from OK State with a Master's of Science Degree in Agricultural Education. I taught Agriculture Education for a year at Frontier High School and then moved to Claremore, OK. I taught for 7 years at Claremore High School continuing to teach Ag Ed. While at Claremore, I had the opportunity to coach several state winning and national placing Career Development teams. My parents, Calvin and Rochelle, still live near Bennet where they run a small herd of registered Red Angus cows. My brother, Garret along with his wife, son, and soon to be daughter live near Brookings, SD. I am excited to be part of the Shickley family and looking forward to getting to know each of my students this year.

Bonnie Noel - High School Language Arts

I'm so excited to officially become a Longhorn. My Meridian heart still hurts a little every time I remember that. I have lived in the community for the past seven years with my husband, Ryan. We have two girls, Kristine a kindergartener and Josie who is two and at the school daycare. On a personal level, I'm excited to be in school with our girls, have the same schedule, and share similar experiences. I've also gained an hour of time each day from being only six blocks away from school.

On a professional level, I'm thrilled to be here. I'm having so much fun reigniting my passion for Language Arts. It's been six years since I have taught it, but I'm looking forward to helping the high school students gain an appreciation for literature. Each class has their own personality, just as each student does. I'm loving getting to know each and every one of the students in my classes. I'm asking students to work with me and we will have a great year!

You may be thinking, "Isn't there already a Mrs. Noel? Doesn't she teach English?" The answer to both of those is "YES!" Therefore, I will be having students and parents call me Ms. B to keep the confusion at a minimum.

Thanks for being so welcoming!

Brandee Domeier- Early Learning Facility, Paraeducator

I grew up on a farm outside of Utica, NE and graduated from Centennial High School and Southeast Community College. I moved to Shickley in 2007 and married Brock the same year. We have two children Aiden (6th grade) and Aubrey (4th grade). I was a stay at home mom with an in home daycare for 6 years. After that I cleaned for a few years and last December I started working in the school kitchen. A few things that I enjoy in my free time are working in the garden, canning, hanging out with friends, watching my children's activities, and being a chauffeur. I'm looking forward to working with the little kids again.

Sue Gelster- LIMHP

Hello. My name is Sue Gelster and I am a Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner. I am very excited to be working in the Shickley school system as a resource for both students and staff. I enjoy working with children of all ages. You will see me at the schools on Thursdays. I started the first week of school and have found everyone to be very welcoming and helpful. I also work at the Fillmore County Hospital as a mental health therapist and help with the structured outpatient program completing group therapy and individual therapy. This program focuses on adults. I enjoy working with adults of all ages as well.

I have been working at the Fillmore County Hospital since December 2019. Before that I was a mental health therapist at YRTC - Geneva for 18 years and enjoyed working with the youth, families, and staff. I graduated with my Master's degree from Doane College and earned my Bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

I have lived in Geneva since 2001. I have a daughter who is 13 years old. Her father and I have been together for 25 years. We enjoy traveling and camping. We also have one dog, Buddy and one cat, Ziggy.

I am looking forward to having a great school year and bringing more mental health services to the Shickley school community.

Lori Reinsch - Lunchroom Helper

Hello! My name is Lori Reinsch and I am the new face in the cafeteria this school year! I grew up in Daykin, NE and graduated from Meridian Public School. I currently live in Geneva and have spent the past 17 years working in the dietary department at Heritage Crossings. I have 3 adult children and 3 grandchildren. Some of you may already know me as Emmett or Maddy's Grandma. My other granddaughter, Makenzie, attends school in Lincoln as a first grader. I have enjoyed my first few weeks at Shickley Public Schools and am excited to continue seeing new faces and learning the names of students and staff!

Special Education Department News, by Melissa Zajic

The special education department would like to introduce three new staff joining the team. Halie Brandt, K-5th grade special education teacher; Jackie Swartzendruber, K-12th grade para educator; and Brittany Lester, K-12th grade para educator and K-2nd grade after school teacher. We also have Jena Mentink, speech language pathologist serving our district this year. We are excited to have new additions for the school year and look forward to serving all of the students at Shickley Public Schools. Now a little bit more about each of these individuals!

Halie Brandt - Special Education Teacher K-5th Grades

Hi! My name is Halie Brandt and I am your new special education teacher in this year. I have always loved education and grew up with 2 parents who are teachers. I have a huge passion for anything shark related. I graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan in December of 2015 with my Bachelor's of Science in Education. I am endorsed to teach elementary education (K-6th grades) and special education (K-12th grades). I have also had the opportunity to do some teaching in Ireland. I am currently working on my Master's of Education in Educational Leadership from Doane University.

Jackie Swartzendruber - Paraeducator

My name is Jackie Swartzendruber. I'm a para for Kindergarten through 12th grades at Shickley Schools. I'm married to Chris Swartzendruber who grew up here in Shickley and attended school here! We have 3 kids. Our oldest is Carley who has graduated from college and lives and works in York. Brock, is our 2nd kiddo! He graduated high school last year. He is attending the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and is studying Animal Science! Lastly, our 3rd kiddo is Lynley who is a freshman here at Shickley school! I am happy to be here at Shickley Public Schools and I'm here to help the students of Shickley Schools succeed!

Brittany Lester- Paraeducator

I live here in Shickley with my boyfriend Angel, our son Dominic, and my bonus daughter Bethani. I have been working with young children since I left high school. I took a break to work at the Ethanol plant in Fairmont, but I realized how much I missed working with kids and decided to go back to a school environment. I have lived in 4 different states and 3 different countries. I am originally from New Mexico and graduated from high school in Colorado Springs.

Jena Mentink- Speech-Language Pathologist

Jena Mentink is the Speech-Language Pathologist serving Shickley Public Schools this year. She provides services to students with a variety of speech and/or language disorders. Jena is a graduate of Osceola High School. She graduated with her bachelors degree in Communication Disorders from the University of Nebraska - Omaha and her masters degree in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. Jena lives in Osceola with her daughters, Daphne (5) and Ivy (2), and cats, Zoey and Tonks. She is an NSAA certified speech and play production judge and spends lots of Saturdays at speech and play competitions. She also loves to read, travel, and craft. So far she has visited 4 continents, 18 countries, and 29 US States.

Pictured below are some of our new staff members: Brandee Domeier, Bonnie Noel, Jessalyn Schrock, Jackie Swartzendruber, Halie Brandt, and Brittany Lester. Not pictured are Lori Reinsch, Sue Gelster, and Jena Mentink. Photo is courtesy of the Nebraska Signal.

Welcome to Shickley Public Schools ladies!



Notes from Principal Warren

Well we are two weeks into the school year and things have obviously changed since last year. We are wearing masks in school and I am the new principal here in Shickley. It's incredible how things can change in such a short period of time. Changes are hard to adapt to because we are creatures of habit. This pandemic has created a significant amount of changes and the thing that I have learned from it is that sometimes we need to slow down and focus on the important things.

Some of the most important things that it has allowed me to understand is that no matter how bad things appear, we always need to focus on the positive aspects of our lives. For example, the pandemic allowed my family and I to spend quite a bit of time together. This is just one of the many positives that have come from this pandemic. Changes are not always easy to accept but when we are adjusting to changes, it is a lot easier to adjust with a positive mindset.

Obviously the biggest change that we have had to deal with here at school is wearing masks. By far the most positive thing that I have seen here is that the students have been extremely cooperative with the mask wearing. I am extremely proud of our students! I know that it is not the easiest thing to do but I am very appreciative of their adaptability. This is not a little feat in itself. The students here at Shickley have been wonderful throughout my first two weeks and I am excited to get to know them over the next 9 months.

With all of these changes comes uncertainty. However, the changes that we have implemented with the masks are for certain reasons. The main reason is to keep the students and staff in school! We would rather wear masks rather than have to be mandated to quarantine. These masks allow the students to learn in a school environment rather than via zoom. These masks allow our students to participate in extracurricular activities. The more we follow these suggestions of wearing masks, the more it allows us to offer these positive aspects.

Thank you all for your help and understanding. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Joshua L. Warren
K-12 Principal
Shickley Public Schools