

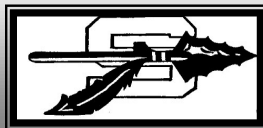
# MARKSMEN

## SCHOOL NEWS

March 2021

MARKSMEN PRIDE  
SINCE 1965

Published for Patrons of  
the Sherwood  
Cass R-VIII  
School District



### *A Letter from the Superintendent*



It's hard to believe we are already into March. With everything that has happened over the last 12 months we know there have been a lot of ups and downs for everyone. There has been uncertainty, a lot of questions, and a lot of patience and understanding needed all around. We are so happy that we have made it this far into the school year without a 100% shutdown of the district. While we know that quarantine, virtual learning, and the changes to our daily routine have been challenges, it has forced us to bring our A game, rise to the challenge, and take the extra step to help our students.

I'm very proud of our faculty and staff. The 4 day week could not have happened at a better time. In addition to using Mondays for professional development they have become extra time for planning lessons, cleaning the school, and helping students. Our teachers are spending a great deal of extra time working with students who are learning virtually through choice or quarantine not only on Mondays but into the evenings in many cases

as well. With rosters and attendance changing on a daily basis, I am so thankful for their extra time they have put in to help our students. Our support staff has been amazing. Our paraprofessionals are aiding student learning everyday. The counseling team has helped so many of our students, parents, and staff with getting through these difficult times while maintaining their own positivity even when they've struggled. Our secretaries and office staff have been working to keep up with records, grades, and attendance (and working through quarantine issues). The Central Office staff have jumped in to help with technology, additional purchasing, and coding of COVID-19 relief funds for all the sources and expenditures so that we will be in all legal and financial compliance. While behind the scenes it has been an ever changing world for how they are doing things. Our bus drivers and mechanic and making sure our buses are safe and clean of germs everyday while helping us monitor for social distancing and contact tracing. Our custodians and maintenance team have worked extremely hard to disinfect and sani-

tize everywhere in the district - with some places getting attention multiple times a day. Finally our administrators have been so good at thinking ahead, asking questions, troubleshooting on the fly, and communicating with parents - especially with the delivery of bad news with quarantines. The leadership team in the district has been a great sounding board to work together to find the best possible solution for each situation. When it comes down to it, I can't speak highly enough of the people we have here.

Lastly, I want to thank all of our parents and students. Your patience and understanding has been very much appreciated. This has been new for everyone. Safety is always our primary goal, and we have strived to keep the health of our students and our staff at the front of all the decisions. I look forward to the coming spring and on to the next school year as we continue to move on through this together. Thank You!

Sincerely,  
Steve Ritter

*“Our mission is to prepare young men and women to become productive, responsible citizens in a global society. In partnership with parents and the community, the school seeks to develop the whole child; academically, physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually.”*

## High School Principal Highlights

Hello Sherwood Families,



I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support during this unique year. Our students and teachers have stepped up to the challenge as the education, and all that goes with it has been changed. Things may look different, but underneath, our kids are still accomplishing some great things. The high school recently handed out academic letters to over 20% of our students. To earn an academic letter, a student must have a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or above. We had four students earn all-district choir awards, and two additional students made the women's choir. For FBLA, we have seven students moving on to state in 11 different events.

Cases have been on the decline for a few weeks, and with warmer days ahead, we hope to see this trend continue. We have been vigilant and will continue to be when it comes to student safety; however, it does allow us to create more opportunities for our students. We had our first real pep

assembly of the year in conjunction with court-mat warming. Our student council and cheerleaders did a great job making the week and the pep assembly fun for all of our students. FFA has been able to go on a trip to Branson and is gearing up for in-person contests this spring. Our Juniors and Seniors will be able to have a prom in April, which will be a great event for our seniors heading into the end of their senior year. There are many more events planned, and we hope the more activities we can provide, the better overall school experience students will have.

We look forward to a great end of the year. As always, keep encouraging your students to do their best. We have adopted new platforms for students to get grades and do homework. If you need any help knowing what your student is working on, please reach out to their teacher or the high school office. It takes all of us to make sure each student succeeds.

Sincerely,

Bryan Himes

## A Note From the Director of Student Services



Wishing for Spring! It has been a crazy year in Education! Trial and Error should be the motto. Our Special Education teachers have worked tirelessly to meet with their students. We have had breakthroughs in the younger grades to learn and understand Google meet-how to take turns in group setting and talk with their friends!

Our older students have had their patience tested this year. I can honestly say they have transitioned well. Never really knowing how long they would continue in person

learning or change to virtual. I am proud of their resilience and the teachers that have supported their continued learning in any format.

It has been a year of so many new developments. I am proud to work with amazing teachers, support staff and administrators as we continue to make the best learning environment possible for our students. Thank you to all of the students and their families for traveling down this road of uncharted territory.

Thank you,  
Nancy Engle

## New Staff this Year

### Natalie Prater

Natalie Prater grew up in Kansas City, attended Winnetonka High School and graduated from the University of Central Missouri with a Bachelor of Science in Secondary English Education. She began teaching in the North Kansas City School District at Oak Park High School straight out of college and stayed there for fourteen years. While teaching, she received her Master's degree in Literacy Education from the University of Missouri. She was not only a teacher, but coached volleyball, scholar bowl, and even cheerleading while I was at Oak Park. Their family decided to move south when she got a job at Sherwood High School. Mrs. Prater is so happy to be in a smaller town and enjoy the different pace of life. She has been married to her husband Michael since 2012, and they have a six year old son named William. He started Kindergarten this year, and we're very excited to see him learn and grow. Outside of school, I love to read, write poetry, crochet, and cook.

### Becky Warren

Becky Warren is the high school counselor secretary. Prior to coming to Sherwood, she worked in residential construction lending for CrossFirst Bank. She enjoys working with our high school students on preparing scholarships for college, and listening to their plans after they graduate from Sherwood. Mrs. Warren also coaches our archery team, and has a blast going to tournaments! Mrs. Warren is married to her husband Josh and they have 3 children, Kinze (8), Oliver (4), and Conner (10 months). Sherwood is such a great community, and she is glad to be a part of it

## *Middle School Principal's Corner*

### A New Take on Academic Competition



To say that this school year has been challenging, might be an understatement. But, it is a challenge that our middle school teachers and students have chosen to accept. In the middle school, January through March is considered our academic season. This is the time when scholar bowl, math team and STEM club are in full swing. Even though this year has to look a little different, our students and teachers insisted on thinking positive and making something happen.

STEM and scholar bowl are both practicing after school and competing among themselves for fun. The kids have really enjoyed the time spent together and

have made some great memories and amazing science projects.

Math team has chosen to continue the tradition of hosting an invitational competition, but this year it's entirely virtual. Our Sherwood Virtual Math Contest was held on March 3 with Holden and Cole Camp participating as well. Students participated at their own school buildings using various online formats. They competed against students in their own grade level. The contest culminated with a grade level team event, Math Escape Room.

I have been very proud of the way our staff, students and families have adapted to necessary changes.

Sincerely,  
Brenda Koch

## *New Staff This Year*

### Paul Carney

Paul Carney joined the middle school teaching staff this year and has been an excellent addition. He has done a great job juggling a variety of teaching and coaching responsibilities in a very challenging year. In addition to his roles as Varsity Football and Track coach, he also teaches PE, Social Studies and Exploratory Electives to students in grades 6-12. His experience and professionalism has been very much appreciated by staff and students alike.

### Cheyenne Cumpton

Cheyenne Cumpton has joined our team as a paraprofessional. Her patience and kindness are recognized by staff and students alike. She mainly spends her time in Elementary but has been needed in other parts of the school and transitions to help all students. Cheyenne has exhibited so many new techniques that she has learned to help motivate students to do work that is not their favorite.

### Gylin Huffman

Gylin Huffman has also returned to Sherwood. She is currently a paraprofessional in Kindergarten. She had worked at Sherwood two year ago. We are lucky to have her back, her calming spirit, patience with students and ability to differentiate instruction is respected by all.

### Dorothy Spencer

Dorothy Spencer has returned to Sherwood. She had been a paraprofessional before leaving to go to nursing school. She has returned as a Licensed Practical Nurse paraprofessional. We are lucky to have her in different areas of the school on a daily basis. Her relationships with students are remarkable. She goes from the younger grades in the morning to the upper grades in the afternoon. Her patience is remarkable and appreciated.

## *Elementary Principal Update*

Sherwood Community Families



Hello Marksman Families!! I am so excited to share what we have going on at Sherwood Elementary this year. We have started using our technology to share our assemblies. It is a great opportunity to build our school community. We look forward to continuing new ways to celebrate our students.

We have been working with our student leaders to promote our students well being and to find ways to encourage one another. We have provided spirit days and worked on maintaining a high level of positivity in the school. Our building has intro-

duced a Wednesday Wagon for our teachers, we go around the school and encourage teachers with a snack. It has been a stressful year and our teachers have done an amazing job of keeping our students focused and have continued to work on our Curriculum strength and student success.

I am excited about what our school has to offer and our school community is a great place to be!! Watch us grow to be our best.

Thank you,

Phil Rogers

## *Middle School Honor Club Induction*

The 2021 Sherwood Middle School Honor Club Induction was held on February 24, 2021, during homeroom. Although parents were not permitted to attend in person, a live stream of the ceremony was available through the district website and has been archived there for parents to watch at their convenience.

The ceremony began with a speech from Mrs. Chastain, the SMS Honor Club Sponsor. This was followed by an introduction by 8th grade student, Anna Cantrell and speech by Mrs. Koch, the SMS Principal. The following 8th grade members spoke as representatives of the Honor Club traits: Kadynce Hill/



Academic Achievement, Avery Dalton/Character, Trinity Powell/Service and Adie Weil/Leadership. Bryson Sanders, another 8th grade member, introduced each new inductee and closed the ceremony.

Pictured here are the 2021 SMS Honor Club Inductees:

Front Row - Ella Turner, Haley Mannino, Emily Winnat, Grace Narron, Mrs. Darla Chastain-sponsor, Back Row - Ashlee West, Logan Forst, Kyera Howell, Rilea Madigan, Lola Billings

## *Title IA Parents' Right to Know*

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Our district is required to inform you of information that you, according to the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-95), have the right to know.

Upon your request, our district is required to provide to you in a timely manner, the following information:

- Whether your student's teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether your student's teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
- Whether your student's teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

In addition to the information that parents may request, a building receiving Title I.A funds must provide to each individual parent:

- Information on the level of achievement and academic growth of your student, if applicable and available, on each of the State academic assessments required under Title I.A.
- Timely notice that your student has been assigned, or has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who has not met applicable State certification or licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned.

Should you have any questions please reach out to the building principal at 660-499-2239.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steve Ritter  
Superintendent of Schools

## One Day Bond Issue

Sherwood Cass R-VIII School district is asking the community to vote on April 6th regarding what is commonly referred to as a one-day bond issue. This would be a first for the Sherwood School District. Over the years we have built up a reserve in our debt service account. This is a restricted account where we can only pay off debt from bond issues. We've been fortunate that the collection rate on local taxes has been high, and it has resulted in additional funds in this account. As a result, the district is asking for a one-day bond issue to pull these funds from the account. Working with our financial advisors, they will issue the bonds and send us the check for us to deposit into our capital projects fund. We can then spend that money on facilities and equipment needs for the district. The very next day we would pull money out of the debt service fund and pay off the entire debit. There would be no interest to pay, no long-term debt, and best of all - no new taxes for the community. These funds are taxes that have already been collected. However, to

access these funds the ballot item on April 6th would have to be approved by the community. A good analogy came from one of our parents when he concluded that "this is just a fancy way of transferring money from a savings account to a checking account so you can spend it."

Our plans for the approximately \$400,000 currently include two years of bus payments on two buses, repairing the foundation in a couple of parts of the building, replacing some of the older steel doors in the district that are rusting and starting to break, replace some 2001 HVAC units, some plumbing and electrical work, and other smaller repairs and improvements in the district. We also plan to use some of the funds to pay off the debt we currently have on the track loan taken out in 2013. We would also use some of the funds towards a down-payment on installing LED lighting on the football field, baseball field, and the softball field. We have applied for a loan that would keep our lighting payments at or below the track pay-

ments we have been making. This means we wouldn't have a major change on our current annual budget to pay for the lighting. We also have secured a grant from Casey's General Store for \$22,500 to put towards the project as well as some additional fundraising efforts by our Booster Club and the school district to help drive down some of the costs.

As you can see, we have a lot happening with this bond issue. It would be something new for our district, but best of all it would be no new cost to our community to spend these funds. However, the ballot item would have to be approved on April 6th for this to happen. We greatly appreciate your consideration, and if you have questions you can call Dr. Ritter at the school at 660-499-2239 ext 400 or visit our website regarding the one-day bond issue at <https://sites.google.com/sherwoodk12.net/sherwood-2021-one-day-bond/home>

Paid for by the Sherwood Cass R-VIII School District, Dr. Steve Ritter, Superintendent.

## High School Students Have Busy Spring Semester

Students are working hard on their spring semester classes and projects. Students in our Biomedical Science class, taught by Mrs. Ketner, are currently working on their Clinical Care Unit: "Talking to

Your Doctor". Tia Whitham is a student currently taking the class and she stated, "In my Biomedical Science class we are learning about the different aspects of clinical care. We have learned the social side of clinical care (bedside manner, attitude, etc...), and now we are learning about the importance of vital signs. We are learning about how to find them, what to use, and what it means. Today we learned how to take blood pressure."

Seniors in our College Prep English class, taught by Mrs. Mueller, have been busy filling out scholarship applications, and applying to colleges and trade schools. If you are interested in knowing more

about scholarships available for your high school senior please visit our website! You can also contact the high school counselors office to learn more about where those scholarships are posted.

Sherwood FBLA recently had a very successful District 10 Leadership Conference. Eighteen students competed in twenty-three different events. They brought home fourteen medals, and seven students will advance to state in nine different events. Some students will advance to state from their Business Achievement Awards. Sherwood FBLA ranks in the top 10% in the state of Missouri.



Morgan Overbey, Alexx Roofener and Tia Whitham learn to take blood pressure.

# Public Notice

**Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA)  
COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

This guide explains how to file a complaint about any of the programs<sup>1</sup> that are administered by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (the Department) under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA)<sup>2</sup>.

<b>Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Complaint Procedures for ESSA Programs Table of Contents</b>	
<b>General Information</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is a complaint under ESSA?</li> <li>2. Who may file a complaint?</li> <li>3. How can a complaint be filed?</li> </ol>	
<b>Complaints filed with LEA</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. How will a complaint filed with the LEA be investigated?</li> <li>5. What happens if a complaint is not resolved at the local level (LEA)?</li> </ol>	<b>Complaints filed with the Department</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. How can a complaint be filed with the Department?</li> <li>7. How will a complaint filed with the Department be investigated?</li> <li>8. How are complaints related to equitable services to nonpublic school children handled differently?</li> </ol>
<b>Appeals</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. How will appeals to the Department be investigated?</li> <li>10. What happens if the complaint is not resolved at the state level (the Department)?</li> </ol>	

## 1. What is a complaint?

For these purposes, a complaint is a written allegation that a local education agency (LEA) or the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (the Department) has violated a federal statute or regulation that applies to a program under ESSA.

## 2. Who may file a complaint?

Any individual or organization may file a complaint.

## 3. How can a complaint be filed?

Complaints can be filed with the LEA or with the Department.

## 4. How will a complaint filed with the LEA be investigated?

Complaints filed with the LEA are to be investigated and attempted to be resolved according to the locally developed and adopted procedures.

## 5. What happens if a complaint is not resolved at the local level (LEA)?

A complaint not resolved at the local level may be appealed to the Department.

## 6. How can a complaint be filed with the Department?

A complaint filed with the Department must be a written, signed statement that includes:

1. A statement that a requirement that applies to an ESSA program has been violated by the LEA or the Department, and
2. The facts on which the statement is based and the specific requirement allegedly violated.

<sup>1</sup> Programs include Title I, A, B, C, D, Title II, Title III, Title IV.A, Title V Revised 4/17 <sup>2</sup>In compliance with ESSA Title VIII- Part C. Sec. 8304(a)(3)(C)

Local education agencies are required to disseminate, free of charge, this information regarding ESSA complaint procedures to parents of students and appropriate private school officials or representatives.

## 7. How will a complaint filed with the Department be investigated?

The investigation and complaint resolution proceedings will be completed within a time limit of forty-five calendar days. That time limit can be extended by the agreement of all parties.

The following activities will occur in the investigation:

- 1. Record.** A written record of the investigation will be kept.
- 2. Notification of LEA.** The LEA will be notified of the complaint within five days of the complaint being filed.
- 3. Resolution at LEA.** The LEA will then initiate its local complaint procedures in an effort to first resolve the complaint at the local level.
- 4. Report by LEA.** Within thirty-five days of the complaint being filed, the LEA will submit a written summary of the LEA investigation and complaint resolution. This report is considered public record and may be made available to parents, teachers, and other members of the general public.
- 5. Verification.** Within five days of receiving the written summary of a complaint resolution, the Department will verify the resolution of the complaint through an on-site visit, letter, or telephone call(s).
- 6. Appeal.** The complainant or the LEA may appeal the decision of the Department to the U.S. Department of Education.

## 8. How are complaints related to equitable services to nonpublic school children handled differently?

In addition to the procedures listed in number 7 above, complaints related to equitable services will also be filed with the U.S. Department of Education, and they will receive all information related to the investigation and resolution of the complaint. Also, appeals to the United States Department of Education must be filed no longer than thirty days following the Department's resolution of the complaint (or its failure to resolve the complaint).

## 9. How will appeals to the Department be investigated?

The Department will initiate an investigation within ten days, which will be concluded within thirty days from the day of the appeal. This investigation may be continued beyond the thirty day limit at the discretion of the Department. At the conclusion of the investigation, the Department will communicate the decision and reasons for the decision to the complainant and the LEA. Recommendations and details of the decision are to be implemented within fifteen days of the decision being delivered to the LEA.

## 10. What happens if a complaint is not resolved at the state level (the Department)?

The complainant or the LEA may appeal the decision of the Department to the United States Department of Education.

### *Sherwood Celebrates Kindness Week*



Pictured is Mrs. Schrock's 3rd grade class.

Kindergarten through 8th grade celebrated KINDNESS Week recently. The students were challenged in several ways to show kindness!! The elementary students all made their own BINGO card and tried to fill it out throughout the week. Mr. Rogers brought them SMILES fruit snacks as a reward for their kind efforts.

### *Contact Information*

Should anyone in the Sherwood Cass R-VIII School District require information regarding any of these topics or programs, please contact Nancy Engle, Director of Student Services at 660-499-2239 ext 500 or [nancy.engle@sherwoodk12.net](mailto:nancy.engle@sherwoodk12.net)

- District Compliance Officer
- Title IX District Compliance Officer
- Homeless Student Program
- Migrant Learner Program
- Limited English Proficiency Students
- District Bullying Coordinator
- Foster Liaison

## *Navigating This School Year Thru the Eyes of a Student*



Attending high school in the middle of a pandemic is never something I would have imagined for myself, but I cannot express how thankful I am to be a student at Sherwood through it all. I came to Sherwood as a sophomore and while my time here has been short, I have had some of the best years of my life here. Throughout my time here, I have been fortunate enough to meet several amazing people, including teachers, staff members, and fellow students. The people in this small community are worth their weight in gold. I cannot show enough gratitude for the employees at Sherwood, especially throughout the hardships of this pandemic.

Unfortunately, the effects of the pandemic have been all but kind. Our classes have been shut down, our games have been cancelled, and some of our most exciting events were called off. Not to mention the adverse effects that have taken place with mental and physical health. I never would have asked for things to get this extreme but thankfully, Sherwood has done everything in

their power to give us all a sense of normalcy while still following the guidelines and keeping us safe. A majority of last year's Spring events were cancelled due to the pandemic but our amazing staff at Sherwood have fought to give us as much as they possibly can. I cannot express how thankful I am to have the opportunity to attend prom this year, as well as several other events that other schools were not fortunate enough to have.

The teachers at Sherwood have faced an overwhelming amount of changes over the last year but they have fought through every second, no matter how demanding. This pandemic has doubled their workload but that never stopped them from being outstanding educators and role models. Many teachers have sacrificed not only their time but also their well-being to make sure every student is being cared for in the best way possible. I have watched as the relationships between teachers and students have only grown stronger because of struggles that we all faced together. At Sherwood, we have a community full of compas-

sionate and nurturing people that care for each other at the highest level.

It would be a lie for me to say that there is nothing going on behind the scenes at Sherwood. The staff members at Sherwood are amazing to say the least. I cannot express how appreciative I am for the janitors, cooks, secretaries, principals, counselors, and other staff members. They have spent several hours working tirelessly to care for our school and everyone in our community. We can thank them for the sanitation and care throughout the school, and appreciate them for all of their hard work and dedication. They perform all of the tedious tasks so that our time at Sherwood is well spent. While the circumstances of this pandemic were never ideal, Sherwood was the best place for me throughout these stressful times. I am thankful to call this amazing community "home."

Sincerely,  
Tia Whitham, Class of 2021  
District Public Relations  
Student Intern



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