

MARKSMEN

SCHOOL NEWS

Winter 2024

MARKSMEN PRIDE
SINCE 1965

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



Celebrating Our Strong District and Talented Staff



As we move forward through another exciting school year, it's important to take a moment to recognize the strength and dedication that define our school district. From our exceptional teachers to our strong administrative team, the talent and commitment within our community make a lasting impact on the success and growth of every student. We are proud to have a team that consistently goes above and beyond, ensuring that our students are equipped with the tools they need to thrive both academically and personally.

Our district's educators are the heart of everything we do. They are passionate about creating a supportive, dynamic, and engaging learning environment for students. Their commitment to professional growth, innovative teaching strategies, and personalized support for each child has contributed to our district's reputation for excellence.

With the support of our dedicated leadership team, our teachers have the resources and encouragement they need to be successful in their important roles.

In addition to the incredible work happening inside the classrooms, our district has made significant strides in improving and expanding our facilities thanks to the support of the community through bond funds. The ongoing construction project is a testament to our commitment to providing students and staff with modern, state-of-the-art spaces for learning. These updates will include enhanced athletic facilities, improved safety measures, and facility upgrades, all designed to create an environment that fosters student achievement, safety and well-being.

Starting the 25-26 school year, the state requires a minimum salary for teachers to \$40,000, with a higher base salary of \$46,000 for those holding a master's degree set in the salary scale. This change to the salary base will put our district on a competitive level with the sur-

rounding school districts. This increase is a positive step forward in retaining and attracting the best talent for our schools, ensuring that our students continue to receive high-quality education from dedicated professionals.

The collective efforts of our teachers, administrators, and support staff, along with the ongoing support of our community, are what make our district such a special place for students to learn and grow. Together, we are building a strong foundation for the future—one where every student has the opportunity to succeed, and our schools continue to flourish.

We are excited for what lies ahead and look forward to continuing to work together to make our district a place of pride, progress, and excellence. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Sincerely,

Dr. Derrick Hartley

"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."

A Note From the Middle School Principal

DREAM, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE (Building Vision Statement)

Dear Community Members,



As we approach the halfway point of the school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on how things have been going here at our school. It has been an exciting and productive few months, with both challenges and triumphs along the way. Our students have shown incredible resilience and enthusiasm as they dive into their academics, extracurricular activities, and personal growth. We are so proud of the progress they have made, and it's clear that our community's support plays a significant role in their success.

One of the highlights of this year has been the increased engagement we've seen in various programs and activities. Our teachers have worked tirelessly to provide innovative learning experiences, and our students have responded with enthusiasm and dedication. From hands-on projects in science to creative performances in the arts, there's been no shortage of excitement. I'm also thrilled to see more students participating in after-school clubs,

sports teams, and leadership opportunities. These experiences are helping them develop skills that go beyond the classroom and will serve them well throughout their lives.

Of course, the year hasn't been without its challenges. Like schools everywhere, we've faced some adjustments as we continue to provide the best instruction and activities for our students. We've worked hard to address any learning gaps and provide extra support where needed. I'm grateful for the cooperation and flexibility of our staff, students, and families as we navigate these challenges together. The growth we've seen so far is a testament to the strength of our community and the commitment we all share in ensuring our students' success.

Looking ahead, we remain excited about the opportunities that the second half of the year will bring. As always, we encourage you to stay involved and share your feedback with us. Together, we can continue to create an environment where our students thrive, and our school community continues to flourish. Thank you for your ongoing support and for being an integral part of our school family.

Warm regards,

Mr. Stevens

Middle School Organizes Service Project

The Middle school has been working hard at organizing the food drive that was put on at the end of November. The food that is donated during this drive throughout the entire building is used for families that need help for Christmas. We have made over 60 boxes of food for families to take home for Christmas break. The food that is left after making these boxes will be used for food bags through the Sherwood Community Cares and then we will donate the rest to the food pantry in Garden City.



Personnel Directory

School Board Members

Mr. Ben Jones,
President
Mr. Don Wheeler,
Vice-president
Mr. Robert Schumacher,
Treasurer
Mr. Gary Jones
Mr. Charles Kagarice
Mrs. Crystal Mainard
Mr. Patrick Benware

School Board Secretary

Mrs. Glenda Marconett

Superintendent

Dr. Derrick Hartley

Director of Special Services

Miss Megan Taylor

High School Principal

Mr. Bryan Himes

High School Counselor

Mrs. Nicole Walker

Middle School Principal

Mr. AJ Stevens

Middle School Counselor

Miss Baylie Woolsey

Elementary Principal

Mr. Jerico Burasco

Elementary Counselor

Mrs. Vickie Sheldrake

Activities Director

Mr. Jim Gurney

Director of Technology

Mr. John Cameron

Parents as Teachers

Mrs. Rena Spinning

A Note From the Director of Special Services

Hello,



It is hard to believe that we have wrapped up the first semester already. Time has really flown by but I have been extremely grateful for the time here with Sherwood Cass thus far.

I wanted to share some ideas to help with a smooth transition into the second semester. One helpful tip would be to reorganize backpacks and folders by clearing out

old papers, food trash, broken or missing school supplies. It would be beneficial to also sanitize materials such as lunchboxes and technology.

A second tip would be to sit down and have a conversation with your child to regroup for the upcoming semester. Chat about progress from the first semester and set goals and plans for the next semester. Work with them to identify accomplishments and areas of improvement.

Lastly, revisit routines. It is important to establish a routine for

morning and after school times. This is a great time to talk about study and homework times for older students who are involved in activities as well as setting up routines for younger students to ensure plenty of sleep and down time.

I appreciate the continued support from the district to ensure success for all students here at Sherwood Cass.

Sincerely,

Megan Taylor

Public Notice

All responsible public agencies are required to locate, evaluate, and identify children with disabilities who are under the jurisdiction of the agency, regardless of the severity of the disability, including children attending private schools, children who live outside the district but attending a private school within the district, highly mobile children, such as migrant and homeless children, children who are wards of the state, and children who are suspected of having a disability and in need of special education even though they are advancing from grade to grade. The Sherwood Cass R-VIII School District assures that it will provide a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) to all eligible children with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21 under its jurisdiction. Disabilities include autism, deaf/blindness, emotional disorders, hearing impairment and deafness, intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairments, specific learning disabilities, speech or lan-

guage impairment, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment/blindness and young child with a developmental delay.

The Sherwood Cass R-VIII School District assures that it will provide information and referral services necessary to assist the State in the implementation of early intervention services for infants and toddlers eligible for the Missouri First Steps program.

The Sherwood Cass R-VIII School District assures that personally identifiable information collected, used, or maintained by the agency for the purposes of identification, evaluation, placement or provision of FAPE of children with disabilities may be inspected and/or reviewed by their parents/guardians. Parents/guardians may request amendment to the educational record if the parent/guardian believes the record is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the privacy or other rights of their child. Parents have the right to file com-

plaints with the U.S. Department of Education or the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education concerning alleged failures by the district to meet the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

The Sherwood Cass R-VIII School District has developed a Local Compliance Plan for the implementation of State Regulations for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This plan contains the agency's policies and procedures regarding storage, disclosure to third parties, retention and destruction of personally identifiable information and the agency's assurances that services are provided in compliance with the General Education Provision Act (GEPA).

This plan may be reviewed

This notice will be provided in native languages as appropriate.

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 programs¹ that are administered by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (the Department) under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA)².

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Complaint Procedures for ESSA Programs Table of Contents	
General Information 1. What is a complaint under ESSA? 2. Who may file a complaint? 3. How can a complaint be filed?	
Complaints filed with LEA 4. How will a complaint filed with the LEA be investigated? 5. What happens if a complaint is not resolved at the local level (LEA)?	Complaints filed with the Department 6. How can a complaint be filed with the Department? 7. How will a complaint filed with the Department be investigated? 8. How are complaints related to equitable services to nonpublic school children handled differently?
Appeals 9. How will appeals to the Department be investigated? 10. What happens if the complaint is not resolved at the state level (the Department)?	

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.

¹ Programs include Title I, A, B, C, D, Title II, Title III, Title IV.A, Title V Revised 4/17 ²In 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.

A Note From the Elementary Principal

Greetings from Mr. Burasco!



Our school year has started out great! It was great to see students back in the building for a new year. The fall is always filled with exciting events for students such as the FFA petting zoo, fire safety day, goodies with grandparents, and music programs. In September we held goodies with grandparents and had 250 grandparents in the building enjoying donuts with

their grandkids. It was a great event and filled our entire gym with smiles! We had great success with our Title Family Fun night with families coming in and participating in educational games and activities, eating dinner, and raffling off some great prizes for our students. We also had our second and third grade music program and the students did an outstanding job preparing and performing for a large audience! During the month of November our character word of the month was service. Our students partici-

pated in a week-long food drive and were able to raise nearly 1,500 items to donate back into our community. Students were then able to spray Mr. Burasco, the principal, with silly string because of their generosity. The month of December is packed full of holiday fun and our Kindergarten and first grade music program!

Sincerely,

Mr. Burasco

Public Notice

PUBLIC RELEASE

July 23, 2024

Sherwood Cass R-VIII School District announced its revised free and reduced price policy for school children unable to pay the full price of meals served in schools under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.

Local education officials have adopted the following family-size income criteria for determining eligibility:

Household Size	Maximum Household Income Eligible for Free Meals			Maximum Household Income Eligible for Reduced Price Meals		
	Annually	Monthly	Weekly	Annually	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$19,578	\$1,632	\$377	\$27,861	\$2,322	\$536
2	26,572	2,215	511	37,814	3,152	728
3	33,566	2,798	646	47,767	3,981	919
4	40,560	3,380	780	57,720	4,810	1,110
5	47,554	3,963	915	67,673	5,640	1,302
6	54,548	4,546	1,049	77,626	6,469	1,493
7	61,542	5,129	1,184	87,579	7,279	1,685
8	68,536	5,712	1,318	97,532	8,128	1,876
Each add'l member	+6,694	+ 583	+ 135	+9,953	+830	+192

Children from families whose current income is at or below those shown are eligible for free or reduced price meals. Applications are available at the school office. To apply, fill out a Free and Reduced Price School Meals Family Application and return it to the school. The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of determining eligibility. Applications may be submitted any time during the school year. A complete application is required as a condition of eligibility. A complete application includes: (1) household income from all sources or Food Stamp/TANF case number, (2) names of all household members, and (3) the signature and last four digits of social security number or indication of no social security number of adult household member signing the application. School officials may verify current income or other information provided on the application at any time during the school year.

Foster children may be eligible regardless of the income of the household with whom they reside. Households with children who are eligible under the foster, Head Start, homeless, migrant, or runaway programs should contact the school for assistance in receiving meal benefits. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) participants may be eligible for free or reduced price meals.

Children who are members of households currently certified as receiving Food Stamps, TANF or FDPIR are eligible for free meals. To complete an application, the household must provide the names of the children, a statement that the household receives the qualifying benefits, the Food Stamps/TANF/FDPIR case number, and the signature of the adult household member making application. When known by the school that members of a household are receiving assistance from Food Stamps, TANF or FDPIR, households will be notified of their children's eligibility for free school meals. If any children in the household were not listed on the eligibility notice or not listed on the application, the household should contact the school to have benefits extended to all children in the household.

If a family member becomes unemployed or if family size changes, the family should contact the school to file a new application. Such changes may make the children of the family eligible for these benefits.

Under the provisions of the policy, the Determining Official will review the applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the ruling of the determining official, they may wish to discuss the decision with the hearing official on an informal basis or he/she may make a request either orally or in writing to the Superintendent. Hearing procedures are outlined in the policy. A complete copy of the policy is on file in each school and in the central office where any interested party may review it.

Public Notice

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(Continued from Page 6)

USDA Non-discrimination Statement:

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. **mail:** U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
 2. **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- email:** Program.Intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

A Note from the High School Principal

Sherwood Family,



What a fantastic start to the school year! As a school, we continuously monitor various aspects of student success, and we are thrilled to share that our attendance rates have increased for the third consecutive year. Consistent attendance in the classroom is the number one indicator of academic achievement, and we deeply appreciate the positive support from parents in helping ensure students are present and engaged every day.

Construction is now underway on the Marksmen Athletic Center (The MAC). Once completed, this

state-of-the-art facility will benefit multiple programs, including wrestling, football, baseball, softball, track, cross country, and cheerleading. Our students and faculty are excited for the opportunities this space will provide, and we are grateful for the community's ongoing support in enhancing our programs.

This year, we are proud to add Advanced Placement (AP) Environmental Science to our course offerings. This marks the fourth consecutive year, we have expanded our curriculum, providing more opportunities for students to prepare for success beyond graduation. We remain committed to continually increasing course options so that every student can pursue their interests and reach their potential.

As we approach the second semester, we are eager to build on the progress and achievements of the first half of the year. Thank you, Sherwood community, for your continued support and partnership in fostering a positive and enriching environment for our students.

Sincerely,

Bryan Himes
High School Principal

Kindergarten Christmas Program Surprise

Kindergarten students performed their music program on December 12 at Sherwood Elementary. Following the performance a special guest made an appearance. After being deployed overseas for eleven months Sargeant Taylor Rahe was able to surprise his three children.



His son, who was a part of the performance, and his two daughters all came together for a family embrace.



We are grateful for the opportunity to help the Rahe family with this reunification process and to see our community show great support for our armed forces.

What is Title I?

Sherwood Elementary School has a school wide Title I program, meaning all students may benefit from the Title I services. Title I is a federal program that provides supplemental instruction for students based upon academic needs. The goal is to increase performance in academic achievements in the areas of reading and/or math. The students who qualify are not learning disabled. They just need extra help with reading and/or math.

A variety of factors are used to determine student eligibility including, but not limited to MAP scores, STAR 360 assessments, Pathways to Reading assessments, classroom-based assessments and performance, and teacher recommendations.

Please contact Shanda Dooley or Heather Ziegler at 660-499-2239 if you have any questions or would like more information.



**Sherwood Cass R-VIII
School District**
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Creighton, MO 64739
(660) 499-2239

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