



HOOFPRIINT



Shickley Public Schools - Preparing Students for Success

The Grind with Mrs. Coffey

Happy New Year!

I hope you and your families enjoyed the holidays and found time to recharge your personal battery as we roll into 2020!

I was recently reading a blog that focused on the “community parent.” Growing up I remember getting together with a group of my friends on the weekends to go out to play and explore the town of Franklin. We would play basketball and football, build go-karts and forts, ride bikes, etc. All of my friends’ parents knew me and my parents, and they acted as my community parents. They would offer snacks, remind me to look both ways, and would report to my mom - for better or worse - what we had been up to that day. One family even set an extra spot at the supper table for me one summer, because the odds were high that I would still be there with my friend come supper time.

The world we live in now, with the stress, long hours at work, the pressure to keep up, activities, etc. our children may not have as much free time as we once did. Without free time for them, has society lost its ability to “community parent?” It is important for a community to look out for each other and OUR collective children; when we lean on each other we bring countless benefits to our children. With all that being said, I am thankful for the “community parents” my children already have in Shickley after only 18 months in the community. Just last week I received a call from a community parent letting me know that one of my children had blown past a stop sign on a bike with no regard to impending vehicles. This one call allowed me to sit down with my kid to have a conversation about safety, blind spots, and the fact that some things can wait; you don’t always have to be in such a hurry. That is just one of many examples I could provide.

Even though parenting changes from generation to generation, the ability to be a community parent should not; regardless of the hustle and bustle we all experience. Parenting is about preparing our children for the world they will be living in; not the world they are currently growing up in. As parents and community parents I believe we can instill continued goodness in OUR children of Shickley.

To my kids’ many community parents, I say thank you!

May we all continue to find more ways to be a Community Parent to OUR children in 2020!

Mrs. Sadie N. Coffey
Superintendent



Announcing Shickley Public Schools first ever Green Gala!

Save the date: February 22, 2020

Place: Shickley Community Center

In the past we have conducted a silent auction alongside a fall high school football game, but this school year we are spicing things up a bit!

The Green Gala will be an evening filled with excitement; a silent auction (with many class-created projects), raffles, appetizers, social hour, a meal, daycare, and live entertainment.

Please continue to watch the announcements for updates about our Gala. Public ticket sales will start Monday, January 13th.

Recently letters and postcards went out to businesses. Please make sure to fill out the postcard and return it in the mail by January 10th. If you are a business owner and have not received one please contact our front office and we will get you one.

Your support of Shickley Activities is greatly appreciated!

Kindergarten Students Measure Up, by Kindergarten Teacher Gwen Schultz

Kindergarten students recently completed a unit on measurement. In this unit, students learned to compare and order lengths, weight, area, capacity, and temperature. They also experienced how to measure with a ruler, use a balance, and discovered that while things may look to be different sizes, they have the same capacity and area. As a culminating assessment for this unit, the students were asked to bring a small stuffed animal to school and create a bed, water dish, and blanket for their pets. While doing this project, students measured and weighed their pets and their beds, and picked an appropriate sized water dish. They explored temperature by thoughtfully considering what would happen if their pets got too hot or too cold. Traditionally, this a project that students love, and they tend to hold on to these pets and their beds for quite a while. Pictured below with their pets and the beds they made are left to right: Kyler Dickson, Emma Mooney, Abel Molt, and Natalie Noel.



Senior Spotlight - Regan Alfs

Regan Alfs' years at Shickley Public School have flown by. Regan is an active member involved in volleyball, basketball, FBLA, FFA, 4H, National Honor Society, and FCA. So far Regan is proud of receiving 3rd and 4th place at National FBLA. She is also honored to be apart of two volleyball state championships. Regan enjoys showing livestock and hanging out with friends in her free time. Regan encourages underclassmen to take opportunities seriously. You never know the last time you will be able to do an activity, so have fun! Regan has been a great upperclassman and is always willing to lend a helping hand. Regan is grateful that the small town of Shickley has always been very supportive. At school, Miss Witte has influenced Regan throughout her high school career. Miss Witte has pushed Regan to reach her full potential. Regan plans to continue her hard work ethic throughout college and later in life.

By Hannah Miller, English 9

Toddler Room, by Miss Kim

The Early Learning Facility's Toddler Room has had a busy start to the 19-20 school year. First, we were excited to be in a new room this year. We have more room for our toys and centers and we even eat lunch in our room. Miss Matyson and I have the room arranged so that everyone has plenty of room to play and learn. We are learning each other's name, songs, colors, some counting, and how to play along with each other in a nice way. We have had fun on the remodeled playground. We wish everyone a Happy New Year!

1st Graders, FFA, and FBLA Collect for Blue Valley Community Action, by Mrs. Nelson

The Shickley first graders were excited to see all of the donations for the Blue Valley Community Action program that they collected at Christmas time. They combined their efforts with the Shickley FFA and FBLA organizations when they held their annual hat, coat, and boot drive. We learned about the importance of giving items to those in need instead of focusing on what we want at Christmas. Thank you to everyone who participated in this event!

Pictured are the 1st graders with some of the items they collected.



Fifth Grade, by Kaitlynn Nelson, Sophea Flint, and Mr. Schlegel

The first semester has already flown by and a lot of new things have been happening in the 5th-grade room. With 16 super energetic students, it has been a challenge to get consistent work with each student that challenges them wherever they may be in their learning. In math, we have been getting less homework, but because we are getting less homework we are doing more IXL. IXL is a learning website that we use to help us practice the skill we are talking about in math, reading, and science. The in-class practice comes with these IXL skills, and then our knowledge is tested with an assignment. We ended the semester talking about graphs in math. We learned about frequency tables, bar graphs, line graphs, and pictographs. This year in science we have a new program that allows us to do science on our ChromeBooks. We have used the ChromeBooks as our textbooks or as a way to experiment and test things that would normally be difficult to do in a short time frame. We ended the semester watching "Our Planet" on Netflix. It is a documentary series that teaches us about what is happening on our planet within different ecosystems, the relationships that help balance the planet, and what we can do to help solve some of the problems on our planet that lead to problems for us and the plants and animals. In reading, we have been talking about theme and genre. We have learned so much in this semester.

Business Class News, by Mrs. Yantzie

The Accounting and Economic business students attended the Junior Achievement Stock Market Challenge in Lincoln. Each team (4 students) received \$1 million to invest in fictitious stocks. Throughout the 60-turn trading period, news from the financial markets challenged teams to analyze and decide what actions they should take. This event simulated 1-2 years of the market so each 80 second turn resembled about 2 weeks of real time. The event was a hybrid of personal and institutional trading. Students worked in teams, delegating roles like market analyst, portfolio manager, and asset tracker. Not only did students learn the nuances of investing and trading, they practiced important soft skills such as critical thinking, teamwork, problem-solving, and decision-making. The team with the highest return at the end of the 60 turns won. The Shickley Green team finished 27th out of 67 teams. Participating students left to right: Macy Kamler, Bryn Kadel, Allie Lamely, Kenzie Bohling, Aaron Mick, Nolan O'Brien, Briana Janing, and Nate Nelson.

Prior to competing in the JA Stock Market Challenge the business students toured Archrival, a marketing agency that connects brands to young adults through strategic insights, impactful creative and local influencers.



Computers 8 Class, by Mrs. Yantzie

In Computers 8 class, students have been learning about coding by utilizing Sphero minis, Micro:bits, and Circuit Playground Express. Students were challenged to design a chariot powered by their Sphero mini. Each team completed a timed obstacle course to determine the best design. Students are pictured to the right testing their obstacle course.



Micro:bit is a pocket-sized computer that has 25 red LED lights that can flash messages and be used to create games. Students interviewed their partner about the kind of pet they wanted and then worked to design a Micro:bit pet for their partner. They use the micro:bit to design a face or scrolling name tag for the pet. Students are pictured to the left with the pets they designed.

Utilizing Circuit Playground Express devices, students created musical snow globes. They coded the music and lights for the snow globe while they used copper to tape as an input for their musical snow globes. Jada Spurling and Reagan Sokol are pictured to the right with their musical snow globes.



Business 8 Class, by Mrs. Yantzie

The Business 8 class ended the semester by touring the Heartland Bank in Shickley. Geneva branch president Jan Stoldorf shared information about loans, credit cards, and how to protect yourself from bank fraud with the students. Janet Kempf showed them about deposits, the ATM machine, the coin and cash counting machines, the vault, and the drive-thru area. They concluded the tour with a cookie provided by the bank. The students enjoyed seeing firsthand the personal finance applications they had learned about in class throughout the semester.



Parenting Resource: <https://talkheart2heart.org/>

The mission of Region V Systems is to encourage and support the provision of a full range of mental health and alcohol and drug abuse programs and services to the youth and adults Nebraska. Region V's Regional Prevention Coalition provides easy to use resources that encourage adults to talk with young people about alcohol and drugs, mental health, and other risky behaviors. These resources can be found at <https://talkheart2heart.org/>

FBLA Chapter Hosts Annual Elfie of the Year, by Mrs. Yantzie

In December, the FBLA chapter hosted its annual Elfie of the Year contest. The participants were freshman – Coy Margheim; sophomore – Eli Noel; junior – Bryn Kadel; Senior – Kaylee Noel; teachers – Ms. Nuss & Miss Johnson. 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 & staff. Pennies were positive votes and all other currency was negative votes. The money raised will be donated to the Nebraska FBLA Foundation. A total of \$137 was raised. For the *love* portion, individuals donated gently used toys as a vote for their favorite candidate. The chapter donated approximately 883 toys to the Hastings Crossroads Center second-hand store. The contestants then competed in the *fun, intelligence, and entertain* categories by performing a fun entrance dance, answering interview questions from a panel of celebrity judges, and participating in an entertaining blindfolded musical chairs. After all the votes were tallied, Eli Noel was crowned the 2019 Elfie of the year. Thank you to everyone who donated!

Pictured on the left are the 2019 Elfie of the Year participants Miss Johnson, Ms. Nuss, Eli Noel, Kaylee Noel, Coy Margheim, Bryn Kadel, and judges Todd and Margo from the Christmas Vacation movie who were Mrs. Coffey and Mr. Shipley while Rudolf was Miss Witte. Pictured on the right are FBLA members Landon Johnson and Tyler Grote delivering over 800 gently used toys the Hastings Crossroads Center second-hand store.



Busy Year, by Mr. Elwonger

Halfway through my third year of teaching, the students continue to impress me with the amount of effort they're willing to put in. From the seventh grade class laying some of the basic foundations of the scientific method all the way up to chemistry class taking their first steps into sociometry, this semester has been a busy one.

I've also taken the position of one-act coach this year alongside Judy Lichti. The kids showed an incredible level of dedication throughout the season this year, earning second place at both the conference and district competitions. More importantly, they put on an amazing show for the community and grew as both students and actors.

Next semester, I'll be co-coach for the speech team. I'm excited to help the students grow to meet their potential through the speech season, and I'm sure they'll amaze me with their drive and passion. I'm looking forward to many more years teaching at Shickley!

Principal Notes, by Mr. Sokol

I would like to thank our students, staff, and families for a wonderful first semester of the school year. Here are a few pictures from our staff dinner, Christmas Cookie Outreach, and Gingerbread House making! We sure had a lot of fun wrapping things up. I greatly appreciate everyone's efforts to make our holiday season so special.



In early December, I attended the State Principal's Conference. One of the keynote sessions was conducted by Mr. Michael Dulaney, Executive Director of the Nebraska Council for School Administrators. In the session, Mr. Dulaney shared how successful Nebraska Public Schools are when compared across the Nation. I certainly agree that we have great schools.

<p>WalletHub</p> <p>#1 </p> <p>Nebraska has the #1 early education system in the nation!⁶</p>	<p>Schott Foundation</p> <p> #1</p> <p>Nebraska ranks #1 in the nation in its COMMITMENT to public education!¹</p>	<p>America's Health Rankings</p> <p> 4th</p> <p>Nebraska has the 4th HIGHEST graduation rate in the nation!⁵</p>
<p>U.S. News & World Report</p> <p> 6th</p> <p>BEST STATE for education!⁴</p>	<p>America's Top States for Business</p> <p>6th </p> <p>BEST STATE for education!³</p>	<p>WalletHub</p> <p> 8th</p> <p>BEST SCHOOL SYSTEM in the nation!²</p>

Our staff will be back to work on January 6th and our students will return on the 7th. I am looking forward to the second semester and all the great things that will be happening at Shickley Public Schools!