



# BLACKHAWK TALK

## Sheridan Community Schools

Web address: [www.scs.k12.in.us](http://www.scs.k12.in.us)

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/sheridanschools>

Twitter: follow @SheridanSchool1

**Fall/Winter 2024**

This publication contains links to information. A digital copy of this newsletter can be found on our website at [www.scs.k12.in.us](http://www.scs.k12.in.us): **Blackhawk Talk Tab**.

### Important Dates

## From the Desk of Dr. Mundy

What's Ahead:

As a community, we have all been working on what is next and what is on the horizon. As superintendent, I have continuously worked with my team and the school board to do all we can to look ahead and make decisions that successfully prepare our students for the future. From curriculum and scheduling to purchases and facilities, we focus on the immediate and the long-term impacts. It is great to have a team of leaders, administrators, board members, and staff who understand the importance of this mission. I hope you see this in the actions we take and the decisions we make every day as much thought goes into everything we do.

Quick Thoughts:

- I cannot thank our Sheridan Education Foundation enough. In the short time they have been in existence, they have had a profound impact on our schools and classrooms.
- Thank you to our SES PTO for organizing amazing activities like the Blackhawk Walk, Monster Mash, Carnival, and the Blitzen Barn for our students and teachers.
- Congratulations to our boys' and girls' soccer teams, both are conference champions, and to the football team, who are sectional champions. Our volleyball team had one of our best seasons in school history.
- On Saturday, November 9, our girls' wrestling team made school history by competing in the first ever official IHSAA event. They had a VERY successful first meet.
- Our performing arts department has continued to excel, with choirs and bands having some of the highest numbers of participants and delivering some incredible performances. The drama department will put on another entertaining play this fall with a musical to look forward to in the spring.
- I'm continuously impressed by our dedicated staff—teachers, custodians, bus drivers, cafeteria staff, administration, the school board, and support staff—who work tirelessly every day for our schools.

Looking ahead, I will be hosting a State of the Schools event January 27 as I was waiting for the results of the November 5 town/township vote. This event will take place in the Joyce Cline Auditorium.

Thanks for all your continued support as it is greatly appreciated. Without the backing of our community, we would not be as successful as we currently are. It's truly a tremendous time to be a Blackhawk!

D. Mundy

- December 7, 2024**  
SHS Fall Play  
Joyce Cline Auditorium  
2pm & 7pm
- December 8, 2024**  
SHS Fall Play  
Joyce Cline Auditorium  
2pm
- December 9, 2024**  
SHS/SMS  
Band Concert &  
Art Show
- December 11, 2024**  
SHS/SMS  
Choir Concert
- December 23, 2024–  
January 3, 2025**  
Winter Break
- January 27, 2025**  
State of the Schools  
Joyce Cline Auditorium  
6pm
- January 20, 2025**  
MLK Day/Flex Day
- February 1, 2025**  
Hardwood  
Homecoming 6pm
- February 10, 2025**  
E-Learning Day
- February 17, 2025**  
President's Day/Flex  
Day
- March 28– April 4,  
2025**  
Spring Break

# From Your School Board



Evaluating our success as both a school system and a school board is an ongoing journey. One way to measure success is by assessing the benefits of our programs and facilities. Which students are benefiting from the programs we have in place, and how do they benefit? How does our community benefit from decisions made about school programs and facilities? These are questions that school leaders contemplate every day.

We know that schools are much more than vehicles to deliver information—a task that can now be accomplished in countless ways. Research shows that the most successful schools offer multiple pathways for students to discover success. Ideally, every student can find activities, classes, and learning styles that inspire and excite them about learning. These opportunities have become easier to access in recent years with online classes, cooperative programs with neighboring schools, and enhanced support for in-house programs that may not fit within the traditional academic track. What are some of the primary markers of a strong school system with various pathways to success? Let's begin with education and knowledge. It is critical to provide a structured environment where learning can take place. We need informed citizens with critical thinking skills and a strong foundation in civic participation, as well as preparation for life after high school. Beyond that, a good school system offers opportunities for developing social skills, emotional support, extracurricular activities, access to various resources, self-discipline, accountability, career preparation, cultural exposure, and a hub for community networking.

A successful school system also helps students develop resilience and personal goal-setting, objectives essential to any organization but especially vital for our schools. As board members, we are deeply invested in how your children benefit from these efforts. We are committed to helping them find their path to success, knowing that you, as a community member, parent, or school staff member, share this commitment.

The Sheridan community faces new challenges as we continue to grow and evolve. The markers of success listed above require our ongoing attention to improve. The progress we have made would not be possible without the steadfast support of the Sheridan community family and our partners. Together, we can keep our eyes on the future of Sheridan and ensure that our decisions for change and school growth are guided by a crucial question: Who benefits from this decision, and how do they benefit?

## **School Board members:**

*Dan Fleming—President*  
*Tyler Henning—Vice President*  
*Nancy Boone—Secretary*  
*John Hunt—Member*  
*Kim Zachery—Member*

School Board meetings are held in the Sheridan Middle School Media Center at 6:30 p.m. each second Monday of the month, unless otherwise stated. Upcoming meetings are:

**December 9, 2024**  
**January 13, 2025**  
**February 10, 2025**  
**March 10, 2025**  
**April 14, 2025**  
**May 12, 2025**



## **Nominations Needed for the Alumnus of the Year**

Do you know a Sheridan High School graduate who has made an impact in this world, their community, or their profession? Do you know any outstanding alumni who deserve recognition? Each year Sheridan Community Schools recognizes an outstanding alumnus/alumna during the Sheridan High School Commencement. Nominations are now being accepted for this honor and recognition. Please submit nominations by completing the short form at [SHS Alumnus of the Year Nominations](#)

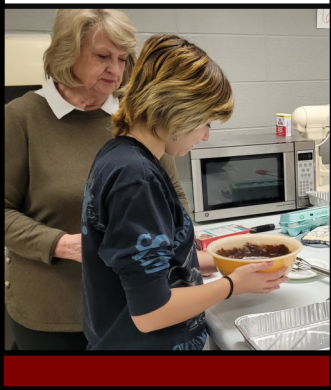
## Mentoring Our Blackhawks

The Sheridan Youth Assistance Program (SYAP) coordinates three mentoring programs for Sheridan students.

**Revolution of Hope**, also known as Big and Little Buddies, is serving 45 students in grades 2–6 this school year. High school students who wish to be peer mentors must apply to the program and attend orientation training. In September, we kicked off the program, and Big Buddies began meeting with their Little Buddies. Most meet during study hall periods, while a few connect with students in Blackhawk Care after school. Additionally, Abby Williams' 6th-period class volunteers to meet with 6th-grade buddies during lunch once a week. SYAP is grateful for these high school volunteers who generously give their time each week to encourage younger students, serve as role models, and have fun in the process!

SYAP is also expanding our **Lunch Pal** program at the elementary school. Lunch Pals are adult volunteers from the community who mentor students by having lunch with them every other week. There's usually time for an activity like a craft or game, too! Currently, we have four Lunch Pals—two returning from last year who will continue meeting with their students for a second year and two new members who are a great addition to the program. If you're interested in volunteering with youth and think Lunch Pals may be a good fit for you, please contact Beth Sabelhaus at 317-758-4431 ext. 4460 or at [esabelhaus@sheridan.k12.in.us](mailto:esabelhaus@sheridan.k12.in.us) for more information.

Finally, SYAP offers a **community mentoring program** for middle and high school students. Launched in the spring of 2021, some of our mentoring pairs have been meeting for over three years. Community mentors meet outside school hours for at least four hours per month at times that work for both the student and mentor. We are currently seeking more community mentors. If you're interested in becoming a community mentor, more information can be found here: <https://youthassistance.org/become-a-mentor-sheridan>



## Sheridan Education Foundation, Inc. News

The Sheridan Education Foundation, Inc. (SEFI) proudly celebrated its first anniversary in August 2024, marking a successful inaugural year of community support and educational advancement. In its first year, SEFI raised over \$60,000 through grants, donations, a fundraising dinner, and a significant \$15,000 contribution from the Sheridan Jeep Invasion Committee. SEFI has already awarded more than \$10,000 in grants to K-12 educators, aimed at enhancing classroom learning and fostering student success, with additional grants planned for the second semester.

The Sheridan Jeep Invasion Committee, founded to support SEFI, will host its next event on Saturday, August 2, 2025, promising another exciting opportunity to support local education. To contribute to SEFI's mission, please visit [sheridan.revtrak.net](http://sheridan.revtrak.net) or scan the QR code.



SES Grant Recipients



SMS/SHS Grant Recipients



# Sheridan High School

proudly presents:

## ONE-ACT THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG

Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

2:00pm & 7:00pm

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

2:00pm

Joyce Cline Auditorium at Sheridan Middle School



Reserved Seating:

\$10/ticket (plus fees)

\$12 at the door

<https://our.show/sheridanfallplay2024>



Moments







# SHS Athletics



This fall, Sheridan High School Athletics has celebrated impressive achievements with multiple teams reaching new milestones.



The Girls' Soccer team clinched their third consecutive HHC Championship and ranks #11 in ISCA 1A, while the Boys' Soccer team also captured the HHC title, both showing determination and unity. The Volleyball team set a school record with a 15-9 season and placed 2nd in the HHC, reflecting strong teamwork.



Football stands at 4-3 overall and 4-1 in the HHC as they push toward a solid finish. Girls' Golf made their debut in the HHC tournament, establishing a foundation for future success. Cross Country runners achieved several personal records through their commitment. The Cheer team boosted community spirit at the Homecoming Pep Rally, and Student Athletic Trainers have worked hard to keep athletes in top shape.



Sheridan's student-athletes are excelling academically as well, and the Choir and Pep Band have added energy to every game. A big thank you to our Athletic Department staff and event workers for making all this possible. It's been a fantastic season for Sheridan. The collective success of our teams reflects our shared belief that *hard work wins!*



## SHS Office of School Counseling

**Schedule Change Requests** - Students who need to request a schedule change at SHS for the second semester will need to submit the required request forms no later than December 16. Schedule changes are not guaranteed. They will be reviewed by Mr. Davis, Mrs. Mineart, and Mrs. Sompels.

**Employability Skills** - Seniors, your Employability Skills forms must be completed and turned in to your counselor before the end of 1st semester so we can appropriately document them to the state. If you need another copy, please stop by the Office of School Counseling. As a reminder, this is the form that you must have filled out and signed by an employer, coach, club sponsor, etc.

**FAFSA REQUIRED** - All seniors are now [required by the state of Indiana](#) to file the FAFSA, regardless of their current postsecondary plans. If you choose NOT to fill it out, you will be required to formally opt out. More information to come after winter break. We will be hosting a couple of help sessions and

FAFSA/Financial Aid presentations for seniors and their families in the next couple of months. On Monday, December 16, INvestEd will be here for a FAFSA information and FSA ID night. If you are a senior and/or a parent/guardian of a senior, I would highly recommend that you attend these evening events. The 2025-2026 FAFSA is set to open up for application on December 1. We will have INvestEd return on Wednesday, February 19, to walk families/students through the actual FAFSA application. Please keep an eye out for information from Mrs. Mineart about these events.

**Scholarships** - Scholarship season is upon us, and all seniors need to make sure they are checking their email for information about which scholarships are available and where they can find that information. We are working on updating our SHS website to list them on the website, but in the meantime, please continue to check your email for this information.

### Counselor Assignments

Mrs. Mineart:  
Last names A-L  
[bmineart@sheridan.k12.in.us](mailto:bmineart@sheridan.k12.in.us)

Mrs. Sompels:  
Last names M-Z  
[nsompels@sheridan.k12.in.us](mailto:nsompels@sheridan.k12.in.us)

### Important Dates:

- **Monday, December 16,** 6:30 pm- FAFSA Information Night
- **Wednesday, February 19,** 6 pm - FAFSA Help Night



# Sheridan Elementary Highlights

*From Mrs. Roberts, SES Principal*

It's always wonderful to take a moment to share updates and highlights from the past few months and to announce exciting plans at SES for the rest of the semester. The start of the school year has been full of energy, growth, and enthusiasm, and we are grateful for the continued support from our families and community. We began the school year with a theme focused on "Growing Together!" Our back-to-school events were a big success, thanks to your participation. It's been fantastic to see students settling into their routines and embracing the learning opportunities ahead.

## **Focusing on Learning and Growth**

Our dedicated teachers have been working hard to create engaging lessons that challenge and inspire our students. This fall, we're focusing on several key areas:

- **Literacy:** We're excited to emphasize the Science of Reading and introduce many new initiatives to further enhance our students' reading skills.
- **STEM Integration:** Hands-on learning in science, technology, engineering, and math continues to grow with exciting projects and activities across all grade levels. We've partnered with Maker Space for new equipment and activities to enhance our STEM classroom.
- **Collaborative Team Times:** Each grade level meets weekly to review data, assess student growth, and discuss the child as a whole. It has been amazing to witness the collective efforts of our teachers!

## **Community Involvement**

We want to thank all the volunteers and families who have contributed to our school events and classroom activities—your involvement makes a difference. Looking ahead, there are many opportunities to stay connected, especially with the fantastic support of our SES PTO. This year, during our annual Blackhawk Walk, we raised a record \$21,000! All funds go directly back to our students and staff for essential supplies and activities. We couldn't do this without the incredible support of our families.

We truly value the strong partnership we have with our families and community members. Together, we are creating a positive and nurturing environment where our students can thrive. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions.

# Sheridan Middle School Highlights

*From Mr. Kent Davis, SMS Principal*

The 2024-2025 school year is off to an incredible start, packed with enriching experiences and exciting achievements for our students.

## **8th Graders Attend JobSpark 2024 Career Expo**

On September 24, our 8th graders participated in JobSpark 2024, an inspiring career expo at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. This event, culminating our Junior Achievement career readiness curriculum, gathered educators and industry leaders to ignite students' interests in future career paths. At JobSpark, students engaged in hands-on activities to explore the skills required for high-demand jobs and gained insights into high school courses, post-secondary programs, and career pathways that align with their aspirations. This experience, part of our Preparing for College and Careers course, gave students an invaluable preview of the working world.

## **Fundraiser for Childhood Cancer Awareness**

In September, Sheridan Middle School joined the fight against childhood cancer, hosting a fundraiser during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Thanks to the generosity of our school community, we raised \$1,000 for the LG30 Foundation. This donation will help purchase AirPods for children undergoing treatment for childhood cancer at Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis and Helen DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids, MI. Dedicated to Logan's memory, this initiative offered our students a meaningful way to support a vital cause.

### **Musical Performances Kick Off the Year**

Our choir students have started the year on a high note with captivating performances that showcased their hard work and talent. These concerts were a wonderful demonstration of creativity, dedication, and teamwork. Meanwhile, our band members are practicing diligently, preparing for their upcoming winter concert and ISSMA contests.

### **Successful Fall Extracurriculars**

Our fall sports season has been a triumph with students enthusiastically participating in football, cheerleading, cross country, and volleyball. Their strong performances and teamwork have set a fantastic tone for our extracurricular activities this year.

## Sheridan High School Highlights

It's been a fantastic school year so far! Successes in the classroom and on the athletic fields have been abundant, and as we enter the holiday season and approach the end of the first semester, our focus remains strong. This time of year is always busy as we finalize goals for 2024-25 and prepare for the upcoming academic year. We're adopting new courses, refining curriculum, scheduling students, and planning projects—all while working diligently on our objectives for the current year.

We're thrilled to announce that, starting next year, eligible students will be able to earn dual credit for many of our agriculture courses, expanding on our existing dual credit options in English, Math, and the Education Professions pathway. Additionally, we're expanding our Advanced Placement (AP) offerings to 15 AP courses next school year with the addition of AP European Studies. Our efforts to expand access to college-level coursework have been rewarding. Members of the Class of 2024 earned a combined 411 college credits during high school, translating to an estimated cost savings of nearly \$70,000 for our families.

We look forward to seeing you this winter at athletic events, fine arts performances, meetings, and other school activities. Until then, we wish you a joyful and fulfilling holiday season!



Mr. Rick Davis

### **Blackhawk Outfitters: A New Hub of School Spirit**

In a move that has brought a new wave of excitement and pride to the community, Blackhawk Outfitters, the new spirit store at the high school, has opened its doors. Spearheaded by faculty members Mrs. Allison Waitt and Mrs. Brenda Ransom, this initiative promises to be more than just a retail space—it's a vibrant center for school pride, hands-on learning, and innovation.

The concept for Blackhawk Outfitters was born out of a vision to create a space that not only fosters school spirit but also provides students with valuable real-world experience. Unlike traditional school stores that rely on outside vendors for inventory, Blackhawk Outfitters stands out with its unique approach: everything sold is designed and made in-house.

Ultimately, Blackhawk Outfitters is more than just a store; it reflects what can be achieved when education goes beyond the classroom. Through the store, students gain a unique learning experience that builds confidence, encourages creativity, and fosters a deep sense of school pride.

Blackhawk Outfitters is open during every varsity home event.





**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

School Board members:  
Dan Fleming—President  
Tyler Henning—Vice President  
Nancy Boone—Secretary  
John Hunt—Member  
Kim Zachery—Member

**CENTRAL OFFICE**

(317-758-4172)  
Dr. Dave Mundy, Superintendent

**SHERIDAN ELEMENTARY**

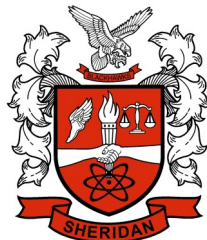
(317-758-4491)  
Valerie Roberts, Principal  
Melissa Hoffman, Assistant Principal

**SHERIDAN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

(317-758-6780)  
Kent Davis, Principal

**SHERIDAN HIGH SCHOOL**

(317-758-4431)  
Rick Davis, Principal  
Jason Marer, Assistant Principal



This publication contains links to information. A digital copy of this newsletter can be found on our website at [www.secs.k12.in.us](http://www.secs.k12.in.us): **Blackhawk Talk Tab.**

**Feedback is Welcome!**  
Send your comments to:  
Dr. Dave Mundy  
Sheridan Community Schools  
24795 N. Hinesley Road  
Sheridan, IN 46069  
[dmundy@sheridan.k12.in.us](mailto:dmundy@sheridan.k12.in.us)

**SHERIDAN  
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
MISSION STATEMENT**

*We create high leverage, high impact learning opportunities for all students.*

**VISION STATEMENT**

*All students develop skills and attitudes resulting in academic excellence, career success, and exemplary citizenship.*

**BELIEFS OF THE SHERIDAN  
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**

*Students are our first priority.  
Our schools are the focal point of this community.  
This community's investment in our schools is vital to the continued vitality of this community.  
Everyone in the community has a role in educating our children.  
Our students deserve world-class opportunities.  
Schools must provide a safe and nurturing environment.  
Everyone in our community deserves to be treated with respect.  
Successful investment in the future respects the past.*