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# 2nd Quarter Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 2

Shawnee Middle School, Lima OH

October 30, 2023

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## **From the Principal's Desk**

By Anthony J. Cox  
Shawnee Middle School

As parents, we have 18 years to prepare our children for the world. Sometimes raising children so they can be happy and independent adults can seem overwhelming because there are so many things we need to teach our children.

In the book, *The 10 Most Important Things You Can Do For Your Children*, author Roni Jay lists things our children should be able to do independently by the time they are 18. This list includes:

- Having some sense of order in their life and their possessions.
- Being tidy.
- Assembling what they need for school or other activities.
- Getting up in the morning (side note – this should begin at 3rd grade)
- Organizing their time.
- Doing their homework.
- Eating like a grown-up.
- Basic cooking.
- Cleaning and washing up after a meal.
- Keeping themselves clean and maintained.
- Keeping their clothes clean.
- Keeping their room or house clean.
- Looking after their possessions.
- Packing for a trip.
- Household skills such as changing a light bulb or mending a fuse.
- Basic sewing skills like sewing on a button or fixing a small tear.
- Being road safe.
- Using public transportation (reading maps/guides).
- Doing basic shopping.
- Looking after money – basic budgeting.
- Using a lawnmower, sweeper, dishwasher and washing machine.
- Basic housework – cleaning a room, cleaning windows, etc.
- Cleaning and maintaining a car.
- Shopping for food.

Most parents think that things like keeping a bedroom tidy is a skill that children are born with but it is not and needs to be taught. In the book, Jay says that, “tidying is a skill children need to have, not necessarily a skill they need to use.” Once you teach them how to clean and take care of themselves it is up to you whether you demand them to use it.

How do you teach a young person these skills? To teach these skills you need to use a teaching method we use here at school. It is called, “I do, we do, you do.” The first step is to pick a task and have your child watch while you do it. During this step you give them information on what you have learned over the years.

After spending sufficient time modeling, you do the task together (we do), and finally when you feel they are ready, they do the task. This process may take awhile and it is important to remember that the goal is for your child to be self-sufficient before they leave the house. How early should instruction begin? Obviously, the earlier you start the better. It is hard to get teenagers to change their ways. Third, fourth or even fifth grade is a great time to start.

While you work to mold your middle school student into a self-sufficient, independent, happy adult, keep in mind, “The man who removes a mountain begins by carrying away small stones.” Each day presents opportunities for small lessons to be taught. Use these years wisely.

## **SMS Daily Announcements**

Use the Middle School Website or app to **view our daily announcements**, “Indian Information”:  
limashawnee.com - Schools - Shawnee Middle School - Under “Live Feed”

***\*SMS Attendance Phone Number: 419-998-8058\****  
***The attendance office has voice mail available 24 hours a day for your convenience. Failure to call regarding absences for any reason will result in your student being counted unexcused for the day.***

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## NEW Process for Scheduling SMS Parent Teacher Conferences via Google!

Wednesday, November 1st from 5-8pm

Wednesday, November 8th from 5-8pm

Friday, November 10th from 8am - Noon

While scheduling a conference is optional, we highly encourage you to look at Progressbook and see how your child is progressing. If they are at a C or below, please schedule a conference with that subject's teacher.

Sixth, Seventh and Eighth grade students will require separate conferences with each individual teacher.

Fifth grade students can be reserved with their team of teachers.

Students are expected to attend the conference with their parent/guardian. Please use the links provided on the conference page to sign up.

\*Teachers that work with both middle school and high school students will follow the high school conferences schedule.

Please check their conference link for more information.

Conference page:

<https://www.limashawnee.com/o/shawnee-middle/page/conferences>

## Spring State Testing

All testing should take place in the mornings, periods 1-3. This schedule is subject to change based on accommodating the needs of all students testing at once. Please avoid scheduling appointments during the morning of these dates if possible. A good night's rest and a good breakfast always help. We appreciate your assistance in setting your student up for success.

Date	Test
Monday, April 15, 2024	7th & 8th ELA Pt. 1
Tuesday, April 16, 2024	5th & 6th ELA Pt. 1
Wednesday, April 17, 2024	7th & 8th ELA Pt. 2
Thursday, April 18, 2024	5th & 6th ELA Pt. 2
Thursday, April 25, 2024	5th & 8th Science Pts. 1 & 2
Monday, April 29, 2024	7th & 8th Math & Algebra Pt. 1
Tuesday, April 30, 2024	5th & 6th Math Pt. 1
Wednesday, May 1, 2024	7th & 8th Math & Algebra Pt. 2
Thursday, May 2, 2024	5th & 6th Math Pt. 2

## Stay Informed- Download the Shawnee App Today!



Shawnee Local School District  
Shawnee Local Schools  
★★★★★ 3.5 + 17 Ratings  
Free



- The **EVENT** section shows a list of events throughout the district. Users can add an event to your calendar to share the event with friends and family with one tap.
- Be sure to **select your student's school or organization within the app and elect to receive alerts** to make sure you never miss a **NOTIFICATION**.
- The **LIVE FEED** is where you'll find updates from the administration about what's going on in the district and/or school right now.
- Find relevant staff and department **CONTACTS** under an easy-to-navigate directory.
- It can be downloaded by **anyone** who needs to stay in the loop.



## SHAWNEE MIDDLE SCHOOL

### UPCOMING EVENTS: PROFESSIONALS NEEDED!

#### 7th/8th STEM DAY: Mon., Dec. 18th, 2023

We are looking for parents/community members who work in STEM fields. Participation in the event will involve the entire school day. The goal for the day is for students to have the opportunity to gain knowledge about STEM careers through related hands-on activities and/or experiments. Students attend two sessions during the day: one during their scheduled math period and one during their scheduled science period. Responsibilities/expectations for the presenters include: explanation of career field (required education, duties, schedule, salary, etc.) and providing a related hands-on activity for the students. We have seven periods in the day so you would see seven different class periods of students.

#### Career Fair: Thurs., May 16th, 2024

We are looking for parents/community members who work in a variety of fields for our 6th-8th Grade Career Fair. Participation in the event will involve the entire school day. The primary goal for the day is for students to learn about careers that exist in our area. Students typically cycle through four mini-sessions per class period (seven class periods in all). Responsibilities/expectations for the presenters include: brief explanation of educational background, experience, licensure/specialized training, work schedule, daily responsibilities/tasks, and salary range. All presenters will have a table and are welcome to bring "props", technology, materials to distribute, etc. that would be of interest to the students.

\*Email or call Mrs. Schmiedebusch (7th/8th counselor) to confirm participation:  
ericas@limashawnee.com 419.998.8072



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## **High School Scheduling**

We will start discussing 9th grade scheduling with the 8th grade students in mid-January. Further information about this process will be sent home at that time.

## **SMS 2023-2024 Yearbook on Sale Now!**

Middle School yearbooks are now on sale! Pre-order your yearbook for the discounted price of \$30 now through January 26th. Yearbooks can be ordered at school using the order form given to each student or online at [www.yearbookforever.com](http://www.yearbookforever.com).

Be sure to choose Shawnee Middle School when ordering online. Don't wait, secure your child's yearbook today! Need an extra form? They can get one from the literature tray or click here: <https://5il.co/1ivbx>

## **From the Nurse:**

The message is simple this year during these unprecedented times: Please keep your student home if they are ill. This includes if they are experiencing any of the following COVID-like symptoms: Cough, headache, sore throat, temperature of 100 degrees or higher, chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, body aches, fatigue, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.

Please note: If your student or anyone else within your household tests positive for the coronavirus, please contact the school nurse immediately at 419-998-8065 or afterhours at 419-998-8097. Thank you for your cooperation and working together to keep our whole school community safe.

Finally, encourage each other as a family to get at least 60 minutes of outdoor time daily. Eat well and hydrate with plenty of water. Take time for one another and be present. Encourage your student(s) to get plenty of rest every night so they can be the best version of themselves!

Stay well ~ Nurse Sosby, R.N.

## **Math Tutoring**

Don't forget *free* Math tutoring is offered Tuesdays and Thursdays after school here at the middle school.

5th/6th Tuesdays: Mrs. Azzarello A-24

Thursdays: Ms. McKinney B-15

\*Please pick up your student by 3:30 p.m.

## **ProgressBook**

ProgressBook is a wonderful tool to stay informed with your student's school work. Check grades and attendance whenever you like. Please maintain your ProgressBook login information from year to year. If you need to update your information please enter it in Final Forms and contact the office at 419-998-8057.

## **Vacation Forms**

Please be aware that a vacation form must be completed beforehand for any student going on vacation or going out of town one or more days. All such absences will be unexcused without a completed vacation form on file. You can obtain a form from Mrs. Wheeler in the guidance office or you can access it from the school website [www.limashawnee.com](http://www.limashawnee.com) by typing "Vacation Form" in the search bar. You may also access by logging into Final Forms and following this sequence: "Update Forms", "Situational Forms", "Request Absence Form".



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## UPDATES FOR SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

Beginning July 1, 2023, the Shawnee Local School District Board of Education requires all volunteers to be approved by the board of education and complete a successful background check prior to serving in a volunteer capacity.

Volunteer status includes any individual who may be directly or indirectly responsible for students. **Volunteer background checks completed at the District Central Office will be paid for by the District. Volunteer background checks completed outside of the District Central Office will be at the expense of the volunteer.** All background checks must be completed through a WebCheck agency that utilizes The Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI). Background checks can be completed Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Call 419-998-8031 to schedule an appointment.

Volunteers are also required to complete and submit a Volunteer Registration Packet. This packet is available on the District website:  
<https://www.limashawnee.com/documents/district/volunteers/359268>. Email an administrator in the building you wish to volunteer or [dittol@limashawnee.com](mailto:dittol@limashawnee.com) with any questions.

This initiative, along with other safety improvements, are just a small part of the initiatives and programs we are implementing to improve overall safety within the District.

## Notes from Food Service

**The 2023-24 meal application is still available.** Completing this will cover the student for the entire 2023-24 school year and no other steps will be necessary, unless there is an income change during the school year. The application can be found online at <https://payschoolscentral.com/> or by visiting [www.limashawnee.com](http://www.limashawnee.com) and clicking on the "Payonline" tab. This will direct you to the Payschools Central link. Once you access PaySchools, create an account and complete the Free & Reduced Application from a computer or a smartphone.

The current breakfast and lunch prices are as follows:

Elmwood & Maplewood Lunch	\$3.00
Middle School Lunch	\$3.25
High School Lunch	\$3.50
Breakfast	\$1.75

(or items can be purchased ala carte)

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.  
Kim Dotson, Food Service Supervisor  
419-998-8036 [kimd@limashawnee.com](mailto:kimd@limashawnee.com)

## Please Remember Important Cafeteria Rules

- Food from McDonald's, Pizza Hut, Subway, etc. cannot be ordered in or delivered to students.
- Glass containers are prohibited.
- Carbonated/cafeinated beverages are not permitted in school.

## Charge Policy for Unpaid Meals

- Students in elementary and middle school may charge up to \$10.00. There is no charging at the high school.
- Weekly unpaid balance letters will be sent home to parents of elementary students.
- When the limit is reached, a student may get a courtesy meal. A high school student may ask for the courtesy meal if they have no money.
- Food service staff will work diligently to enroll all eligible students in the free/reduced meal program.



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## **Chromebook Care**

SMS Families please review these with your student. If we take care of the Chromebooks we can ensure their use for years to come and keep this program operational.

- No food or drink or pets should be near the Chromebook, charger, or the case.
- Bring your chromebook to school each day fully charged. A good strategy is to plug it in as soon as you finish your homework for the night, but leave it in your backpack to charge. This way you won't forget it! :)
- When moving the Chromebook use two hands. Do not pick it up by the monitor.
- Never pile items on top of your Chromebook.
- Lock your Chromebook when it is not in use.
- Protect your Chromebook from exposure to extreme heat or cold.
- Sign out and shut down daily or at least once a week at a minimum for operating updates.
- Do not put any stickers on the Chromebook or remove the school asset tag.
- Only clean the screen with a soft dry anti-static cloth or microfiber cloth.
- Remember you are responsible for any damage to the chromebook, charger, and case and will have to pay to repair it. If something comes up missing you are responsible to pay for it.
- The \$30 chromebook insurance payment is required for ALL students regardless of Free/Reduced Status.
- Students need headphones to use with their chromebook.

## **Fall Fundraiser Dates**

Delivery date is Wednesday 11/8. Fundraiser orders will be available for pick-up on Wednesday, 11/8/2023 from 2:30pm–6:30pm at Whitetail Acres, 2276 W. Breese Rd

## **A Glance Ahead**

Wednesday, *Nov 1st* from 5-8pm: Conferences

Wednesday, *Nov 8th* from 5-8pm: Conferences

Friday, *Nov 10th* from 8am - Noon: Conferences

\*No School K-8

Wednesday, *Nov 8th*: Fundraiser pick-up

\*2:30 pm – 6:30 pm Whitetail Acres.

Tuesday, *Nov 21st*: Early Dismissal 12:53pm

Wednesday/Thursday/Friday, *November 22nd – 24th*:

\*NO SCHOOL – Happy Thanksgiving!

Friday, *Dec 1st*: Picture Retakes

Wednesday, *Dec 20th*: Early Dismissal 12:53pm

Thursday, *Dec 21st* - Tuesday, *January 2nd*:

\*NO SCHOOL – Winter Recess

Wednesday, *Jan 3rd*: School Resumes

Friday, *Jan 12th*: End of First Semester/Second Quarter

Monday, *Jan 15th*: NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Wednesday, *Jan 24th*: 2 Hour Delay – Teacher In-Service

Monday, *Feb 19th*: NO SCHOOL - Presidents' Day

Wednesday, *Mar 6th*: 2 Hour Delay – Teacher In-Service

Friday, *Mar 15th*: End of third quarter

Wednesday, *Mar 27th*: Early Dismissal 12:53pm

Thursday, *Mar 28th* - Monday, *Apr 1st*:

\*NO SCHOOL – Spring Recess

Tuesday, *Apr 2nd*: School Resumes



*Happy  
Fall Y'all*