
4th Quarter Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 4

Shawnee Middle School, Lima OH

March 18, 2024

From the Principal's Desk

By Anthony J. Cox
Shawnee Middle School

One of the hardest parts about raising children is knowing when to push. I was never a parent who expected perfection from my child or someone who wanted my child involved in every after-school activity. However, I did find myself pushing my child. To me the hardest part of parenting was knowing when to push or when to back off and give some space. I tended to push my child past his comfort zone the most when I thought the skill was something he would need in his adult life. One area where I challenged my son was talking or communicating with people. He was naturally shy and an introvert but I knew to be successful in life he would need some communication skills.

In the educational setting, I often hear, "She is too shy to ask for help," or "I could never see my child doing that. He is too shy." After hearing this, I often wonder how long a parent is going to allow this shyness to remain an obstacle. If we, as parents, do not teach our children to overcome this obstacle, then no one will. My wife worked in college admissions for years. While traveling those circles many professors or college administrators spoke to me (because they knew I worked with young adults) about times they met with students who would not say anything, and the parent did all of the talking. Children need to be taught how to present themselves and how to communicate their thoughts and needs to others.

There are many everyday activities that can be utilized to teach your child to overcome an unreasonable fear of talking to adults. An example is ordering food at a restaurant. (Do your children order their own food? Do they answer the questions the waiter or waitress asks them? Are they looking

the person in the eye and speaking loudly enough?) Other places or situations to practice could include speaking with a teacher or a coach, calling a store for information, meeting the friend of a parent or speaking to relatives at a family gathering.

These are all times when your student might need to be nudged out of the "shy" habit. With the right guidance, all of these situations can give students the confidence they need to conduct themselves in the right manner when speaking to adults.

Middle school parents can no longer afford to do most of the talking for their "shy" children. In the current job market, there are not many job opportunities where a person will not have to communicate with people. Using shyness as an excuse and not pushing your children to communicate will only hurt their future. As parents, we need to teach our students how to act when they meet an adult. We need to teach them how to carry on polite conversations. Doing so will only enhance their future.

Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan

The Ohio Department of Education requires the Local Educational Agency to hold a meeting to discuss the federal funds programs. District residents are invited to attend the meeting on Monday, June 10, 2024 at 9 a.m. in the Shawnee Local Schools Boardroom.

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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Spring State Testing

These assessments will be given at the beginning of the day on these dates. These assessments are an important benchmark for your student's learning. Please try to have your student present at school and on time for their assessments. If an appointment is necessary on these dates, please schedule the appointment in the afternoon. Thank you.

SMS Spring 2024 State Testing Dates

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

REMINDERS:

- Charge your chromebooks the night before and remember to bring it in the morning.
- Get a good night's rest, eat a healthy breakfast, and be on time for school.
- Leave technology at home - phones, smart watches, airpods, and related technology are not permitted in the testing rooms.
- Be ready to do your best!

Yearbook Sales

Extra copies of the 2023-2024 Yearbook will be sold for \$35.00 in the large cafeteria before 1st period starting the last week of school. A reminder will be in the daily announcements "Indian Info" regarding specific dates and times. Sales are first-come, first-serve. You can pay with cash (***MUST have exact amount***) or checks (*made payable to Shawnee Middle School*).

School Fees - Did You Know . . .

If you have not paid school fees for this school year, including chromebook insurance, your student will **not** receive their grade card at the end of the 4th quarter. Unpaid school fees carry over from year to year. In order to receive your student's schedule in the fall, you will be responsible to pay for any balance you have at that time. If you would like to use a card, please go to www.limashawnee.com and click "Pay Online" to login or register (you will need your student's ID number a.k.a. Lunch code) for PaySchools Central. ***Exact*** cash or check (made payable to Shawnee Middle School) are accepted in the Front Office. If you have any questions, please call the office at 419-998-8057.

TOP AR POINT EARNERS

3rd Quarter

8th Grade 1st: <i>Isaiah Hodges</i> 106.0 2nd: <i>Parker Seffernick</i> 44.0 3rd: <i>Zander Strange</i> 32.0	7th Grade 1st: <i>Ava Extine</i> 151.0 2nd: <i>Tofunmi Balogun</i> 122.1 3rd: <i>Fiona Minnick</i> 79.1
6th Grade 1st: <i>Brooke Moreland</i> 80.7 2nd: <i>Kelsey Collins</i> 52.0 3rd: <i>Sajni Patel</i> 51.4	5th Grade 1st: <i>Ivan Chukwuma-Eze</i> 135.1 2nd: <i>Sneha Mishra</i> 127.9 3rd: <i>Shriya Naroor</i> 96.9

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Dress Code

With spring arriving, please remember the middle school dress code:

- Tank tops, spaghetti straps, muscle shirts, halters, bare midriffs, cut-off shirts and short tops are unacceptable for school wear. Shoulders must be covered.
- Tops/shirts should be no lower than 2" below the collarbone. A quick way to check is for the student to measure three fingers down from the collarbone. Backs and stomachs should be covered at all times, including while sitting, bending, or standing.
- Slippers are not permitted.
- Ragged clothing or offensive language/sayings that distract from the learning environment should not be worn to school.
- Violators of the dress code will be given a written warning for the 1st offense. Further violations will result in progressive discipline.
- The violation must be corrected before the student can go back to class. This may be a phone call to parents for different clothing, changing clothes, or the administration providing something for the student to wear.

From the Nurse

Parents of 6th Graders: The Ohio Department of Health school immunization requirements include a Tdap booster (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) and meningococcal vaccine (MCV4) **before** a student enters the seventh grade to protect children from preventable diseases.

These immunizations can be obtained at the Allen County Department of Health (419) 228.4457 and are available by appointment only. No one will be turned away due to the inability to pay. Once the immunizations are obtained we will need a copy for our school record.

Also, a teen school vaccine clinic will be held at the Shawnee High School in the East Cafeteria for 7th and 12th graders: Monday, August 12th from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

If you have already obtained the vaccines please send a copy via email to: sosbyh@limashawnee.com or fax (419) 998-8067. **If you refuse the vaccine(s), by state law a signed waiver form needs to be on file for the current school year in order to be compliant. This form can be found on our school website at www.limashawnee.com.**

- Select District
- Health & Wellness
- State of Ohio Legal Immunization Exemption

You will need to have these immunizations completed prior to the start of the 2024-2025 school year.

You will need to provide the school with an updated immunization record. If an updated immunization record is not received at the start of 2024-2025 school year, you will be asked to temporarily keep your child at home until this state requirement is met.

Stay well! ~Nurse Heather Sosby, R.N.
419-998-8065 sosbyh@limashawnee.com



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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 near 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. Shutting your Chromebook down when not in use saves your battery life.
- 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.

SMS Chromebook Turn in Dates and Directions

5th grade - Thursday, May 16

6th grade - Friday, May 17

8th grade - Monday, May 20

7th grade - Tuesday, May 21

Please return the chromebook fully charged.

ALL OF THE EQUIPMENT LISTED BELOW MUST BE TURNED IN. Otherwise you must send in payment for any missing equipment on Turn In Day. (Exact cash or check made payable to Shawnee Middle School with your student's name and ID # in the memo line)

Chromebook: \$257.00

Charger: \$31.00

Bag: \$18.00

Small Bag: \$4.00

Strap: \$4.00 (NA if previously paid)



A Glance Ahead

Wed, March 27th: Early Dismissal 12:53pm

Thurs, Mar 28th - Mon, Apr 1st: *NO SCHOOL – Spring Recess

Tues, Apr 2nd: School Resumes

Mon, Apr 8th **NO SCHOOL** Solar Eclipse

Fri, May 24th: Early Dismissal 12:53pm and Last day for students

To view the District Calendar go to limashawnee.com and click “2023-2024 Calendar” along the top right.