

Please refer to this if an issue arises with SPS.

- [Chain of Command](#)

Stay on track by printing this out.

- [School Calendar](#)

Homecoming Fun for Free

- [Homecoming Tailgate Party](#)



Welcome
BACK^{TO}
SCHOOL

There are many new faces working around the district
for the 23/24 school year, please reach out
with a smile, hi, or hello, my name is...

We are really trying to make all new employees feel at ease, by showing
them how the BlueJay Family is like home.

Teachers/Administrators

- Jessica Bowman, SMS/Odyssey Special Education
- Mitch Weiss, Winn/SES Health
- Kaleigh Percha, Winn 1st Grade
- Nicole Fox, Winn 2nd Grade
- Danielle Donegan, SES 4th Grade
- Henry VanLoon, SHS ELA
- Ashley Merritt, Winn Kindergarten
- Savanna Peraino, Winn/SES Music
- Joslyn Byrne, SMS Theater
- Lynette Lentovich, SHS Math
- Amy King, SES Asst. Principal
- Mike Willett, SHS Asst. Principal

Coaches

- Taylor Marr, JV Volleyball
- Matt Flegel, 8th Grade Boys Basketball
- Caleb Cavendish, Varsity Boys Golf
- Jordan Brandenburger, 9th Grade Football
- Katherine Weiss, Pompon

Support Staff

- Morgan Harnish, SHS Project Aware Counselor
- Danielle Willoughby, Winn Secretary
- Misty Piper, SES Paraprofessional
- Carlee Spedoske, SES Paraprofessional
- Fallon Boyle, SMS Paraprofessional
- Ann Schafer, SMS Paraprofessional
- Keith Carley, SMS Paraprofessional
- DeShawn Sears, Odyssey Extended Day Advocate
- Ahlia Faber, Winn Paraprofessional
- Cheryl Prior, Winn Paraprofessional

Kitchen Staff

- Melissa Jenkins, Winn Cashier
- Anjle Tank, Winn Server
- Tina Sansote, Winn Dishwasher
- Dana Arsulowicz, SES Dishwasher
- Janis Duffy, SMS/SHS Breakfast Cook
- Nena Wheaton, SHS Ala Carte Cook

Custodial and Bus Drivers

- Elizabeth Fisk, Custodian
- Josh Sanders, Bus Driver
- Dave Brandt, Bus Driver

Superintendent's Corner

Settling in... There is no question we are, as the saying goes, “**Creatures of habit.**” We look for patterns all around us. As we launch another school year our comfort and success comes when we can settle in a bit and form habits that will provide stability and security for our students and ourselves. We have enjoyed the start of this 2023-24 school year and are settling in nicely!

BLUEJAY FIGHT SONG- As has been talked about before one of “the best ways” to build and strengthen school spirit revolves around the essence of a school’s Fight Song. We want to continue to build and grow “BlueJay Pride” through this wonderful tune. Please know students are going to be working hard to promote EVERYONE knowing and being able to sing word-for-word (at least the first verse) the BlueJay Fight Song. More to come on this...

NEW WINN ELEMENTARY- The newest school building is now open and operating! Thanks goes to SO MANY who gave their time and talents over the course of the past several months to ensure a smooth opening and transition took place. Hats off to all staff, students and families who have banded together for this amazing new opportunity for Shepherd Public Schools!

RELATIONSHIPS- A continuing theme for the 2023-24 school year for Shepherd Public Schools is to intentionally focus on the “relationships” within and around our school community; most importantly the relationships we have with the students. It may be just that my “relationships radar” is more finely tuned than it was last year - though - I have to say that across the entire school community, our “relationships” seem to be improving almost daily!! From the teachers who so lovingly meet, greet and treat their students, to paraprofessionals and administrators who ensure EVERY child gets a “happy birthday” song or maybe even their own birthday cake, to the bus drivers who I hear saying, “Have a nice day!” to their bus riders as they get off the bus, to our food service teams greeting every child with a smile and warm words, to our custodians seen building relationships with students in the hallways, to our maintenance team who consistently puts the work of educating our students first, to coaches hugging and congratulating players after contests... Man-oh-man, this is a SPECIAL place to be for BlueJay kids!! Hats off to our total BlueJay Team and let’s keep it up!!

STRATEGIC PLAN- The continual focus of our growth and development of our district will be around our Strategic Plan created back in the spring of 2022. The design of it, though, is to grow and evolve. There is a Strategic Planning Steering Committee that will continue to operate this school year. This group will again meet throughout this coming year. Each meeting will be spent processing how we are doing with our current plan - and to write a new objective for each goal area for the coming year. Since it is a five year plan new objectives can be crafted each year. If you ever have any questions about this plan or wish to submit your input please feel free to reach out to me.

BlueJay Friends and families, thank you for your attention to this monthly update from our central office. You are always welcome to stop in or call if you have any questions we might help you with. In all that we do, let’s remain **BlueJay Strong!**

New Teacher Spotlight

WELCOME TO THE BLUEJAY FAMILY!!!



JESSICA BOWMAN
SMS/Odyssey Special
Education Teacher

Jessica is not too far from where she grew up. She is a 1998 graduate of Mt Pleasant High School. She received her teaching degree from Western Governor's University. You probably don't know that she is a certified mechanic and owns an auto shop! Her passion and dream of teaching as a kid gives her the motivation to work with the students every single day. She raised three boys and also goes by the name of Grandma. Her friends describe her as strong, determined and level headed. Her favorite concerts so far were Jason Aldean and Tracy Lawrence. She is heading into her favorite time of year...Fall...where she enjoys cider and bonfires. If she could invite someone from heaven to lunch, she would choose her grandmother and tell her everything that she has accomplished. Welcome JESSICA!



MITCH WEISS
Winn & Shepherd El.
Health Teacher

Welcome back Mitch, he attended Winn Elementary and graduated from SPS not too long ago. He received his teaching degree from CMU. His motivation to show up everyday is to make a difference in the health of the students. He along with his wife are proud of buying their first home. His friends would describe him as hard working, caring and resilient. His favorite concert was

Justin Moore. His hidden talents involve the outdoors; hunting and fishing, which is why Fall is his favorite season. If he could invite someone from heaven to lunch he would chose Sparky Anderson, so he could hear all of the stories of the former Big League players that he managed over the years. He would ask Sparky how he built relationships with different players to help them play at their full potential. Welcome MITCH!

New Teacher Spotlight

WELCOME TO THE BLUEJAY FAMILY!!!



Kaleigh Percha
Winn Elementary
First Grade Teacher

Kaleigh is from Saint Johns, Michigan and her teaching degree was earned from CMU. Before becoming a BlueJay, she taught Special Education in Mt. Pleasant and Alma. What motivates Kaleigh is the people in this community are so kind and inviting and she is so excited to be teaching in a small town. She is proud of her crafting skills and her ability to create projects. Her friends describe her as patient and kind. Her favorite concert so far was Kenny Chesney. Her hidden talents are hiking, spending time outside and her niche for crafting. Her favorite season is coming to an end, she loves spending time at the lake or beach. If she could invite someone from heaven to lunch she would choose Dr. Seuss because she loves reading his books and watching the movies, especially *The Grinch*. Welcome KALEIGH!



Nicole Fox
Winn Elementary
Second Grade Teacher

Nicole grew up in Beal City and graduated from Beal City High School in 2015. She graduated with a Bachelor's in Education from CMU in 2019. She is currently working towards her Masters in Curriculum and Instruction from Western Governor's University. Before making her way to being a BlueJay she taught in Beal City for 2 years and then in Nashville, TN for 2 years. What motivates Nicole is the sense of community and family that comes with working with SPS students. She is proud of moving away from her home town and putting herself out of her comfort zone by teaching in an inner city Nashville School. She says it was challenging, but overall very rewarding. Her friends would describe her as funny, spontaneous, but also a nerd that loves to read. Her favorite concert so far was being in the front row of a Luke Combs concert at Nissan Stadium (Nashville). Her hobbies include reading and spending time with her Golden Doodle, Teddy. She is heading into her favorite season because of the fall colors and it is the perfect temperature, not too hot, not too cold.

Shepherd Elementary

**DONT
MISS IT**

- Picture Day-September 21
- Coffee with the Principal-September 22 @ 8:30 AM
- Fall Movie Night by PTO-September 22

This month our school wide theme is our school being a welcoming place where every student feels like he or she belongs. In our morning announcements we are reminding students to welcome others and act and speak in safe, respectful, and responsible ways. In addition we'll be reminding students of our school rules; Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be Here!

We'll also begin teaching the Second Step program, which includes lessons that support these behaviors.

Support your child at home in welcoming others and acting and speaking in safe, respectful, and responsible ways. Please get in touch with your child's teacher if you have questions about specific ways you can help your child with these behaviors at home.



Winn Elementary

Ready, Set, GROW!

Winn Elementary welcomed 222 students to our new building! I think Mr. Morey said it best, he said that it was just so nice to see the halls full of kids again. We waited all summer for our kids to come. Each day a crew of very hard working people created this beautiful space where kids and adults would learn together. Today, I walked down the halls and heard laughter, learning, and lots of love. Our kids are coming together and making new friends. As staff, we want to thank you too. We know moving was not easy. We know the change brought lots of emotions. But, what we know today is that our new history began when we walked through the doors. We walk under the words, "everything a kid needs," and know that that promise continues. We welcome you to this special year and hope you enjoy every moment. We are ready to "grow" together as a family!



And the Birthday Cake Tradition Continues...



We are so happy that our 222 students will get to participate in our tradition of birthday cakes at Winn. When it is your birthday, you get a homemade little cake at school. We put a candle on it and sing "Happy Birthday!" When we are done signing, we package your little cake and send it home. If you would like to volunteer to be a cake baker this year, please reach out to our Winn Parent Club for more information! Check out those cakes baked by our favorite chef, Chief Sawyer!



Shepherd High

Students must complete an application process to be eligible for Early College.

We will see you September 19th.



MID MICHIGAN COLLEGE

SHEPHERD BLUEJAY EARLY COLLEGE

MEETING SEPTEMBER 19 @ 6:30 AUDITORIUM

Who Should Attend

- All students interested should attend.
- Juniors interested must attend and must sign up and be accepted before October 4, 2023

Early College Partner
Mid Michigan College
Check out their Academic Programs @ midmich.edu

Field Of Study Opportunities

- Trade Programs
- Associates Degree
- Applied Associates
- Credentialing
- Transfer Degree

Benefits

- Full tuition paid
- Support through first year of college
- Develop time management skills
- Students will still walk with their classmates

More Information
Brian Ross
bross@shepherdschools.net

CAREER FAIR

SHEPHERD HIGH SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATE

12 0 8 23

FRIDAY

8:30 AM - 2 PM

PLEASE CONTACT CARRIE GAUTHIER

CGAUTHIER@SHEPHERDSCHOOLS.NET

SIGN UP ON THE HIGH SCHOOL WEBPAGE

Mock Interviews
Panel Discussion w/Students
Resume Critiques

If you are willing to be a part of this great day for students please complete the form on our webpage.



September 24 - Powder Puff Football

September 26 - Mock Olympics

September 26 - Hall Decorating 3-8 pm

September 29 - Homecoming Assembly

September 29 - Parade @ 5 pm

September 30 - Dance 7-10 pm

Shepherd Middle



WEB 8th Graders training activities



Orientation Day

Upcoming Dates:

Homecoming: September 29th

Picture Day: October 2nd

Parent Teacher Conferences:

October 5th and 6th

Our 8th grade WEB students did a great job welcoming our incoming 6th graders into our building in August. The WEB students spent 3 days of their summer training in the program and put together the orientation. We are so proud of their hard work and dedication to the program. We would also like to thank the adults involved in this very worthwhile program: Mr. Roed, Mrs. Ingersoll, and Mrs. Cahoon.

Fall is fast approaching and we have the perfect opportunity to get some sweatshirts AND support Shepherd Middle School. Please click the like below, we appreciate you taking the time to check it out!

Link:

<https://shepms2023.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

It is set to close by the ordering deadline of September 10th and orders are estimated to be complete after September 25th and will be distributed at Shepherd Middle School.

Odyssey Middle/High



Meet the newest member of our family, Blaze! She will soon begin specialized training to become Odyssey's certified therapy dog.

A special thank you to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe for awarding us a generous grant allowing us this opportunity!

Candy donations can be dropped off at Odyssey between 7am-3pm each school day.

We appreciate your help in providing this community event!



Chase Recker, Liam Doherty, Isaiah Champlin, & Kyvan Ward

Back at Work!

Middle School History groups were each given an artifact to analyze. The artifacts included; a 1980's floppy disc, a 1990's Motorola cell phone, a handmade copper victory mug from WWII, and an electric line glass insulator cap.



Project Aware Counselors

Welcome Ms. Harnish!



Ms. Harnish is our newest Project AWARE Counselor at Shepherd High School. She comes to us with a Master's Degree in Social Work from Saginaw Valley State University. Ms. Harnish is super excited to build supportive relationships with our students and families, and to contribute to a school environment where student's feel accepted, supported, and cared for. If High School students are in need of mental health services or connection to resources, they can email her at morgan.harnish@shepherdschools.net or sign up in the counseling office.

BlueJay Bash

We were so happy to help host the Blue Jay Bash!! Over 500 people were in attendance! There were lots of fun activities (like bouncy houses and yard games) and tons of community resources available for our BlueJay families! The Project AWARE Counselors were thrilled to partner with Shepherd United Methodist Church to put on this event and to provide school supplies and drawstring backpacks to our BlueJays! If you missed out and still need supplies, feel free to connect with the Project AWARE Counselor at your student's school!



Connection Days

Ms. Whaley is hosting Connection Days in the middle school during both lunch periods through the month of September. On Mondays students will meet Ms. Whaley in the counseling office for the entire lunch period and do an inside activity. On Wednesdays, students will meet Ms. Whaley in the hallway after they have eaten lunch before they go outside and do an outdoor activity. All activities will be focused on fun and connecting with other students! Students who attend connection days will be entered into a prize drawing and winners will be announced every week!

Connect with us!

If you ever have any questions or feel that your student could benefit from additional support at school, please reach out to us!

Cathy Huffer, Shepherd Elementary -
chuffer@shepherdschools.net

Emily Hinsman, Winn Elementary -
ehinsman@shepherdschools.net

LeeAnn Whaley, Shepherd Middle School -
leeann.whaley@shepherdschools.net

Dave Gutierrez, Odyssey MS/HS -
dgutierrez@shepherdschools.net

Morgan Harnish, Shepherd High School -
morgan.harnish@shepherdschools.net