



SHADYSIDE TIGER TIMES

A Quarterly Newsletter for Shadyside Local Schools

Fall 2025



LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT - FACILITIES UPDATE

Dear Community,



As we begin the new school year I wanted to take the opportunity to update the community on our new facilities process. The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) has released its new equity ranking and our new ranking of 359 creates a local share requirement of 59%. This number is very important to the future of the district.

In April 2023, we were successful in locking in our state share for a new facility at 75% by entering into a contract with Raze International to abate and demolish Leona Middle school once we secure our local funding. We will not pursue raising the local share until we become eligible for our State share.

Recently, I inquired about a timeline for our state share and I had a response from the OFCC that we could become eligible in one to two years. This is the first time that I received a response from the OFCC with a timeline. In past inquires they would only state they could not predict in how many years.



**Facilities
Construction
Commission**

Any new information I receive in the future I will share with our community.

John Haswell, Superintendent

For additional information visit:

www.shadysideschools.com/page/facilities-updates-information

or scan the QR Code



SHADYSIDE SCHOOLS CELEBRATE ACADEMIC SUCCESS ACROSS ALL BUILDINGS

The Shadyside Local School District is proud to share that the 2024–25 school year brought significant academic achievement at most levels. From elementary to high school, Tigers are achieving at or above Ohio's expectations and above state average in every tested area except one.

Shadyside High School students made great strides in nearly every tested subject area. Proficiency rates and student growth scores reflect the dedication of teachers who have worked to align instruction with Ohio's Learning Standards and to strengthen daily classroom practices. These results are a clear sign that the district's investment in high-quality instruction and professional development is paying off.

Leona Middle School results met academic achievement expectations in most tested areas. This demonstrates that middle-level students are being challenged academically and supported by teachers who are committed to ensuring every student makes measurable progress.

Jefferson Elementary students and teachers continue to show consistent evidence of high achievement. Their efforts lay a strong foundation for long-term success, setting the tone for excellence as students advance through the district.

As a district, Shadyside also proudly met the Gifted Indicator, an important achievement that highlights the opportunities provided for advanced learners and the commitment to meeting the needs of all students.

"These results are a testament to the teamwork of our students, teachers, families, and staff," said Shadyside Curriculum Director Dr. Angela Hicks. "We are proud of the growth and achievement happening across all of our schools. Together, we are building a stronger future for every Tiger."

The district extends its deepest appreciation to the Shadyside Board of Education and the entire community for their ongoing support. Their commitment ensures that our students and staff have the resources, encouragement, and opportunities students and staff need to succeed.

Shadyside Local Schools celebrates these accomplishments while maintaining a clear focus on continuous improvement in the area of "progress". With strong momentum from 2024–25, the district is excited to continue its mission of preparing all students for success in school, career, and life.

SHADYSIDE LOCAL SCHOOLS PROVIDES MULTIPLE PATHWAYS FOR GIFTED STUDENTS

The Shadyside Local School District is proud to support students who show exceptional talent and potential. Giftedness can appear in many ways—through advanced thinking, high achievement in subjects like math or reading, creative problem-solving, or extraordinary talent in the visual and performing arts. Every student has the chance to shine, and our programs are designed to help them do just that!

Students are identified using fair, research-based, and state-approved assessments. To ensure all children have equitable opportunities, the district conducts whole-grade screenings once for students in grades K–2 and again for students in grades 3–6. Fourth graders take the CogAT and Iowa Assessments during the first week of December, while first graders take the same assessments the last week of February. Additional assessments are also available for referred students and transfer students throughout the school year. This approach makes sure every child's talents get noticed and developed, whether they've been in Shadyside schools since kindergarten or just moved to the district.

In addition to whole-grade screenings, students in grades first through sixth have their academic progress monitored throughout the year using the STAR Diagnostic Tool, which is also an approved assessment for gifted identification. The CogAT measures students' superior cognitive abilities, while the Iowa

Assessments and STAR Diagnostics measure academic skills in reading and mathematics, helping educators identify both potential and achievement strengths.

Once identified, gifted students can participate in the district programs. These may include clustered classrooms, subject or grade acceleration, pull-out resource room services, honors courses, College Credit Plus opportunities, and visual or performing arts instruction. Every student's services are guided by an individualized Written Education Plan (WEP), and support to help them thrive. With these options, every gifted student gets the right mix of challenge and support to help them succeed.

Shadyside Local Schools is dedicated to helping every student explore their talents, reach their potential, and get them excited about learning. For questions, contact the Gifted Education Coordinator or the Gifted Intervention Specialist in the district.

Contact the Shadyside Gifted Services Team

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EXCITEMENT, EXCELLENCE, AND INCHY'S BOOKWORM: JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY KICKS OFF A PROMISING YEAR

By Greg Mehlman, Principal, Jefferson Avenue Elementary

As we move into the heart of the 2025–26 school year, I want to take a moment to thank you for your continued partnership and support of Jefferson Avenue Elementary School. It is a privilege to serve the students, families, and staff of the Shadyside Local School District—a community deeply committed to excellence in education and to nurturing the growth of every child. Together, we remain focused on our key priorities: early childhood development, academic achievement, professional development for our teachers, and building strong morale among students, families, staff, and the broader community.

A New Chapter: Inchy's Bookworm Vending Machine

One of the most exciting additions to Jefferson Elementary is Inchy's Bookworm Vending Machine. Purchased last school year using Title I funds, this unique vending machine is filled with books and designed to promote a love for reading and positive behavior throughout the school.

The vending machine had its grand opening last year with a special celebration: every second-grade student received a book of their choice as a gift to mark their transition to Leona Middle School. It was a heartwarming and memorable event that brought joy to students and staff alike.

Moving forward, the Bookworm Vending Machine will play an important role in our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework. In an early childhood and elementary school setting, PBIS is a proactive approach that establishes and reinforces clear expectations for behavior while recognizing and rewarding students for making positive choices. It helps build a safe and nurturing school climate where students can learn and grow both academically and socially.

The vending machine will serve as:

- A tool for PBIS rewards,
- A motivator to encourage positive behavior,
- And a celebration of reading that excites and engages students.

At the end of each school year, we will continue the tradition of allowing all second-grade students to select a book from the machine as a parting gift—a symbolic send-off as they prepare to enter third grade at Leona Middle School.



Greg Mehlman, Jefferson Avenue Elementary School Principal, with current third grader, Kayden White.



The 2024-25 second-grade class after the grand opening of the Book Vending Machine.



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LEONA MIDDLE SCHOOL CREATES ENVIRONMENT OF ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND CULTURE OF CARING

Why is 70-year-old Leona Middle School considered to be such an outstanding school? Why do 31% of its students come from other districts to experience its positive learning environment? While the exterior of the building may show its age, the real story of Leona's excellence lies in what's happening inside.

Most mornings, Leona Principal Kevin Roseberry can be found welcoming students into the building. The school day then begins with morning announcements and the Pledge of Allegiance, with the National Anthem added on the last Friday of each month. Through these daily announcements, sixth graders take on leadership roles as morning announcers in addition to other assigned tasks such as helping in the kitchen and collecting sports equipment during recess.

Strong test scores have driven Leona's success over the past few years. In 2023, Leona received recognition as a 5 Star building and was named a National Blue Ribbon School in 2024.

The staff at Leona is one of the things that sets it apart from other schools. Eighty percent of the staff either live in Shadyside, graduated from the district, or have children who attended or currently attend the schools. The teaching staff is the perfect combination of youth and experience, with teachers averaging 15 years in the profession. Their deep community connection and professional expertise create an environment where every student can thrive.

Principal Roseberry has deep roots in Shadyside himself, having attended Leona from kindergarten through fifth grade and brings

27 years experience to his role as an administrator. He connects with the students through initiatives like the Monday Minute, which emphasizes the Six Pillars of Character and the Wednesday Wake-up, which addresses current issues such as social media, following rules, and importance of education.

Leona offers the kind of environment where students can succeed both inside and outside the classroom. Every grade level is departmentalized so that each teacher can focus on their area of expertise. The district's universal curriculum has a level of rigor that pushes all students to reach their full potential.

In recent years, the LifeWise program has contributed to the school's positive climate, with a

majority of students participating in and enjoying the program.

Leona has also improved on its Positive Behavior Instruction and Supports (PBIS) framework. This framework teaches students both classroom and building expectations and rewards them for meeting those standards. While minor issues occasionally arise, serious problems are rare. This success stems from every staff member clearly communicating expectations in a caring and positive manner.

"Our school is more than a place to learn; it's a home filled with kindness, encouragement, and pride," said Roseberry. "With caring staff, hardworking students, and a community that always comes together, we have built something truly special. And as each new day begins, the story continues—with hope, with love, and with the promise of even brighter tomorrows."



TIGER PRIDE ON DISPLAY: SHADYSIDE HIGH COMPLETES ENTRANCE RENOVATION

Shadyside High School's (SHS) main entrance is now filled with school spirit thanks to a newly completed vestibule project that transforms how visitors, staff, and students experience the space when they walk through the front door. New additions to the main foyer include a 70-inch-display monitor, the Student of the Month display, and a custom made Shadyside Tigers sign. While the vision of the project may have started with Principal John Poilek, the end result would have been impossible without the help of several different groups' efforts and resources to get the job done.

The massive monitor immediately captures everyone's attention first. Its rotating screens highlight student teams, student achievements, schedules, and daily announcements. The idea sprang from a conversation between Principal Poilek and veteran teacher Vince Thornburg when they realized a permanent display was outdated and that a digital alternative that could show multiple announcements was needed instead. Senior Class Advisor Jessica Hotlosz and her senior officers purchased the screen for the main display case as the Class of 2025 gift to Shadyside High School. The case that surrounds the screen, remodeled mainly by Supervisor Tommy Duncan, proudly displays current trophies and achievements of current students at SHS.

The Student of the Month display is the most prominent display of individual achievement honored by the Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) team. The PBIS team, led by Lacie Kernik, aims to reward students for hitting targeted goals for



each month. The PBIS team creates monthly goals aligned with the schools' annual Continuous Improvement Plan, and teachers nominate students who exemplify these targeted characteristics. For instance, in August, the goals focused on a welcoming environment for a new school year. Nominated students were observed demonstrating characteristics like connecting with other students, "saying hello," and being welcoming. SHS Teacher Jonathan O'Grady designed and built the display in the SHS Wood Shop.

The biggest student contribution to the new entry project is the 47-by-39-inch Shadyside Tigers sign hanging just inside the stairwell, visible upon entry to the school. SHS Class of 2025 graduate Ariana Saxton-Schnelle, made the piece in 2024 in O'Grady's shop class, where it was on display for over a year. After graduation, Ariana decided the sign was too large for her home and donated it to the project. The sign showcases the diverse skills students develop in SHS construction trades classes, combining woodworking, graphic design, CNC machining, and precision finishing.

Despite the finely constructed pieces and massive TV screen, the total cost to the school was zero dollars thanks to generous donations from all involved. The new displays have been a hit with students and community members who visit for games and pep rallies. Students regularly gather around the screen, eagerly watching for their photos, teams, or names to appear—yet another way Shadyside High celebrates its students.



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SHADYSIDE

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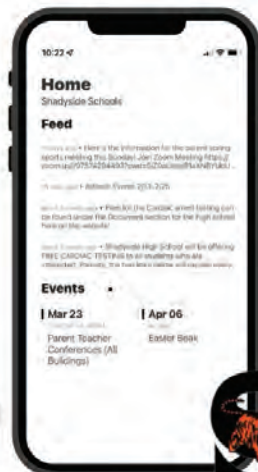
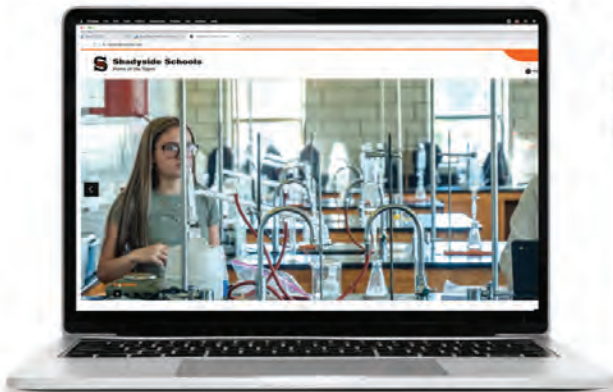
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The SHADYSIDE TIGER TIMES can be found on our District website in a digital format. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please send your request to ashley.visnic@omeresas.net.



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