



SHADYSIDE TIGER TIMES

A Quarterly Newsletter for Shadyside Local Schools

Spring 2025



SCHOOL TRACK FACES MAJOR REPAIR AFTER GROUND INSTABILITY DISCOVERED

Dear Community,



In October, we identified a significant issue with our school track's hillside between the visitor's bleachers and scoreboard. The hillside is slipping, causing a 180-foot section of the track to buckle in lanes four, five, and six. Due to safety concerns, we will not host any home track meets this spring, as the repair project is expected to continue into early summer.

Engineering Solution and Scope of the Project

Terracon, an engineering firm from Columbus, conducted core drillings and designed a solution to stabilize the area. Surprisingly, their findings revealed no bedrock beneath the affected section. As a result, the repair will involve installing 40 steel girders that will be 26 feet deep. A retaining wall will be constructed, standing approximately 14 feet tall at its highest point and extending 180 feet long.

Project Phases and Timeline

Ohio/West Virginia Excavating has been selected as the contractor, and the project will be completed in phases:

1. **Hillside Excavation:** (Began in late January): The hillside was cut back nine feet to allow for a future two-lane track expansion.

2. **Retaining Wall Construction and Backfilling:** Following excavation, the retaining wall was built and the area was backfilled.
3. **Asphalt Walkway and Track Repairs** (Mid-April): Once weather conditions improve, asphalt will be laid in front of the retaining wall for a new walkway. The buckled section of the track will be excavated, and a new base installed.
4. **Track Resurfacing:** After repairs, the entire track will be resurfaced. We are currently accepting bids for this phase.

Cost and Funding

The excavation, retaining wall, and asphalt base construction will cost \$678,780, funded through our general fund.

Track Closure and Safety

For safety reasons, the track will remain closed to the public during the excavation and retaining wall construction phases.

We extend our gratitude to the Bellaire Local School District Administration and Board of Education for allowing us to host the Shadyside Relays and Junior High Track Invitational on their track. We also thank Shenandoah for hosting the Mid Ohio Valley League track championships.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we work to ensure the long-term safety and functionality of our track facilities.

John Haswell, Superintendent

TWO SHADYSIDE STUDENTS ADVANCE TO REGIONAL SPELLING BEE

On November 7, the Shadyside District Spelling Bee was held at Leona Elementary School, featuring 18 students from fifth through eighth grade. These students earned their spots in the competition based on their performance on a written test completed by all students from the same grade levels, with the top 20 scorers advancing to the District Bee. After 14 intense rounds, the competition narrowed down to two finalists: seventh grader Abbi Parker and eighth grader Conner Wilson. To win, a speller needed to correctly spell two words after their opponent



misspelled one. Conner Wilson emerged as the champion, successfully spelling the words linoleum and flamboyant. This marks Conner's second consecutive year representing Shadyside at the regional competition. Both Conner and Abbi advanced to the Regional Spelling Bee, sponsored by *The Times Leader*, Belmont Savings Bank, and the East Central Ohio ESC held on February 13. Conner finished the Belmont County Bee as the fifth place finisher and earned a \$50 cash award from Belmont Savings Bank and a trophy for his accomplishment.

SHADYSIDE EMBRACES THE SCIENCE OF READING

In 2023, the Ohio General Assembly passed House Bill 33, which mandated the implementation of structured literacy practices informed by The Science of Reading (SOR). This legislation provides resources for teacher training, approved instructional materials, and intervention programs tailored to meet the diverse needs of all students. The H.B. 33 requirements placed a well intended fiscal and time burden on local school districts.



The Shadyside Local School District embraced The Science of Reading as a pivotal framework to enhance literacy outcomes for all students, spanning grades PK-12. This movement reflects a growing recognition of the need for evidence-based approaches to teaching reading, grounded in decades of cognitive science research. The Science of Reading focuses on the structured development of essential reading components, including phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. By aligning literacy instruction with these principles, Shadyside aims to ensure that all students, regardless



of background, have the foundational skills needed to become proficient readers.

Shadyside has implemented the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's new professional development opportunities for educators as teachers are required to undergo extensive training to become proficient in delivering instruction aligned

with The Science of Reading. With the support of the Board of Education, Shadyside Local Curriculum Committee worked on a year-long curriculum review and adopted a new curriculum that reflects these evidence-based methods. The training and curriculum overhaul required considerable fiscal resources and a significant investment of time, underscoring the importance of ongoing support for educators during the transition. By prioritizing professional development for educators and investing in aligned curricula, the SOR is not only transforming the classroom experience but also ensuring that Shadyside students are prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century.



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JEFFERSON AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATES

As we are entering the final months of another exciting school year, we are thrilled to share some updates and changes at Jefferson Avenue Elementary School. The 2024-2025 school year has been productive and there are many exciting developments to look forward to as we continue to provide our students with a supportive and enriching educational experience.



New Leadership at Jefferson

This school year, Jefferson Elementary welcomed Mr. Greg Mehlman as the new principal. Mr. Mehlman is committed to fostering a positive school environment that prioritizes academic excellence, community involvement, and the overall well-being of all students.

Introducing the Jefferson Parent Organization (JPO)

Jefferson Elementary is proud to announce the launch of the Jefferson Parent Organization (JPO), an initiative aimed at building stronger connections between school and home. The JPO will serve as a vital resource for parents and families, creating opportunities for greater involvement in their children's education. The organization is led by a dedicated group of officers who are passionate about supporting Jefferson students and staff.

The goal of the JPO is to provide ongoing support to students and staff through various activities, events, and volunteer opportunities. By encouraging parental involvement, the JPO seeks to deepen the connection between home and school and help create a thriving learning environment for all. Meetings are held every third Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. in the gym, and all parents or family members of currently enrolled Jefferson students are encouraged to attend and get involved.



Jefferson Parent Organization

Pictured from left:

Shiann Kolakowski, President,

Kayla Snedeker, Vice President and

Nikki Butts, Treasurer.

Not pictured: Natasha Hartley, Secretary

Exciting Title 1 Services

In addition to the changes in leadership and the introduction of the JPO, Jefferson Elementary is excited to offer school-wide Title 1 services this year. The Title 1 Program focuses on supporting students with extra help in reading and math through targeted interventions. These services are designed to supplement regular classroom instruction by providing small group and, in some cases, whole group support to meet the specific needs of each student.

The Title 1 Program at Jefferson is overseen

by Mrs. Lyn Hendershot, who brings her expertise in working with students to ensure they receive the academic support they need to thrive. Through ongoing assessments, teachers can tailor their instruction and measure student progress, helping students develop the skills they need to succeed.



A Bright Future Ahead

We are looking forward to a successful and engaging future at Jefferson Avenue Elementary, with these new programs and changes contributing to our school's continued growth and success. We encourage all families to get involved with the JPO, take advantage of the resources available through the Title 1 Program, and continue to support your child's educational journey.

Together, we can make EVERY school year one to remember!

Contact Jefferson Elementary

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SHADYSIDE HIGH SCHOOL'S SKILL-BUILDING FOR TRANSITION PROGRAM BUILDS LIFE SKILLS THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The Skill-Building for Transition Program at Shadyside High School, in conjunction with the Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities, is an impressive initiative that prioritizes the growth and development of students with disabilities. This program not only emphasizes the importance of gaining practical experience but also fosters independence and prepares students for the realities of adulthood.

With the support from local partners like Shadyside Flower Shop and Shadyside Convenient, the students engage in valuable "real" life experiences that extend beyond the classroom. The focus on job opportunities, independent living skills, and social interactions is essential for building confidence and competence in navigating the world.

The structured one-hour sessions each week provide students with personalized guidance from Transition Specialists, Katie and Krysta, who are pivotal in ensuring that each student progresses



according to their Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Through hands-on training, students learn crucial skills such as following directions, collaborating with coworkers, managing time effectively, and maintaining a positive work ethic.

This program not only aids in the development of essential life skills but also serves as an important stepping stone towards competitive employment in the future. The ongoing collaboration with local businesses enriches the community while providing students with opportunities that are instrumental for their personal and professional growth.



It's heartening to see the enthusiasm and commitment of the students to participate in this program, as they embark on a journey to becoming more independent and capable individuals. Overall, the Skill-Building for Transition Program stands as a model for effective transition services, emphasizing the significance of experiential learning in preparing students for life after school.

LEONA MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARDED AS NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL



In January 2024, Leona Middle School was nominated by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce as one of 14 schools in Ohio for the National Blue Ribbon award. Leona was nominated based on its overall academic performance.

The staff of Leona Middle School, along with support from Curriculum

Director Dr. Angela Hicks, immediately began working on the information needed to complete the application to be sent to the U.S. Department of Education. This process took a two month time period and the application was submitted in March 2024. We had a long wait until September 23 when U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona recognized Leona Middle School and 355 other schools nationwide as National Blue Ribbon Schools.

"I am proud to work alongside such outstanding professionals who give their all each and every day," said Roseberry. "They make Leona a very special place where academic excellence is not just spoken, but something that is a reality."

On November 8, Leona Middle School Principal Roseberry and longtime teacher Matt Merryman received the prestigious award in Washington, D.C. at an awards presentation.



This award is a testament to the outstanding team at Leona Middle School that has created a positive learning environment that encourages students to reach their full potential. That team includes teachers, students, parents, support staff and administrators. They all go above and beyond to make Leona one of the best schools in the State of Ohio and for that everyone in the Shadyside community can be proud.



SHADYSIDE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY SERVES SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

For 55 years, Shadyside High School's National Honor Society (NHS) chapter has maintained a tradition of academic excellence and community service. The organization focuses on developing student leaders who demonstrate strong character while giving back to both school and community.

Students become eligible to join the NHS during December of their junior year. The selection process is comprehensive, requiring applicants to maintain a minimum 3.8 GPA while also demonstrating character, leadership, and service through detailed applications in each area.

Each year, the chapter welcomes between six and 15 new members during their annual induction ceremony, which includes a formal service, luncheon and special outing for new inductees. This year, 11 students were inducted.

The chapter is led by Vince Thornburg, who has served as advisor for 12 years. "What impresses me most about our NHS members is their genuine commitment to service," said Thornburg. "These students already balance challenging academic schedules, yet they consistently find time to support both our school and the broader Shadyside community. Their enthusiasm for helping others is truly inspiring."

Meeting twice monthly, NHS members coordinate numerous service initiatives throughout the year. Their major projects include participating in the Wheeling Youth Services SleepOut, organizing



personal hygiene collections for Youth Services, hosting two blood drives annually, and running the Leukemia Society Cake Auction.

Additionally, members select two children from the Angel Tree program during the holidays and complete various school improvement projects as needed. Each NHS member must also

complete 10 hours of individual community service annually.

The organization's dual focus on academic achievement and community engagement

provides students valuable opportunities to develop leadership skills while also making meaningful contributions to Shadyside Schools and the larger community.

As a long-standing tradition at Shadyside High School, the National Honor Society continues to develop exceptional students who exemplify the district's commitment to excellence both in and beyond the classroom.



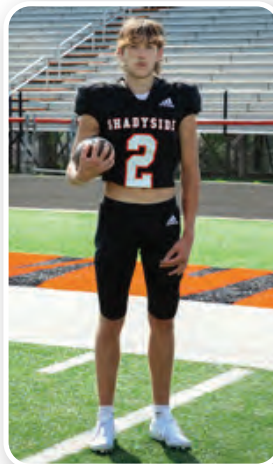
SHADYSIDE'S COLE MICKER EARNS FIRST TEAM ALL-STATE HONORS

Senior football player Cole Micker has earned First Team All-State honors, capping an impressive career at Shadyside High School.

Micker's journey to all-state recognition is rooted in commitment both on and off the field. Head coach Mike Kernik has watched Micker's leadership qualities grow throughout his time in the program.

"His work ethic, dedication and faith have driven him to make himself a better athlete and leader," said Kernik. "Cole is a great competitor who always does the best that he can do to try to make himself and his teammates successful."

Beyond his athletic achievements, Micker has established himself as a role model for younger



players. His influence reaches well beyond game day, as he consistently guides underclassmen through both athletic and academic challenges throughout the school year.

"As Cole has gone through the football program and school system, he has continually grown as a leader and a mentor to our younger student-athletes," said Kernik. "It has been a blessing to be able to coach and teach Cole, and I will always remember his competitive spirit."

Micker's selection to the All-State team not only celebrates his exceptional talent and character, but also reinforces Shadyside's commitment to developing student-athletes who excel in competition and leadership.



SHADYSIDE

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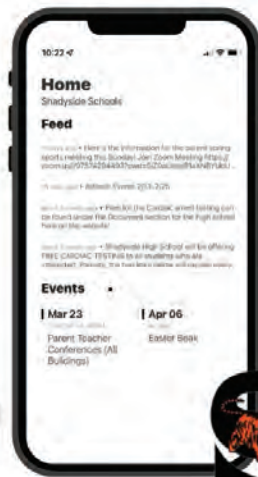
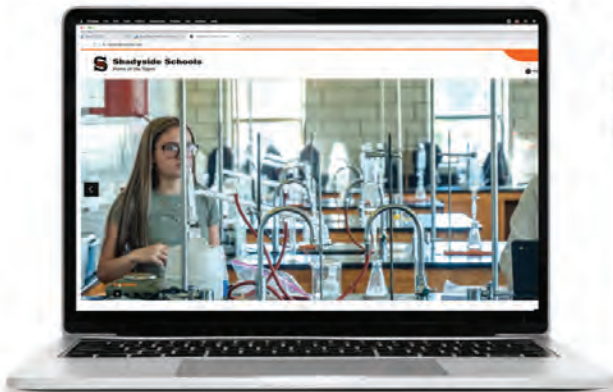
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