



SHADYSIDE TIGER TIMES

A Quarterly Newsletter for Shadyside Local Schools

Summer 2023



WELCOME BACK TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR



Dear Community,

As the educational leader of this school district, it has consistently been my personal mission to provide a safe, respectful, and positive learning environment where staff and students feel comfortable coming to school everyday.

With high enthusiasm and expectation, I pledge to spend the remainder of my professional career serving the students of our district. As a life-long member of this community, as well as a 1983 graduate of Shadyside High School, I have first-hand knowledge of the pride this community has in our school district. I know the pride, being an alumnus of our school.

Recently we were frustrated to learn House Bill 733 known as Appalachian Accelerated was not included in Ohio's Biennium budget. Appalachian Accelerated would have made our district eligible for facility money quicker. I pledge to work with our legislatures to get House Bill 733 into next year's Capital Budget.

Last spring, we were able to lock in our 75% state share for our facility, which is the most important issue. We were able to extend the demolition of Leona for a year or more and still keep our 75% State share. Our State share would have been 59%

had we not worked out this agreement with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission.

As we enter this new school year, I am happy to report that the district will have three new staff members beginning the 2023-24 school year: Mrs. Laura LeMonte will be an aide at Jefferson, Miranda Wesley will be our gifted teacher, and Taylor Hill will teach first grade. We have several staff members that have new positions in the district: Mrs. Simpson will teach fifth-grade math. Mrs. Shayla Grinch will teach eighth and ninth-grade English language arts. Mrs. Allison Pacifico will be a study hall aide at the high school. Mrs. Michele Ringer will be the office aide at Jefferson.

We are looking forward to a brand new, exciting school year!

If you have any questions or comments you can call my office at 740-656-7579, or email me at john.haswell@omeresa.net. We are trying our best to move our project forward and to save as much money as possible for the benefit of our school community and taxpayers. I will update the community on any progress we make when the information becomes available. Please access our website at www.shadysideschools.com for information about our district and schools.

Sincerely,

John Haswell, Superintendent

LIFEWISE ACADEMY

CHARACTER-BUILDING PROGRAM COMES TO MIDDLE SCHOOL

With the start of the new school year, students at Leona Middle School will have the opportunity to participate in Lifewise Academy, a Christian-based character-building program that focuses on values such as obedience, respect, integrity, truthfulness, and thankfulness.

This is possible because of a law that allows students to be released from school during school hours to receive religious education, provided that the program is off school property, is privately funded, and is parent permitted. Students will be released to go to an offsite location nearby where they will participate in 40-minute lessons on Monday and Thursday based on the Lifewise curriculum. **Participation in the program will not interfere with regular instruction.** As of early July, approximately 27 students are signed up to participate.

Lifewise Academy was initiated in 2018 in Hilliard, Ohio. Currently, there are about 135 programs established in schools, mainly in Ohio, and 475 in different stages of launching. Introduced to Shadyside by longtime resident Wayne Cooper who heard about the program in a nearby community, Lifewise Academy has the backing of six local churches in, including New Life Fellowship, Lincoln Avenue United Methodist Church, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Church of Christ, and Church of the Nazarene. It is steered by a governing board that includes Cooper, Veronica Haile, Bob Blinco, Mark Duvall, Phyllis Kritz, Brittany Kaldor, Jillian Ongley, Lacie Kernik, and Debby Crompton.



As of this writing, the board was in the process of hiring someone to teach the Lifewise curriculum.

"Studies have been done that show that the program helps students improve behavior in the classroom and at home," said Haile, Shadyside's Lifewise director. "Right now there are things that students in general are struggling with, such as depression, behavior issues, homelife issues, and this will help them to better cope."

The curriculum centers around a Bible story that points out a certain character attribute. "It uses a three-fold approach called 'Head, Heart, and Hands,'" explained Haile. "Head" focuses on providing the students knowledge, "heart," on getting them to know Jesus, and "hands," on helping them apply the character trait to everyday life. As an example, Haile shared how the lesson focusing on thankfulness will end with helping students to express appreciation to and for others. "We want them to apply what they are learning to everyday life," Haile acknowledged.

"We are excited this year that each student here at Leona Middle School may be able to be a part of the LifeWise program if parents consent," said Superintendent John Haswell. Lifewise representatives will be available to answer questions about the program at St. Mary's festival on August 12 at the church grounds. In addition, parents can sign up or get more information at the Leona School Open House on August 22 from 3-6 p.m. Or you can also email Haile at veroniahaile@lifewise.org or contact any of the Board members directly.



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- Veronica Haile, Shadyside Lifewise Director

NEW SCHOOL YEAR BRINGS MEDICAL SERVICES TO SHADYSIDE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES



Shadyside Local Schools has partnered with Southeast Healthcare Inc. to have the services of a nurse practitioner every Thursday through the entire school year. Amy Snedeker, CRNP, will be based at the high school, but also will service the other schools. This program will enable students to see Snedeker to evaluate cold

and flu symptoms, conduct sports physicals, handle minor wound care, conduct well child visits and provide vaccinations

and immunizations – without students ever having to leave the premises. In addition to providing on-the-spot medical treatment, the program will save parents the burden of making urgent care visits for the above-stated needs.

According to a flier produced by Southeast Healthcare, all insurances will be accepted and services will also be provided for those who are uninsured and underinsured. For more information, or to contact the nurse practitioner call (740) 695-9344.

SUMMER SCHOOL PROMOTES STEM LEARNING

They designed, they built, and they tested. And in the process, they had a whole lot of fun! That sums up the experiences of all 49 students in grades 3-6 who participated in summer school three mornings a week from June 13-29.

This year's program featured interactive, hands-on learning activities based on a curriculum provided by the National Inventors Hall of Fame. "It was very impressive to see the students' minds at work," said Emily Lipperman, coordinator of the summer program for middle school students. "I was amazed to see them come up with things that I never would have thought of."

Each week, students explored a different theme that incorporated Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) concepts. During week one, participants became "Bolder Builders." They worked in groups to design, build, and test structures that withstood different atmospheric conditions, such as rain (water sprayed from a bottle) and wind (a blast of air from a hair dryer). "They had to figure out what their structure was missing and modify it," explained Lipperman, who during the school year, is an intervention specialist for grades 5 and 6. In week two, students found themselves on "Trash Island." Working in teams, they had to devise solutions to preventing

the buildup of trash in the ocean. During week three, they competed in the "Wheel of Invention." In this game-show styled activity, they had to invent and build a device to repel bugs, while "buzzing" in to answer questions related to the topic. All of the materials and step-by-step lessons were provided.

In addition to the STEM activities, students all enjoyed a weekly field trip including a visit to a sports complex, a trampoline park, and a bowling alley. "It was nice for the students to get to experience things that they normally wouldn't have had the chance to experience," added Lipperman. In addition, the students participated in literacy yoga for one hour each week. In this activity, Jo Pappillo from the Shadyside Public Library showed the students how to perform yoga moves to calm themselves and how to use reading to relieve stress. "The kids really enjoyed this activity," noted Lipperman. "They were silent and engaged the entire time."

Enrollment was free thanks to the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER). These federal funds were provided to school districts nationwide to address learning issues and other factors resulting from the pandemic.



K-2 STUDENTS EXPLORE SCIENCE THROUGH SUMMER CAMP INVENTION CLUB

Jefferson Elementary School students explored science topics this year during the three-week long Summer Invention Club program. The program was of no cost to students and open to all Jefferson K-2 students. There were 35 students and 14 Shadyside staff members participating in this year's program.

During the Tuesday and Wednesday instruction days, the students experimented and explored their topics through hands-on activities and experiments that taught them about things like endangered species, aviation, and chemical reactions.

These instructional days were paired with weekly field trips. The students visited the Challenger Learning Center at Wheeling

Jesuit University where the students could see first-hand how science, engineering, and math applied to outer space while also having fun! They also took a trip to Pittsburgh's National Aviary to get an up close look at a wide variety of birds and learn more about the different types. Their last field trip to St. Clairsville gave the students a chance to visit the park and go bowling as a fun final group activity.

The program was funded through Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER). Thanks to our Shadyside Transportation Team for getting our students and staff safely to our field trips!



TEST SCORES CONTINUE UPWARD PROGRESSION

Shadyside Schools' performance on the Ohio Report Card continues to trend upward. "This year, there was a considerable increase in Shadyside's scores, particularly in grades 3 through 8," commented Dr. Angela Hicks, curriculum consultant with the East Central Ohio Educational Service Center, who has been overseeing Shadyside's curriculum for the past five years. "The last three years, the scores have been going up and are above the state average," she added. "At high school, even though we are below state average scores, we have increased a couple points as well."

Hicks was especially pleased with improvements in fifth-grade science and math. At grade 5, 91% of Shadyside students passed science compared to a 62% average in the state, a difference of 28%. In grade 5 math, 91% of Shadyside students passed the test compared to the state average of 57%, a difference of 34%.

Hicks attributed some of the improved scores to a collective effort on the part of administration and teachers who work collaboratively to address students' educational needs. "The teachers are exceptional in looking at data and spending time on analyzing scores and focusing on areas where individual students need to improve," she said. "They are collectively talking about it and finding ways to tweak strategies in areas where they are finding gaps in learning."

Over the past four years, the district also has worked to place greater emphasis on "depth of knowledge" questions to get students to think at a deeper level. "In addition, we implemented some writing across content areas which seemed to help in just about every area of the curriculum," Hicks added.

Also, teachers meet weekly in Teacher Based Teams (TBT) to address individual student goals. In addition, a District Leadership Team (DLT) composed of teachers from all grade levels, school administrators, guidance counselors, and other support staff meet monthly with Hicks to gauge the district's progress on its Continuous Improvement Plan and to address students' social and emotional needs. The DLT works diligently to align the district's curriculum with state standards. "Content area teachers review different curriculums and evaluate their alignment to the state standards. Once a curriculum is found to be best aligned, the Board of Education reviews the curriculum for a possible curriculum adoption," she noted.

Hicks is confident that the upward trend will continue. "We're seeing the benefits of the whole school communicating and coming together and working together and making great decisions together," she noted. "It's quite astonishing to watch and we're confident that we will continue to see growth next year and in the future."



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**- Dr. Angela Hicks, Curriculum Consultant,
East Central Ohio Educational Service Center**

SHADYSIDE TIGERS BACKPACK PROGRAM TO CONTINUE IN 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

The first year of the Shadyside Tigers Backpack Program was successful in providing meals during weekends to families in need. Due to the success, we are bringing it back for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Tigers Backpack program provides any student in the district in need of food over the weekend a bag full of nonperishable items. Every other Friday, students receive a bag if they need food for the upcoming weekend.

Letters will go home to students at the beginning of the school year for sign-up but families can also call their child's school office to sign-up as well. Anyone who has questions about the program or those who would like to donate supplies can contact Jefferson Elementary School Principal Cynthia Caldwell at 740-676-9669.



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PLACE IN STATE CONTEST

Two Shadyside High School students competed in the SkillsUSA state competition held in April at the Columbus Convention Center. Junior Andrew Osman took 6th place overall in carpentry. Junior Austin Carte placed 8th overall in masonry. Both are enrolled in the Construction Trades Program which is offered at the high school through the Belmont Career Center.

"I'm extremely proud of them," said their instructor Jonathan O'Grady. "Both are leaders in the classroom and both are always eager to help underclassmen. They also help me with projects around the building and are a real asset to have around."

Osman took 1st place in the SkillsUSA regional competition in February to earn the chance to compete at the state level. He won a medal and some tools. Though he did not compete regionally, Carte was given the opportunity to compete at the state level.

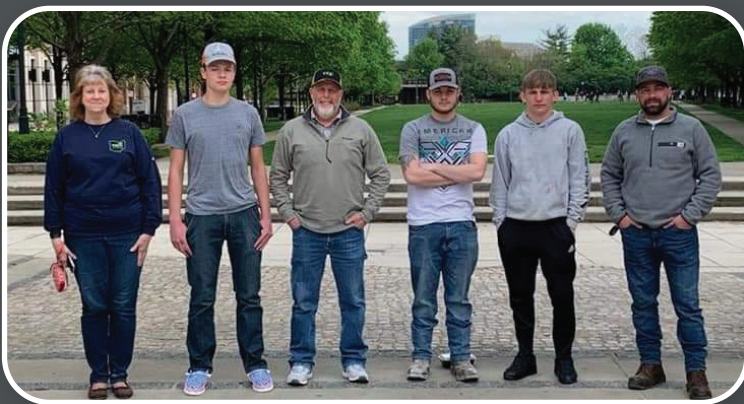
Both students were provided a set of tasks to complete within a four-hour timeframe. Osman was judged on his ability to erect wood studs, metal studs, stringers, stairs, rafters, and

install drywall. "Basically, he had to demonstrate his ability to do everything needed to build a house on top of a foundation," remarked O'Grady. Carte was judged on his ability to use brick and cement block and mortar. Representatives from the Carpenters and Joiners Union Local 200 from Columbus, Ohio did the judging.

O'Grady is confident both students will want to pursue SkillsUSA competitive events as seniors. "I know that both worked in their field over the summer and I'm hopeful that they will be able to build off of that experience," he noted.



SkillsUSA provides educational programs, events and competitions that support career and technical education and help students make the connection between what they are learning in the classroom and what they need to be successful in their careers.



"I'm extremely proud of them. Both are leaders in the classroom and both are always eager to help underclassmen. They also help me with projects around the building and are a real asset to have around."

- Jonathan O'Grady, Instructor

SHADYSIDE LOCAL SCHOOLS UPDATES SAFETY MEASURES AND EQUIPMENT FOR 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

During the 2022-2023 school year, Shadyside Local Schools was one of many schools across Ohio to receive funds through the Ohio K-12 School Safety Grant Program. The program was launched in 2021 to help schools with the purchasing of physical security measures.

Shadyside was awarded \$277,865 in grant money to be dispersed between the district's three buildings. The money was awarded as follows: Jefferson Elementary School was granted \$83,300, Leona Middle School was granted \$95,383, and Shadyside High School was granted \$99,182.

As part of the grant application process, the schools were asked to carry out vulnerability assessments conducted by local law enforcement and/or School Resource Officers to determine which areas of security were in need of additional measures. These assessments were completed by Shadyside Police Officer/ Shadyside School Resource Officer (SRO) Cindy Wright.

The State of Ohio provided districts with a list of approved security and safety items the funds could be used for. Following their vulnerability assessments, Shadyside earmarked the money for new interior and exterior security cameras in all three of their buildings, and the new Noah Brown Memorial Playground.

A majority of the grant funds went toward the camera servers housed at the high school which will allow for the storage of the video recordings from the security cameras throughout the district.

In addition, all District buildings will be installed with a key fob entry system that will help control access to buildings. The key fob system allows the fob to be disabled if lost or if a person no longer needs access to a building. While the high school already had handheld metal detectors available to them, this money allowed for the purchasing of one for both Jefferson Elementary School and Leona Middle School.

Shadyside Local Schools also participates in various safety training and drills throughout the year to keep the staff updated on safety measures and procedures. Shadyside School Resource Officer Cindy Wright will do assessments on each classroom at the beginning of the school year and provide safety tips and protocols as a refresher to staff on their first day back in the fall. "The purchases made with the grant money will have a significant impact on the enhancements to the security both inside and outside and will make for an even safer environment," said SRO Wright.

Wright is also planning for a district-wide ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate) presentation again this school year. The goal of ALICE training is to teach students and teachers strategies that will be beneficial in a code red situation if a threat is near or inside a building.

NEW COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF SHADYSIDE FIRST GRADER

The Shadyside community honored the life and legacy of a first-grade student who passed away in 2016 with a new community gathering space. On Saturday, June 17, the Noah Brown Memorial Playground was officially opened to the community during the annual Loop Festival. In addition to community involvement in the dedication, Noah's parents and siblings officiated the ribbon cutting ceremony.

The new playground facility is adjacent to the Shadyside Community Center and Shadyside High School. The district and the Brown Family have wanted to dedicate a memorial to Noah since he passed away and the memorial playground will be beneficial to both the district and the community and serve as a remembrance to Noah's life.

Shadyside Local Schools, in partnership with the Vision Shadyside Committee and the Brown Family, raised the initial funds for this first phase of the project. The second and third phases include additional playground equipment for older children and an amphitheater for community concerts.



Donations for the remaining phases of the project are being accepted through Vision Shadyside or through a QR code on the sign at the playground itself.



SHADYSIDE

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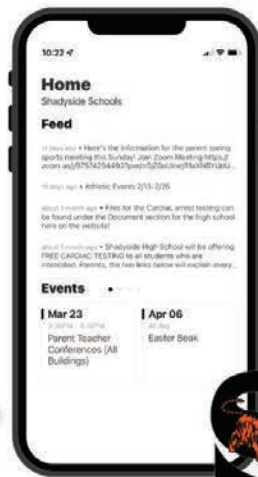
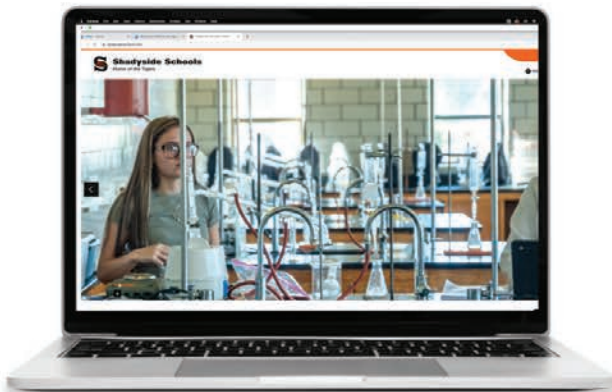
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Beginning with the Fall 2023 issue of SHADYSIDE TIGER TIMES, this publication will be found on our District website in a digital format. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please send your request to Ashley.Visinic@omeres.net.



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