



**JANUARY
2024**

Official Publication of the South Shore School District

THE CARDINAL REPORT

Serving students, parents and our community

Investing in Our Future: Addressing Our Growing Facility

Danielle Mikula, Superintendent



Greetings South Shore Community:

It's hard to believe the holiday season has passed and our feet are solidly on 2024 ground! As we look onward to an exciting new year ahead of us, I'd like to update you on our district's long-range facility plan. Over the last year and a half, a significant amount of work has gone into understanding our facility needs. Here are highlights of the work that has happened and our current situation:

- Facilities and safety audits helped us understand our building's most pressing issues. For

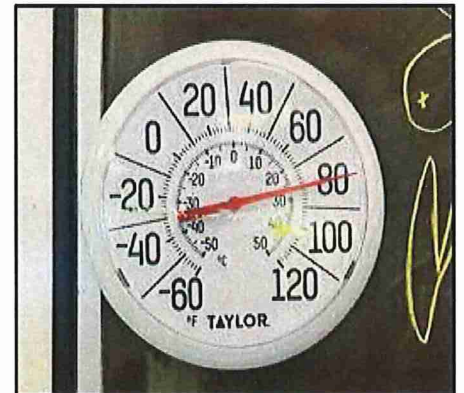


example, our heating, ventilation, and air condition (HVAC) systems are aging and inefficient, which increases utility costs. Many electrical system components need to be replaced. In addition, our buildings require updates to comply with ADA regulations and ensure safety and security for students and staff. These needs are too expensive to fix with our annual budget.

- Currently, several of our teachers have to move classrooms each year

because our spaces are not appropriately sized to accommodate larger classes. We have some rooms that are overcrowded, and others with significant needs that interfere with student learning. For example, the picture to the right was taken in our high school math classroom. This is one of multiple spaces in our school that is unbearably hot (80-85 degrees on average), while other spaces are freezing cold.

- A demographics and enrollment study was completed to understand how local population changes will impact our district's enrollment moving forward into the future. The results projected 8% growth in our district over the next few years. We have already far surpassed the growth projected from the demographics study that was completed in the Fall of 2022.
- An internal stakeholder survey was given to staff and parents in the district. When asked if the Board should consider a capital referendum to address the list of growing facilities needs, 93% of parents and 95% of staff said YES. A community survey will also be distributed to ensure all taxpayers have the opportunity to give feedback.



Each milestone allows our district to develop the right plan for our community. Various surveys, listening/input sessions, work sessions with staff and students, and a comprehensive financial analysis have either already taken place or are scheduled to take place so that we can

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respond to needs in a way that is informed by all stakeholders. In addition, we have assembled a Facilities Focus Group made up of community leaders, staff and parents who will attend three meetings over the next month. The meetings will cover the following:

Meeting #1: Thursday January 11, 2023 6:00-8:00pm

Objectives: Kick-Off, Understand Facility Needs, Master Plan Review, & Timeline

Meeting #2: Wednesday January 24, 2023 6:00-8:00pm

Objectives: School Finance 101, Develop & Evaluate Concepts, Discuss Financial Scope

Meeting #3: Wednesday February 7, 2023 6:00-8:00pm

Objectives: Refining Master Plan, Discuss Community Survey, Financial Scope & Considerations



We will communicate updates and share notes from the meetings to keep everyone informed on discussions and progress. We're committed to paving a solid path forward for our outstanding district. Because these facility needs could impact South Shore students for generations to come, it's essential we hear your feedback along the way. You can always reach out to me directly by email at dmikula@sshore.k12.wi.us or by phone at (715) 774-3167.

As always, we look forward to seeing you at district and community events. We are grateful for all of you who make our South Shore community so strong and united.

Knights of Columbus Donates "Tootsie Roll" Proceeds to Special Education Department



Each month at our Board meetings, we have an agenda item called "We Are South Shore", which is a recognition/spotlight for students, staff and community members who live our values and are making a positive difference.

For our December meeting, Jared Ostrander and Ken Zivic from the Knights of Columbus attended. The Knights do so much good in our community! Each year, they graciously make a donation to our special educa-

tion department from their annual "tootsie roll drive". We are so incredibly grateful to them.

Two very special South Shore 2nd grade students, Lillie Davidson and Isaak Ostrander, worked hard to help sell the tootsie rolls! We are so proud of their character. At a young age, these children understand the impact of community service and giving back.

Thank you to the Knights of Columbus and Lillie and Isaak for spreading kindness everywhere they go.



Spotlight on Student Learning: Foreign Exchange Program

Michelle Simpson, 4K-12 Principal & Director of Curriculum & Instruction

For the last two years, the South Shore School District has partnered with International Cultural Exchange Services (ICES) to host foreign exchange students. These students have chosen to spend an entire year of learning in an American high school to experience our culture and strengthen their English skills. This year, South Shore is blessed to have families hosting six students from all over the world including Italy, Japan, Spain, Thailand, and Denmark. These students bring so much to our district, and we wanted to share a little more about our Foreign Exchange Program with our community.

International Cultural Exchange Services

International Cultural Exchange Services (ICES) is a non-profit organization that has supported students with studying in other countries for over three decades. (ICES, 2024) Through this organization, students are connected with a school, a host family, and an ICES coordinator who helps ensure students have an excellent experience in America. We are so thankful for all of the work that Shelly Lovejoy, the ICES coordinator for South Shore, does to support the success of our students!

According to Our Students

A few of our foreign exchange students were more than willing to share about their experience at South Shore. The reasoning for why our students chose to study abroad varied from loving to travel and learning about different cultures to wanting to improve their English. In several countries, students have a gap year, and can choose to study abroad during that year before going on to their next level of education. While students admitted that they missed their families, they shared that they have enjoyed meeting so many new people and experiencing a different life here in America.



Left to right: Thanwat (Copter) Kaewrith, Rosa Lund, Estala Dias Saiz, Giorgia Pellizzoni, Ainhua Pareja Fernandez & Ameri Fujimori

students stay in one room with their peers while the teachers rotate through the rooms. While they don't have as many tests, they have more project based learning and larger exams to complete to show their learning.

While many of our students didn't get to choose where to study abroad, they did share that they love the South Shore School District. One student shared that she loves the close knit community here. She stated: "It is insane to me how tight the community is and how supportive you are of each other. I find that amazing, because I live in a city. Nobody really knows each other there. I love that about here. I think that is beautiful." Another student shared that she was from a larger school, and that she liked the small school here because "everyone knows each other and helps each other."

Learning in America is different from learning in other countries. One student shared that one thing she likes about learning here is that "it is about learning, and not about a grade." She went on to share that at home it feels like the teachers want you to fail. However, at South Shore, every teacher is supportive and wants you to succeed. You can find a friend in a teacher, not just an authoritative figure. Another student shared that the classes themselves are structured differently in America. In her home country,

structured differently in America. In her home country,

We feel so blessed at South Shore to have our six foreign exchange students with us this year. The students have truly become part of our South Shore family, and have been involved in many additional activities including band, choir, football, volleyball, and basketball. We will miss them when they return home this summer.

References:

ICES. (2024, January 6). ICES student exchange and academic programs. ICES USA. <https://www.icesusa.org/>

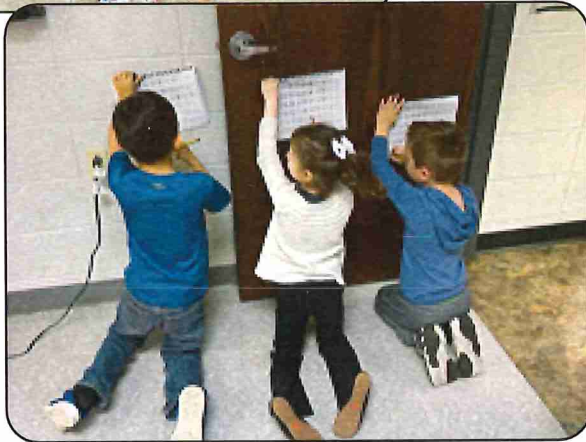
Practicing Letter Formation

Kindergarteners have been using the wall to write and practice letter formation!

Using the wall helps us:

- activate our core;
- promote the use of our supporting hand; and
- strengthen our hand/wrist muscles!

Becoming writers takes a lot of practice!



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH PROVIDES MEALS TO STUDENTS BEFORE HOME BASKETBALL GAMES

Basketball season is here! The First Lutheran Church continues to provide meals for each varsity boys and girls home basketball games.

They are able to provide meals through the generous support of our South Shore community. They are looking for donations of food (chicken, roast, round steak or any cuts of meat), brownie mixes, peanut butter, large bags of frozen tator tots, cream soups, canned vegetables (corn and beans) macaroni, onions, potatoes, lasagna noodles, money, desserts or to help prepare or serve a meal, please contact Joyce Olson at 715-774-3636, Carla Bainbridge at 715-774-3245, or Beth Carlson at 715-774-3606.

Meals will not be served on early release or non-school days.

Thank you everyone who has provided food, money, and their time!

PTO Meeting
YOU'RE INVITED
 to our next PTO meeting which will be held on

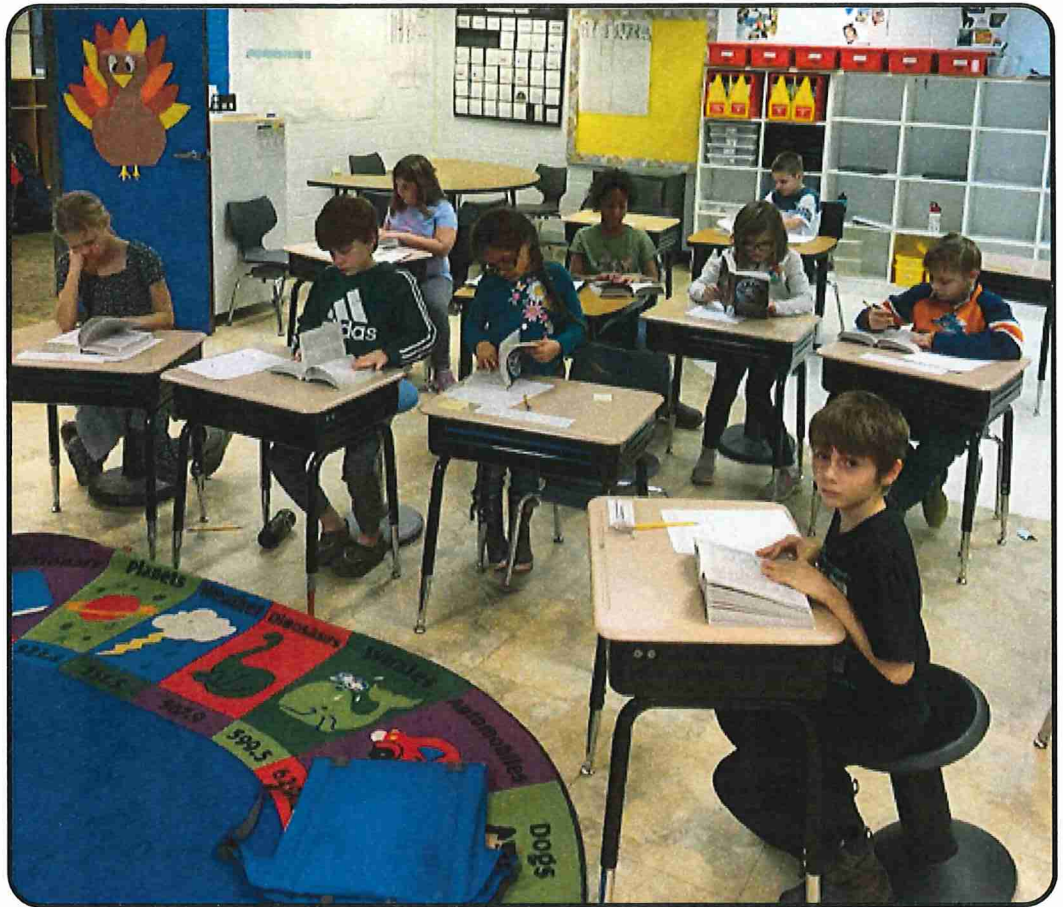
Monday, February 12, 2024
Jr-Sr High School Library
5:30pm



ELKS LODGE DONATES DICTIONARIES TO 3RD GRADERS



We are grateful to the Ashland Elks Lodge 350 for supporting our students' learning at South Shore Elementary. Students were very excited to receive them. They quickly put to use their dictionaries in class during our weekly vocabulary practice. They are also building the practice to use context clues to determine an unknown word in a text and then verifying it with a dictionary. They are eager to take them home!



After-School Program Scholars Learn About Astronomy



Our students sure LOVE learning about astronomy in our after-school program!

We are thankful to a wonderful community member and former astronomy teacher, Mr. Broadwell, for sharing his passion and expertise. This week our scholars learned about the sun and the Earth's seasons, what stars are, and constellations.

Our focus the next few weeks will be Orion and the stories behind it.

We can't wait for Mr. Broadwell to come back!

**"Every
famous
artist
was first
a beginner."**

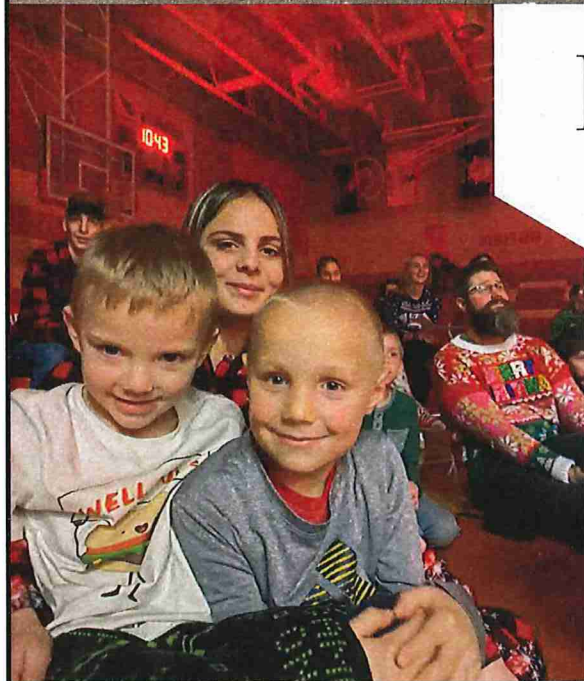
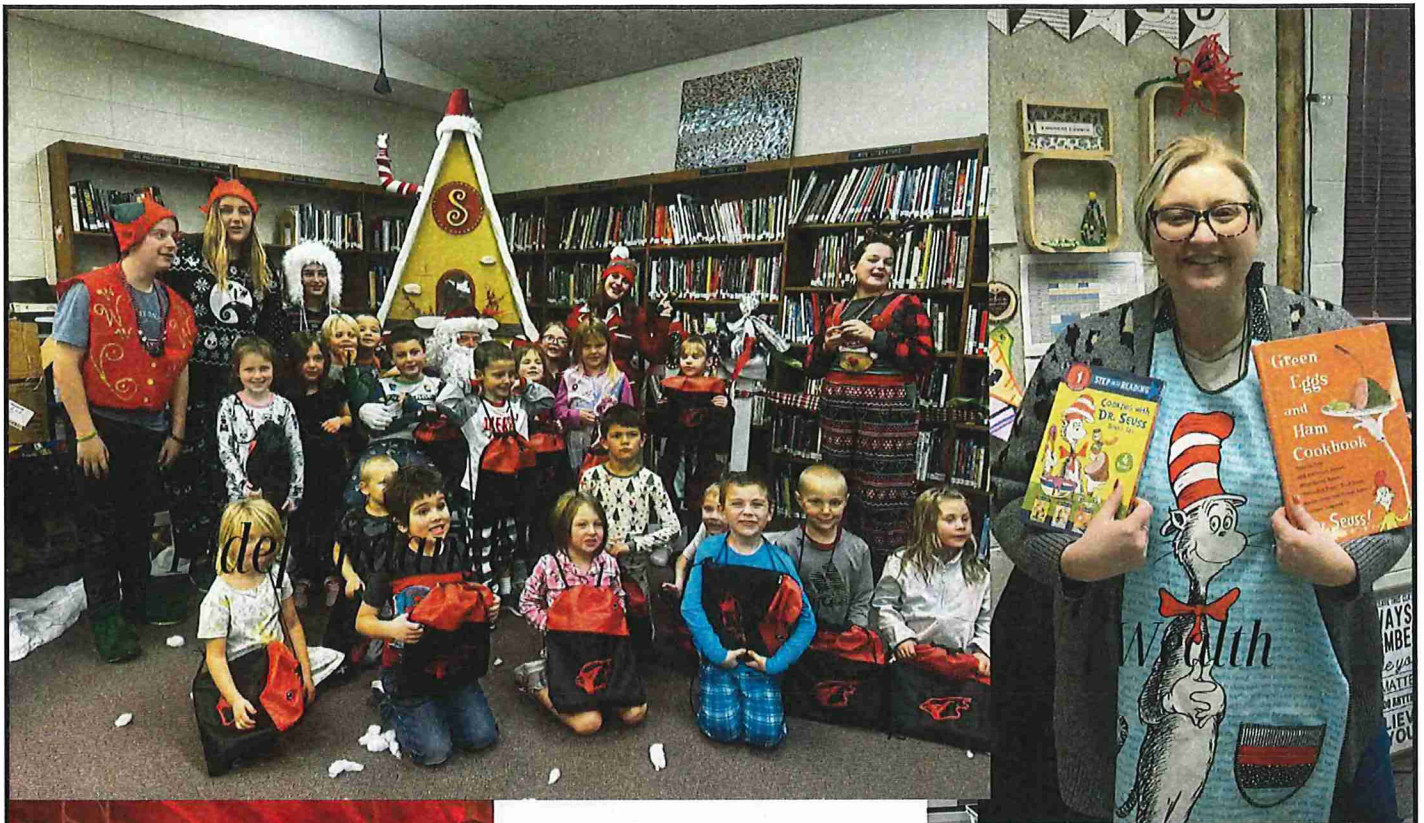


High School Caroling for The Community

Our high school choir students traveled to the Cornucopia Community Center to sing carols for members of the community who attend a meal each week together.

We are proud of our students for so many reasons... their lovely and talented voices, their festive attire, and their big SMILES and kindness that warmed everyone's hearts!





Holiday Memories 2023



**South Shore School District
Board of Education Meeting Agenda
In Compliance with the Wisconsin
Open Meeting Law**

Public Notice §19.84 (3) Mark Hoeftling, President
Rebecca Kavajecz, Clerk

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education will be held in the Instructional Media Center (IMC) at South Shore Jr-Sr High School, Port Wing, WI at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 17, 2024.

Members of public may attend in person or through ZOOM. All public participants' phones, microphones, and chat dialog boxes will be muted or disabled during the meeting. Members of the public who do not wish to appear in person may email dmikula@sshore.k12.wi.us with "Public Comment" in the subject line. Those messages received prior to the start of the meeting will be provided to the Board President who may then allow them to speak during Public Participation.

Any person wishing to attend who, because of a disability, requires special accommodations, should contact the office at least 24 hours before the scheduled meeting time, so appropriate arrangements can be made.

**Regular School Board Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, January 17, 2024
5:30 p.m.
Jr-Sr High School IMC**

1. Welcome
 - 1.01 Call to Order /Roll Call
 - 1.02 Pledge of Allegiance
2. Recognition/Highlight
 - 2.01 We Are South Shore
 - 2.02 Acknowledge and Accept Donations
3. Audience Participation
 - 3.01 Audience Participation Guidelines – limited to five (5) minutes
4. Agenda Modifications
 - 4.01 Modifications to Agenda Items or Prior Minutes
5. Consent Agenda
 - 5.01 Approve Meeting Minutes - December 20, 2023
Regular Board Meeting
 - 5.02 Approval of Bills and Budget Report
(Ending December 2023)
 - 5.03 Approve Personnel Report
6. Committee Report/s
 - 6.01 Finance & Operations
7. New Business
 - 7.01 Designate the Number of Open Enrollment Regular Education Spaces, by Grade, and the Number of Open Enrollment Special Education Spaces, by Program or Service, Available for the 2024-25 School Year
 - 7.02 Facilities Management - Timeline for Next Steps
 - 7.03 Dress & Grooming Policy
 - 7.04 Facilities Manager Job Description

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- 7.05 Kitchen Inspection Action Items: Quote Approval
8. Board/Admin Reports
 - 8.01 CESA 12 Delegate Report
 - 8.02 Superintendent's Report
9. Upcoming Dates
10. Meeting Closing
 - 10.01 Adjournment

**• Board of Education •
School Board Regular Meeting Minutes
Meeting Held Wednesday, December 20, 2023
5:30pm - 6:29pm
(Minutes to be approved at the 1-17-24 Board meeting)**

A REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING was held on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 in the LMC at South Shore Jr-Sr High School, Port Wing, WI and virtually via Zoom. The meeting had been properly publicized in compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

1. Welcome

1.01 Call to Order / Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by President Hoeftling at 5:30pm. Roll call: Present: Justine Broderson, K. Terry Burhans, Clyde Clauson, Merlyn Coy, Mark Hoeftling, Rebecca Kavajecz, James Stemwedel. Also present: Danielle Mikula, Superintendent.

1.02 Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Recognition/Highlight

2.01 We are South Shore

2.02 Acknowledge and Accept Donations

The South Shore School District would like to thank the following organizations:

- Knights of Columbus for their proceeds from their "Tootsie Roll" Drive. Ken Zivic, Isaak Ostrander and Lillie Davidson presented the donation.
- Cornucopia Club for their generous donations of hats, scarves, mittens for our students and monetary donation

3. Audience Participation

3.01 Audience Participation Guidelines

None

4. Agenda Modifications

4.01 Modifications to Agenda Items or Prior Minutes

None

5. Consent Agenda

5.01 Approve Meeting Minutes

- Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2023 Regular Board Meeting
- Approval of Bills and Budget
- (Approval of Bills and Budget (ending November 2023) General fund 96397-96521 and payroll/direct deposit 900013274-900013349 and manual checks 1811-1812 and 3750-375.

5.02 Approve Personnel Report

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- No new hires.
- Retirement: Diane Kavajecz, effective June 28, 2024.

Motion by Clauson second by Kavajecz to approve the consent agenda as printed and posted. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

6. Committee Reports

6.01 Finance & Operations

The committee met on December 5, 2023, discussed the following: Discussed facilities management and a timeline, which is on tonight's agenda.

6.02 Policy & Governance

The committee met on December 13, 2023, discussed the following: Worked in small groups to discuss materials we reviewed, including model policies, articles and surveys. Came together in large group to come to consensus and draft guidelines.

7. New Business

7.01 District and School Report Card Presentation

Principal Simpson presented our 2022 State Report Card and answered questions.

7.02 Facilities Management - Timeline for Next Steps

A preliminary timeline related to a potential referendum in 2024 was presented.

7.03 Winter Athletics Update

David Gustafson, Athletic Director gave an update on our winter athletics.

7.04 Insurance Quote Approval

One quote received so far. We will need to renew our expiring current policy while awaiting more quotes. Motion by Stemwedel, second by Coy to renew with EMC as quoted. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

8. Board/Admin Reports

8.01 CESA 12 Delegate Report

Met last night. Highlights include:

- No CESA 12 meeting in January due to WASB Convention
- Working with Washburn for a Superintendent search
- CESA 11 and UWS to consider the profession of Superintendent
- A talk on Artificial Intelligence and training on the use of it in schools
- A talk about cyber security assessments and support

8.02 Superintendent's Report

- Winter concerts tomorrow. Elementary in afternoon and Middle/HS in evening
- Fun holiday activities are happening this week
- PTO has gifts for all students

9. Upcoming Dates

- January 11, 2024 - Finance & Operations Committee Meeting
Community Focus Group at 6pm
- January 17, 2024 - Regular Board Meeting at 5:30pm
- January 24, 2024 - Finance & Operations Committee Meeting
Community Focus Group at 6pm

10. Meeting Closing

Motion by Burhans to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:29 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Kavajecz, Clerk
South Shore Board of Education



Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled with the hope that they will bring about a closer relationship between parents and teachers, and that they will result in a direct benefit to the child through a better understanding of the child and the objectives of the school. Conferences are scheduled for Thursday, February 22nd from 2-4pm and 5-8pm at both the elementary and Jr-Sr High schools.

Elementary conferences are prearranged and junior and senior high conferences, you register when you get to the school.

Students are always welcome to accompany their parents/guardians to conferences.

Also, that evening there will be a home middle school volleyball game vs Drummond at home, beginning at 5:45 p.m.



Candidates File for School Board Positions

Rebecca Kavajecz, clerk of the South Shore School Board does hereby certify the following qualified electors of their respective municipalities have legally declared their candidacy for election as a member of the School Board of the South Shore School District at the April 2nd, 2024 spring election:

AT-LARGE

Clyde Clauson

81475 Evergreen Rd
Port Wing, WI 54865



TOWN of TRIPP

Merlyn Coy

11280 McLean Rd
Iron River, WI 54847

A PRIMARY ELECTION for school board candidates will not be held in February.

You may apply for open enrollment from February 5-April 30, 2024

Wisconsin's inter-district public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend a school district other than the one in which they live. Applications may be submitted to up to three nonresident school districts.

Pupils in 5-year-old kindergarten to grade 12 may apply to participate in open enrollment.

Open enrollment for prekindergarten, four-year-old kindergarten and early childhood education is limited. Parents should call their resident school districts to find out if their preschool-aged children qualify for open enrollment.

The open enrollment application period for the 2024-25 school year is from February 5-April 30, 2024. **The application period closes at 4:00 p.m. on April 30, 2024. Late applications will not be accepted for any reason.**

Parents may apply online at <https://dpi.wi.gov/oe>.

A pupil may only open enroll to an online/virtual school if:

(1) the school has been created as a virtual charter school that meets the requirements of the charter school law [Wis. Stats. 118.40 (8)] or (2) the pupil is required to physically attend school in the nonresident school district every day that school is in session. Other important things to know about applying to virtual charter schools:

Can an application be rejected?

Yes. Nonresident school districts may deny an application if regular or special education space is not available for the pupil; special education or related services are not available; or if the pupil has been referred for a special education evaluation but has not yet been evaluated. Nonresident school districts may also deny an application if the pupil has been expelled during the current or preceding two years for certain violent conduct or if the pupil was habitually truant from the nonresident school district during any semester in the current or previous school year.

If there are more applications than spaces, pupils must be selected randomly, after giving preference to pupils already attending school in the nonresident school district and siblings of currently-attending pupils.

Some school districts establish waiting lists to fill unused spaces, but others do not.

Can a resident district prevent a pupil from leaving?

Yes, in limited circumstances. A resident district can deny a pupil's application for an invalid application (early or late application or missing information), ineligibility due to age (too young or too old), or if the resident district does not offer the same type of prekindergarten, four-year-old kindergarten, or early childhood program as the nonresident district or the pupil is not eligible for the program in the resident district.

Can parents appeal if an application is denied?

Parents whose applications are denied may appeal to the DPI within 30 days of the denial. State law requires the DPI to uphold the school district's decision unless DPI finds that the decision was arbitrary or unreasonable. The DPI's decision may be appealed to circuit court.

Must pupils reapply every year?

Once a pupil is accepted into a nonresident school district, the pupil may continue to attend that district without reapplication except that:

- The nonresident district may require a pupil to reapply one time—at the beginning of middle school, junior high or high school.
- A pupil may be returned to the resident school district if

the special education required in a new or revised IEP is not available in the nonresident district or there is no space.

- A pupil who has become habitually truant in the nonresident district may be returned to the resident district.
- Is there a cost for parents to participate in the open enrollment program?

There is no tuition cost to parents for participation in open enrollment. Parents of open enrolled pupils may be charged the same fees as resident pupils.

Who is responsible for transportation?

Parents are responsible for transporting their children to and from school.

If transportation is required in the IEP for a child with a disability, it must be provided by the nonresident district.

Low-income parents may apply to the DPI at the end of the school year for partial reimbursement of their transportation costs.

Can a parent select a specific school in the pupil's nonresident school district?

Yes. A parent may request a specific school or program in the nonresident district. However, assignment to the requested school or program is *not guaranteed* and your pupil may be assigned to a different school other than the one requested. It is up to each nonresident district to determine a pupil's school assignment.

Can an open enrolled pupil participate in sports and other extra-curricular activities in the nonresident school district?

Open enrolled pupils have the same rights and responsibilities as resident pupils.

Inter-scholastic athletics are governed by the Wisconsin Inter-scholastic Athletic Association (WIAA), which has rules concerning transfer pupils. Parents should check with the school district's athletic director about eligibility.

Important open enrollment dates

February 5 – April 30, 2024 – Parents must submit applications online or directly to the nonresident school district.

June 7, 2024 – Nonresident school districts must mail notices of approval or denial. If the application is approved, the school district must notify the parents of the specific school or program to which the pupil is assigned.

June 14, 2024 – Resident districts must notify applicants if the application is denied. If the application is denied, parents have 30 days to file an appeal.

June 28, 2024 – Parents of accepted applicants must notify the nonresident district if the pupil will attend the nonresident district in the 2024-25 school year. If the parent fails to make this notification, the nonresident district may refuse to allow the pupil to attend the district.

For more information contact:

Public School Open Enrollment Program Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841
Tollfree: 888-245-2732, option 2 Email: openenrollment@dpi.wi.gov Website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/oe> Email: openenrollment@dpi.wi.gov

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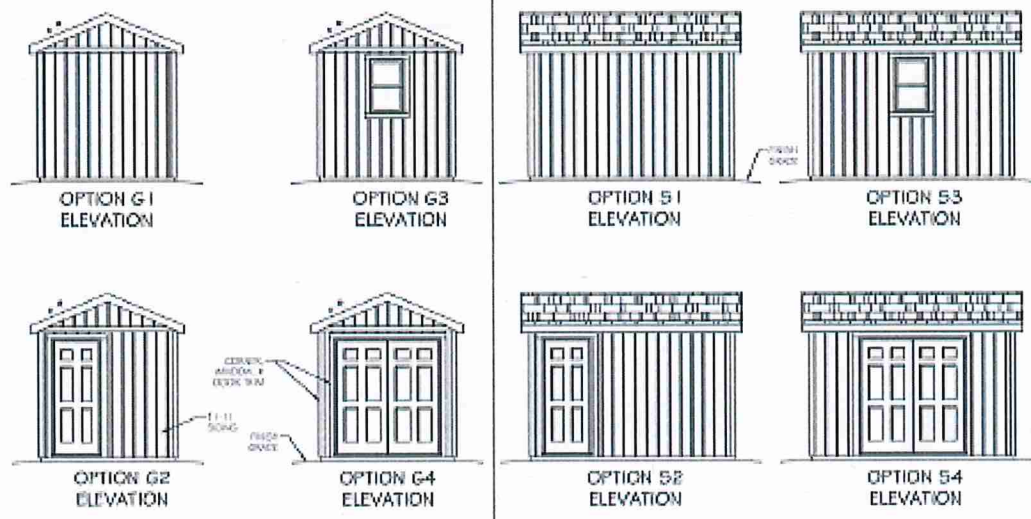
Geometry & Construction

South Shore School District

NEED A SHED?

Custom 8' x 12' Sheds For Sale!

Do you have the need for a little more storage space? Of course you do! Well then, this opportunity is for you! This school year, the co-taught Geometry & Construction course is seeking buyers for several 8' by 12' utility shed builds. The costs of materials (and delivery if needed) will be the only costs placed upon the buyer. This opportunity to have the shed of your dreams built by students will be annually recurring for the foreseeable future. Orders need to be finalized sooner rather than later to secure your build for this year and to ensure that all materials can be obtained in time. Options include door/window location/size, paint/shingle color, floor plan/layout, and a multitude of wall configurations pictured below.



If you have any questions about options or would like a quote. Please call the CTE teacher listed below.

Our students thank you for supporting the trades!

Aidan Olkowski | aolkowski@sshore.k12.wi.us | (715) - 774 - 3187

FEBRUARY ACTIVITY CALENDAR

				1	2	3
				GBB at Butternut	BBB vs Washburn at Home	JVGGB at Ashland MSGVB at Solon Springs
4	5 Varsity GBB vs Drummond at Home BBB at Spooner	6 BBB at Butternut MSGVB at Ashland	7 Finance & Operations Committee Meeting	8 GBB vs Hurley at Home MSGVB vs Solon Springs at Home	9 BBB vs Drummond at Home	10
11	12 JV GBB at Superior PTO Meeting	13 Varsity GBB at Drummond	14	15 Forensics Sub at Washburn Varsity GBB at LCO MSGVB vs Ashland At Home	16 JVGGB at Flambeau BBB vs Hurley at Home	17 MSGVB at Butternut
18	19 MSGVB at LCO	20	21 Regular Board	22 Early Release 1pm BBB at LCO	23 No School - In-Service	24
25	26 No School - In-Service	27	28 Memorial Blood Drive	29		

SOUTH SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT
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PORT WING, WI 54865

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JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

POSTAL CUSTOMER SOUTH SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT MISSION:

“TO PROVIDE A RIGOROUS, RELEVANT, HIGH-QUALITY, POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT TO FOSTER SUCCESS IN EVERY STUDENT.”