



JANUARY  
2025

Official Publication of the South Shore School District

## THE CARDINAL REPORT

Serving students, parents and our community

# South Shore Earns U.S. & World Best School Award

Danielle Mikula, Superintendent



What a joy it is to announce that South Shore Elementary has been recognized as a U.S. & World News Best School for 2025! This prestigious award, based on student achievement, is a testament to the incredible dedication, passion and teamwork that all of our staff contribute each day.

While it is neat to receive outside recognition for results, there aren't any awards or test scores that can fully tell the story of South Shore. I wish you could walk into one of our classrooms and witness a light-bulb moment when a struggling child starts to believe they can grow up to be a scientist or mathematician or welder. Or listen in on a passionate exchange between teachers about what they are learning to improve reading instruction. I wish you could hear the giggles when all the staff show up dressed up as characters, or hear the 4K class singing to Ms. Montgomery for her Birthday. It is about the bus drivers and support staff who put their giant smiles on

each morning to greet and welcome our students. It is Mr. Olkowski working on the generator late into the night so we can ensure a warm school. It is the early mornings of planning and preparation to make dreams come to life: from Santa and reindeer visiting us, to dance parties and character assemblies and celebrations each month, to schoolwide trips skiing and volunteering. It is Ms. Reijo's heroic battles with the copy machine and the cafeteria line debates over what kind of stromboli is the best (the answer is pepperoni, *obviously*). It is the PTO moms and dads doing dishes until 9pm after a fundraiser, and our parents who rally around our school as the ultimate cheering squad. It is our coaches who take time from their own jobs and families and give it to the kids. It is our principal who plans and advocates and organizes and works harder than any person I know. It is our board members who ask tough questions and push us and hold us accountable to achieving our greatness. But most of



all, it is the students. The sun rises and sets on them, and the truth is that *they* are the ones who teach and inspire *us*.

This symphony of interconnectedness is what makes our school one of the very best. We will keep our focus on results and getting 1% better every day, but we can also smell the roses and enjoy the climb. So here is to every teacher, support staff member, every family and taxpayer and community member, and most of all, the wonderful students who continue to make us so proud at South Shore. Together we are building something extraordinary!





## Spotlight on Student Learning: The Impact of a Guidance Counselor

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



Each month, I take a moment to highlight an area of our school. This month, it is my joy to highlight a “one-person department” that plays a crucial role in our students' educational journey. South Shore is blessed to have an extraordinary guidance counselor, Mrs. Truchon, who is dedicated to ensuring that every student in our school is cared for and is supported with what they need to achieve their goals. From coordinating college courses for juniors and seniors to working with our youngest learners to become the best person they can be, Mrs. Truchon touches the lives of every student that walks through the doors at South Shore.

### Just What Does a Guidance Counselor Do?

Have you ever wondered what a school guidance counselor does? Mrs. Truchon does a little bit of everything! While I cannot begin to describe all that Mrs. Truchon does for our students, I wanted to give you a small glimpse into two small parts of her job:

**Guidance Classes and Counseling:** We often focus on academic skills when talking about student's learning; however, building our students' social and emotional skills and soft skills is just as important! Mrs. Truchon meets weekly with every kindergarten through sixth grade class to support students in learning and using these skills. Our elementary students are working on building their character; each month they focus on a different character trait. Starting in 2024, Mrs. Truchon also began to meet with our 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students during study hall every other week for guidance class; she meets with our students in grades 9-12 once a month during study hall as well. In addition to classes, Mrs. Truchon always makes time to meet with students when they need her and she has several students who meet with her every week.

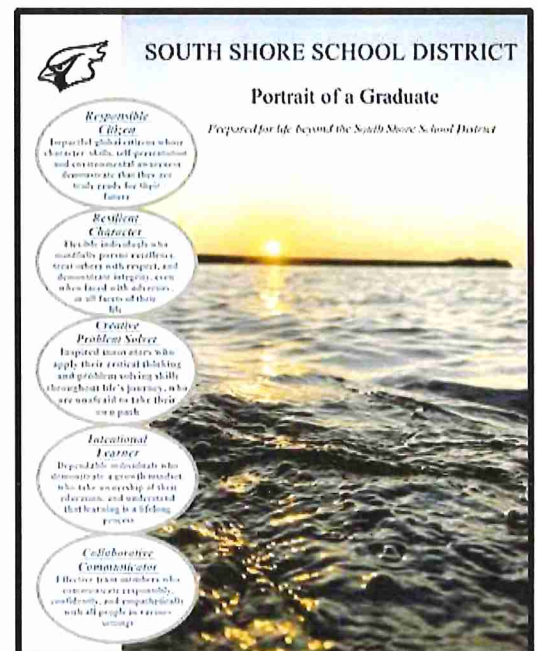


**College & Career Readiness:** South Shore's Portrait of a Graduate states that students will graduate “prepared for life beyond the South Shore School District.” Our goal is that when students graduate, they have the foundation and skills they need to achieve their life goals. Mrs. Truchon provides academic and career counseling to students at South Shore. This includes working with students on developing their schedules and identifying the best opportunities to engage in during high school to meet their goals. She supports students with identifying scholarships to apply for, supports students with taking college courses while in high school, and coordinates meetings with college representatives and marine and army recruiters.

### The Impact of a Counselor

I had the opportunity to ask a few of our students about Mrs. Truchon. Their statements truly highlight the impact that Mrs. Truchon has on our students every day.

- “She is very respectful and she was probably one of the best guidance teachers I have ever had. And that's true - it really is! It is really fun that she has stuff in her office that can help kids. She loves to hang around kids and help them.” ~ 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Student
- “She is very helpful and very compassionate. Every time I have needed help, she has stuck a hand out to help and offered to help, even if it takes a couple of days. Actually, she did that earlier today. If not the



(Continued on top of 3)

nicest, she is one of the nicest employees at the school.” ~ HS Student

- “She is a really hard worker. She is always willing to help others. She has helped me a lot with my academic and mental state in middle school and high school. She is always willing to believe in you and pick you up.” ~ HS Student



We are so fortunate to have such an amazing guidance counselor at South Shore.

Mrs. Truchon form all of us at the South Shore School District, THANK YOU for all that you do!

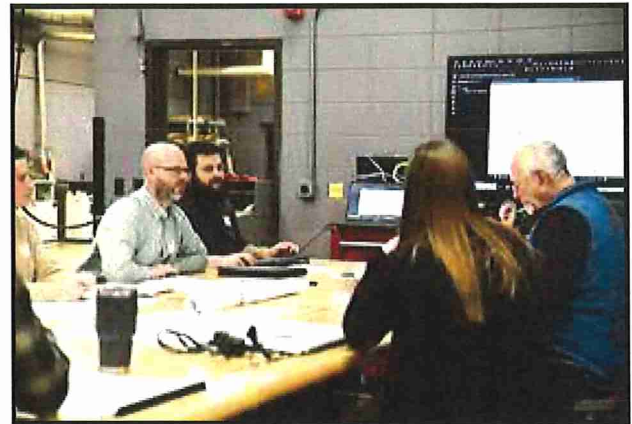


Mrs. Truchon & Ms. Montgomery

## Building Project Updates

The next phase of our referendum building project, which is the planning and design phase, has begun! HSR architects are meeting with staff and will continue to get input from user groups who will frequently use these spaces. This will include students as well.

**Core Group:** An internal core group meets every two weeks to review updates and drive design. This includes the architects, district team, two school board members, and will also include the construction manager once the board selects one at the January board meeting.



**Schematic Design & Design Development:** The design process will continue to develop through summer. Once the building footprint has been confirmed and interior spaces are set, further design development including 3D renderings will take place. Construction Documents will then be developed in preparation for the bidding process.

**Timeline:** Specifics on the construction timeline will become more specific in the coming months. Below is an estimated preliminary timeline. We will continue to provide updates to the community as we get further into design and development.

### Preliminary Timeline



# South Shore Holiday Activities

South Shore School truly shines during the holidays and throughout the entire year!

Students and staff came together to celebrate with a variety of enjoyable activities. We are incredibly thankful for one another and the numerous ways we show our care. This day was overflowing with laughter, kindness, and happiness.

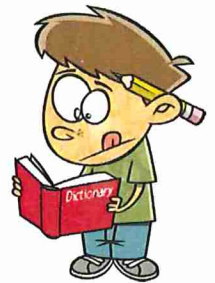




## ELKS LODGE DONATES DICTIONARIES TO 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADERS



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!



Second graders became engineers and scientists when guest teacher, Jane Weber, brought STEM kits from the Iron River Public Library for them to investigate.

The marble run kit challenged students to build a track with a loop for a marble to roll through. Students rose to the challenge as they learned about velocity, rise over run, and force.

They also built a watershed model to learn how it works and relate that to their own experiences living in the Lake Superior watershed.

These STEM kits will be available for families to check out at the Iron River Public Library. Great work, Cardinals!





## SOUTH SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT

# CAREER FAIR

Are you interested in sharing your career with students in grades 7-12? We are looking for volunteers to host a booth at our upcoming career fair on February 14th. For more information, please contact Michelle Simpson at [msimpson@sshore.k12.wi.us](mailto:msimpson@sshore.k12.wi.us).



**DATE**

02.14.2025



**TIME**

9:30am

**CONTACT MICHELLE**



715.774.3170



[msimpson@sshore.k12.wi.us](mailto:msimpson@sshore.k12.wi.us)



**NO SCHOOL  
FOR STUDENTS  
MONDAY, JANUARY  
20<sup>TH</sup>  
STAFF IN-SERVICE**



**PTO  
Meeting**



**YOU'RE INVITED**  
to our next PTO  
meeting which will be held  
on  
Monday, February 3, 2025  
Jr-Sr High School Library  
5:30pm

# You may apply for open enrollment from February 3-April 30, 2025

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 2025-26 school year is from February 3-April 30, 2025. **The application period closes at 4:00 p.m. on April 30, 2025. 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 Interscholastic 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 3 – April 30, 2025** – Parents must submit applications online or directly to the nonresident school district.

**June 6, 2025** – 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. If the application is denied, parents have 30 days to file an appeal.

**June 13, 2025** – Resident districts must notify applicants if the application is denied. If the application is denied, parents have 30 days to file an appeal.

**June 27, 2025** – Parents of accepted applicants must notify the nonresident district if the pupil will attend the nonresident district in the 2025-26 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  
Toll free: 888-245-2732, option 2 Email: [openenrollment@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:openenrollment@dpi.wi.gov) Website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/oe> Email: [openenrollment@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:openenrollment@dpi.wi.gov)

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, creed, age, national origin, ancestry, pregnancy, marital status or parental status, sexual orientation, or disability.



## Homemade Trailer For Sale

The Career & Technology Education (CTE) department is selling a homemade trailer that was completed in 2023. The overall trailer dimensions are 8' 5-1/4" wide (fender to fender) and 19' 3" long (hitch to tail). The trailer has been DOT inspected and a VIN has been issued making it completely road legal. The tires have some uneven wear from a now corrected issue and will need to be replaced by the purchaser. Deck is built with pressure treated lumber. Light surface rust on leaf springs and axle. All lights are in working condition and utilize a four flat connection. This is a very heavy and overbuilt trailer with a large deck perfect for bulky items. If you would like to come look at the trailer prior to placing your bid; it will be located in the school parking lot near the buses. **Minimum bid is \$4,000.00.** (Cost of materials)



Please direct any questions to Aidan Olkowski at [aolkowski@sshore.k12.wi.us](mailto:aolkowski@sshore.k12.wi.us).



## CNC PLASMA TABLE FOR SALE

The Career & Technology Education (CTE) department is selling a 4' x 4' PlasmaCAM brand CNC plasma table along with everything needed to make it fully operational including a Thermal Dynamics plasma cutter and a desktop computer with the software already loaded up. This setup has been well used and functions as it should. Sale will include assistance loading and a run down as to how to get it set up. The table is kept indoors and is available for viewing if desired prior to placing your bid. **Minimum bid is \$1,000.00.**

Please direct any questions to Aidan Olkowski at [aolkowski@sshore.k12.wi.us](mailto:aolkowski@sshore.k12.wi.us).



The high school choir traveled to the Cornucopia Community Center to sing before one of the Community Meals.

They were met with smiles, gratitude, and warmth as they sang carols for those in attendance.

We are so grateful they invited us this year, and thankful for the delicious meal!



# Yearbooks for Sale

Are you still looking for the perfect Christmas present for the person who is hard to buy for? If so, The South Shore Yearbook group is selling prior year's yearbooks for \$25 each. They will be sold on a first come, first serve basis.

Following are the years and quantities available:

## 7-12 Grade Yearbooks

|           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1990 - 25 | 2010 - 6  |
| 1991 - 11 | 2011 - 3  |
| 1993 - 27 | 2013 - 23 |
| 1994 - 27 | 2014 - 8  |
| 1995 - 25 | 2015 - 2  |
| 1996 - 49 | 2016 - 12 |
| 1997 - 32 | 2020 - 19 |
| 1998 - 13 | 2021 - 11 |
| 2007 - 7  | 2022 - 23 |
| 2008 - 18 |           |
| 2009 - 4  |           |

## 4K-6 Grade Yearbooks

|           |
|-----------|
| 2022 - 30 |
| 2023 - 13 |



If you are interested in purchasing a yearbook please contact Jolene Anderson at [janderson@sshore.k12.wi.us](mailto:janderson@sshore.k12.wi.us) or 715-774-3500.

## UPCOMING EVENTS...

**January 13**

BBB vs Drummond at Home  
PTO Meeting - 5:30pm

**January 14**

GBB vs Hurley at Home

**January 15**

Regular Board Meeting

**January 16**

BBB vs Hurley at Home



**January 17**

End of Quarter 2  
Varsity GBB at LCO  
MS All-Conference Choir at Ashland

**January 20**

In-Service - No School for Students  
BBB at LCO

**January 21**

GBB vs Mellen at Home  
MS Girls Volleyball at Solon Springs



**January 22**

Policy Committee Meeting

**January 24**

BBB vs Mellen at Home

**January 27**

Varsity GBB vs Solon Springs at Home

**January 28**

BBB & GBB at Mercer

**January 30**

GBB vs Bayfield at Home  
MS Girls Volleyball at Drummond





(Continued from page 10)

- Approval of Bills and Budget (ending November 2024)  
General fund 97912-98018 and payroll/direct deposit on  
900014269-900014346, 1844-1847, and 3848-3853

### 5.03 Approve Personnel Report

- No new hires or separations to report at this time.

### 6. New Business

#### 6.01 Building Project Pre-Design Process Update

Update from Tim and Brad from HSR.

Design Schedule - now through August 2025

Staff input discussion was held. Good feedback. Additional sessions to be held. Reviewed updated plan, a more refinement but still a work in progress. Discussion and questions.

#### 6.03 Insurance Quote Approval

Motion by Burhans, second by Stemwedel to approve the EMC Insurance Renewal as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

#### 7. Policy 7.01 Student Cell Phone Policy- 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

Motion by Coy, second by Burhans to approve po5136 Personal Communication Devices "Student Cell Phone" policy. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

#### 7.02 NEOLA Update 33.2 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

Motion by Kavajecz, second by Hoefling to approve po0164 Meetings, po0174.1 Annual Report, po2131 Educational Outcome Goals and Expectations, po2340 District-Sponsored Trips, po3120.8 Employment of Substitutes, po5200 Attendance, po5430 Class Rank, po5460 Graduation Requirements, po5505 Academic Honesty, po5610 Suspension and Expulsion, po5610.03 Alternatives to Expulsion and Reentry Plans, po5771 Search and Seizure, po6423 Use of Credit Cards, po7540.05 Assistive Technology and Services, po7544 Use of Social Media, po8600 Transportation, and rescind po8640 Transportation for Field and Other District-Sponsored Trips policies. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

### 8. Board/Admin Reports

#### 8.01 CESA 12 Delegate Report

Met via Zoom on December 17, 2024. Youth Apprenticeship grant covers some costs for students in the program.

#### 8.02 Superintendent's Report

- Two more days before winter break with a fun party day planned for Friday, December 20 Students come back January 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Double header basketball on December 30<sup>th</sup>
- Career Fair on February 14, 2024

### 9. Upcoming Dates

- December 19, 2024 - Special Board Meeting
- January 8, 2025 - Finance & Operations Committee - 5:30pm
- January 15, 2025 Regular Board Meeting - 5:30p
- January 22, 2025 - Policy Committee Meeting NEOLA Update - 5:30pm

**10. Closed Session - The Board will Convene in Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85 (1) (e) as Specified**  
Closed Session was not held.

### 11. Meeting Closing

#### 11.01 Adjournment

Motion by Clauson to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Kavajecz, Clerk



## • Board of Education •

### Special School Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Held Wednesday, December 19, 2024

2:30pm - 7:32pm

(Minutes to be approved at the 1-15-25 Board meeting)

A SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING was held on Wednesday, December 19, 2024, 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

The meeting was called to order by President Clauson at 2:30 p.m.

Roll call: Present: Justine Broderson, K. Terry Burhans, Clyde Clauson, Merlyn Coy, Mark Hoefling, Rebecca Kavajecz, James Stemwedel. Absent: None. Also present: Danielle Mikula, Superintendent, Bill Trautt.

### 2. New Business

#### 2.01 The Board Convened to hold Construction Manager Interviews

Construction Manager interviews were held.

### 3. Meeting Closing

#### 3.01 Adjournment

Motion by Clauson to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Kavajecz, Clerk



## 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 spring election:

#### Clover

**James Stemwedel**  
16205 State Hwy 13  
Herbster, WI 54844



#### TOWN of ORIENTA

**Mark Hoefling**  
81055 Evergreen Rd  
Iron River, WI 54847



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

# FEBRUARY 2025 ACTIVITY CALENDAR

| Sunday    | Monday                                                                                   | Tuesday                                                                                                                                               | Wednesday                                                                                       | Thursday                                                                                                                                | Friday                                                               | Saturday                                                          |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
|           |                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                         |                                                                      | <b>1</b><br>MS Girls Volleyball<br>Tournament at Solon<br>Springs |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b><br>GBB at Washburn<br>MS Girls Volleyball vs<br>Washburn at Home<br>PIO Meeting | <b>4</b><br>BBB vs Bayfield at Home<br>MS Girls Volleyball at<br>Ashland Middle School                                                                | <b>5</b>                                                                                        | <b>6</b><br>Varsity GBB vs<br>Butternut at Home                                                                                         | <b>7</b><br>BBB at Washburn                                          | <b>8</b><br>MS Girls Volleyball<br>at Butternut                   |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b><br>GBB at Drummond<br>MS Girls Volleyball vs<br>LCO at Home                    | <b>11</b><br>Varsity BBB vs Butternut<br>at Home                                                                                                      | <b>12</b><br>Sub-District Forensics<br>at Washburn<br>Finance & Operations<br>Committee Meeting | <b>13</b><br>GBB at Hurley<br>MS Girls Volleyball vs<br>Ashland MS at Home                                                              | <b>14</b><br>Valentine's Day                                         | <b>15</b>                                                         |
| <b>16</b> | <b>17</b><br>MS Girls Volleyball vs<br>Bayfield at Home                                  | <b>18</b> BBB vs Bruce at Home<br>HS All-Conference at<br>Northwestern HS<br>Varsity GBB vs Bruce at Home<br>MS Girls Volleyball vs<br>Mellen at Home | <b>19</b><br>Regular Board Meeting                                                              | <b>20</b><br>Early Release 1pm<br>P/T Conferences<br>Instrumental Large Group<br>Festival at Northwestern<br>Varsity GBB vs LCO at Home | <b>21</b><br>In-Service - No School<br>for Students<br>BBB at Hurley | <b>22</b>                                                         |
| <b>23</b> | <b>24</b><br>BBB vs Northwood at<br>Home                                                 | <b>25</b><br>Memorial Blood Drive                                                                                                                     | <b>26</b>                                                                                       | <b>27</b><br>BBB vs LCO at Home                                                                                                         | <b>28</b>                                                            |                                                                   |

SOUTH SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
P O BOX 40  
PORT WING, WI 54865

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
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## JANUARY 2025 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."