



DECEMBER
2025

Official Publication of the South Shore School District
THE CARDINAL REPORT

Serving students, parents and our community

South Shore Strategic Planning Committee Gets to Work

Danielle Mikula, Superintendent



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." -Margaret Mead

For the last several months, an Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee of the Board has been working on developing South Shore's next 5 year strategic plan. Our stakeholder participant list includes a range of 20 representatives including parents, teachers, board members, support staff, administrators, community members and business owners who volunteered their time to be a part of this important work.



The five year plan will span from 2026-2031 and will include an updated vision statement, values and clear district goals. The three stakeholder meetings were facilitated by Dr. Joe Schroeder, and involved working together to analyze district data to determine needs and strengths, refine our District Mission, Vision, and Commitments, and identify long-term pillars and goals. Our stakeholder group gave over 20 hours of their time to accomplish this work!

On Wednesday, November 19, our full board met and approved the Vision, Mission, Commitments and Pillars recommended by the committee. The updated info is summarized below:



Our Mission

Connect. Empower. Soar.

Our Vision

A legacy of excellence in education.

Our Commitments

- **Belonging** – We commit to creating a culture where all are welcomed, seen, heard, and valued for their authentic selves.
- **Continuous Improvement** – We respond to data with a growth mindset and innovation to advance belonging, achievement, and growth across the District.
- **Integrity** – We commit to do what is right, holding ourselves and our students accountable

(Continued on page 2)

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for our actions.

- **Connections** – We are compassionate and build trusting relationships with our students, staff, families, and community.
- **Safety** – We provide a supportive school environment, where everyone feels physically, mentally, emotionally, and intellectually safe.
- **Community** – We build trust and partnership with our community to create opportunities for learning, service, and pride.
- **Celebration** - We show gratitude daily and celebrate the achievements of our students, staff, and community.

The following four district pillars will organize continuous improvement work at the district and at the school level over the long-term. The four pillars approved by the Board are:



- Educational Excellence
- Community Engagement and Partnerships
- Exceptional Staff and Leadership
- Resource Stewardship

Next Steps: On December 3, the Strategic Planning Committee held their final work session to develop advisory recommendations for 5-year strategic objectives and potential key performance measures for monitoring organizational health under each pillar. These will be presented to the School Board in January. Once the Board approves all components, the plan will be finalized and communicated with the public. The updated Strategic Plan will be in place for the start of the 2026 school year.

The Board of Education extends heartfelt gratitude to all of the individuals who gave their time to inform the district's priorities and goals for the next five years. We are building a legacy of excellence in education, and we couldn't do it without our community.

Our Mission
Connect. Empower. Soar.



Our Vision
A legacy of excellence in education.



South Shore PTO Meeting
Tuesday, January 6th, 2026
Jr-Sr High Library- 5:30 p.m.

As always, PTO meetings are open to parents, teachers, guardians, friends and family.

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE





Spotlight on Student Learning: State Report Cards

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



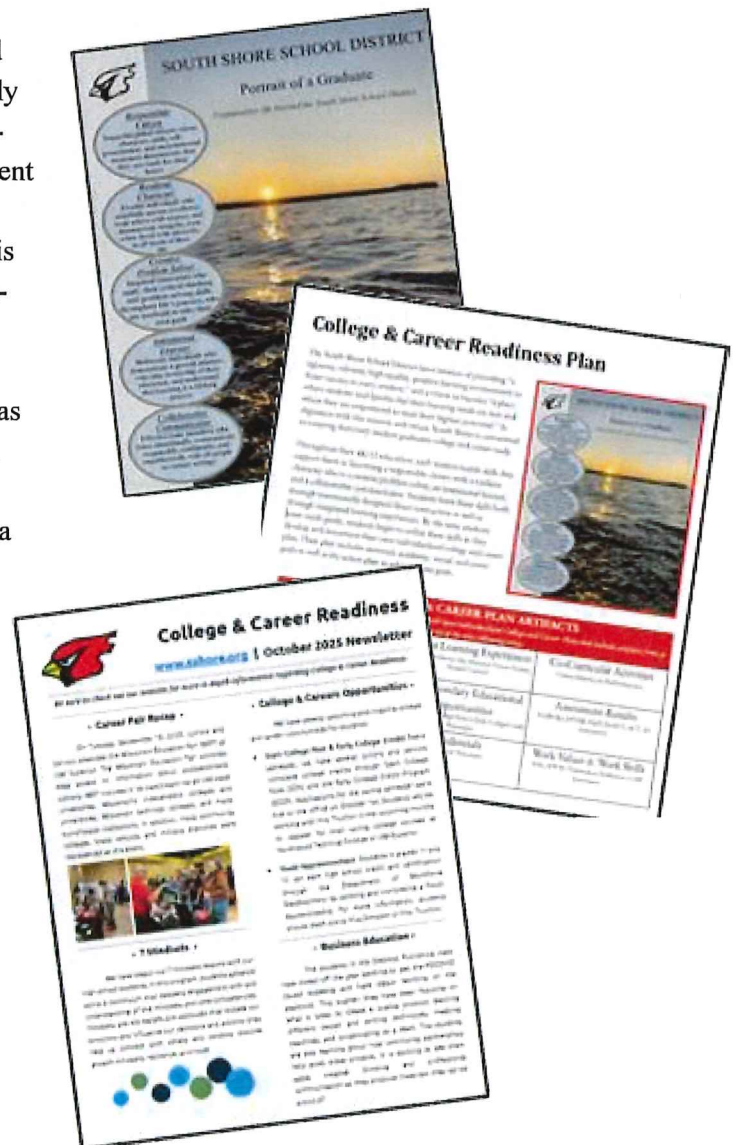
In 2021, the South Shore School District developed a strategic plan with goals around what the District would accomplish by 2026. One of these goals was in the area of college & career readiness. As we near the end of our current strategic plan, we want to highlight just some of the progress our District has made in this area over the last four years!

Four Years of College & Career Readiness:

As we began reviewing all the work on college and career readiness, it quickly became clear there was too much to include in one article. Below are just a few of the highlights of the District's accomplishments in this area:

Topic	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Leadership & Culture	Initiating	Implementing	Implementing
Policy & Planning	Implementing	Institutionalized	Institutionalized
Professional Development	Implementing	Institutionalized	Institutionalized
Family Engagement	Initiating	Initiating	Institutionalized
Individualized ACP Support	Initiating	Implementing	Implementing
Community Partnerships	Implementing	Implementing	Implementing
Access for All Students	Implementing	Institutionalized	Institutionalized

- Development of a Team:** The District has a dedicated team of teachers and administrators who meet regularly to work on setting and reaching goals. This team completes an annual self-evaluation from the WI Department of Instruction. In the past four years, the District has moved from having very few structures in place on this self-evaluation to having most of the structures institutionalized as the way we do things at South Shore.
- Cohesive Planning:** Over the past 4 years, the team has developed a cohesive college & career readiness plan, which includes a Portrait of a Graduate, an Education for Employment Plan, a 7-12 Scope & Sequence, and a Culminating Senior Project & Portfolio. This year, the district is evaluating its 7-12 Scope & Sequence and developing an Elementary Scope & Sequence.
- Family Communication:** One area where the 7-12 team continues to work hard is on improving family communication. Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, students in grades 7-12 began sending weekly emails to their parents/guardians to update them on their grades and progress. The CCR Team also began mailing a quarterly newsletter each mid-term to provide families with an update on specific events that students were working on in relation to college & career readiness.





- **Community Involvement:** The work done at South Shore would not be possible without our amazing community. The District has several partnerships within the community that have supported students with youth apprenticeships, work-based experiences, and job shadows. Several community members and organizations also have come in to present to our students. If you are a local business owner and would like to get involved with supporting our students as they develop skills for graduating college & career ready, please reach out to Michelle Simpson at msimpson@sshore.k12.wi.us.

When the strategic plan was developed 4 years ago, there was a goal of bringing in community members for a career fair. This career fair has grown every year, and is now an integral part of our Planning for a Purpose Day each February. This year, our career fair is on February 13th at 9:30. We need your help! If you know of someone who may be interested in having a booth at the career fair, please let them know about it. If you are interested in having a booth at the career fair, please sign up at <http://bit.ly/4aefc7o>.

As the District, we know we still have areas to grow in supporting students with graduating college & career ready, but we also have a lot to celebrate. As we begin to develop our next strategic plan, it is exciting to think about where we will be four years from now!

1st Quarter High Honor Roll

12th Grade:

Owen Bratley
Adeline L.
Chalee Luzzatto
Alexys Wehrman

11th Grade:

Sylas Jardine
Sophia Truchon

10th Grade:

Rylee Dahlgren
Josephine Martinez
Idella Wilcox

9th Grade:

Elijah Ciembronowicz
Sophia Nollet
Rhyah Ray
Avery Swanson
John Truchon
Owen Zakovec

8th Grade:

Eli Henneman
Mason, Lahti
Mya Peterson
Liam Zakovec

7th Grade:

Vivienne Broderson
Henry Henneman



1st Quarter Honor



12th Grade:

Lyric Belan
Emma Curtis
Josefine Klove
Lillian Nollet

11th Grade:

Richard Caratzola
Dylan Johnson
Brooklyn Lehto
Mosiah Martinez

10th Grade:

Myla Deputy-Phillips
Allyson Golly
Spencer Jensen
Summer Nicoletti
Brody Verne

9th Grade:

Jaxson Kaseno
Xander Wilcox

8th Grade:

Zoey Halma
Kayanna Lehto
Ferran Maki
Greyson Wilcox

7th Grade:

Ryker Dahlgren
Mercedes Johnson
Ayden Lahti

Fourth graders are erupting with excitement in science class!



They're exploring volcanoes and experimenting with the differences between thin and thick lava to see how each flows and reacts.





Food Resources for Ashland & Bayfield County Residents



The
BRICK
Ministries

Food Share (SNAP / food stamps / EBT)

Se habla español

(877) 366-3635, GetAQuestCard.org

Bad River Food Distribution

73451 Maple St, Odanah, WI

Monday – Friday, 8:00am - 4:30am

Tribal member eligibility and income guidelines
(715) 682-7892

Bad River Emergency Food Shelf

72682 Maple St, Odanah, WI

Once per month, 2-3 day food supply

Tribal member eligibility and income guidelines
(715) 682-7127

Barnes Community Church

Food Shelf

Open to residents 15-mile radius of Barnes

320 County Highway N, Barnes, WI

2nd Wednesday of each month, 9am - 11am
(715) 795-2195

The BRICK Ministries, Inc

Food Shelves

Once per month TEFAP pantries, Income guidelines

Open to WI residents, Proxy option available

Pantries in Ashland, Cable, Cornucopia, and Mellen
(715) 682-7425

Cable United Church of Christ

Food Pantry

13445 County Hwy M, Cable, WI

(715) 798-3066

Chequamegon Community Church (C3)

Food Pantry and Personal Care items

1451 County Hwy C, Washburn, WI

(715) 373-2939

CORE Community Resources

Food Shelf, Monthly Community Meals / Potlucks

257 Manypenny Ave. (Former Maggie's restaurant location), Bayfield, WI

Serves Northern Bayfield

County Barksdale to Port Wing

Every other Thursday, 10am - 1pm

Volunteer delivery available.

(715) 779-3457, www.corecr.org

Red Cliff Food Distribution

Food Shelf, Summer Lunch program

88430 Pike Rd (Hwy 13), Red Cliff, WI

Monday - Friday, 8am – 4pm

Tribal member eligibility and income guidelines
(715) 779-3740

Red Cliff Emergency Food Shelf

37510 New Housing Rd, Red Cliff, WI

Once per month by appointment, 2-3 day food supply

Tribal member eligibility and income guidelines
(715) 779-3706

Rural Care and Share

Once per month TEFAP pantries, Income guidelines

Peace Lutheran Church, 9523 US Highway 2, Poplar,
(715) 364-2495

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 68160 S. George St., Iron
River

(715) 372-8728

Ruby's Pantry

Ashland Summit Church: 400 Salem Drive, Ashland, WI

4th Saturday of the month, 9:30 am – 11:00 am

Butternut School: 312 Wisconsin St., Butternut, WI 54514

4th Saturday of the month. 11:00am - 12:30pm

Hayward Wesleyan Church: 10655 Nyman Ave., Hayward,
WI

3rd Thursday of the month

Registration 4:00pm, Distribution 4:30pm - 6:00pm

(715) 634-4613

\$25 per share, www.rubyspantry.org

St. John's United Church of Christ

Food Shelf

706 Main St., LaPointe (Madeline Island), WI

Open to Island residents

(715) 747-3945

WIC (Women, Infant, & Children)

Eligible if pregnant, breastfeeding, new mother, or a child
under 5 years old

Bay Area WIC, (715) 682-6661,

Red Cliff WIC, (715) 779-3707

Bad River WIC, (715) 682-7139

WI Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CFSP/ Senior Stockbox)

Supplemental Food Packages for Seniors 60+

Ashland County office (715) 292-6400, ext. 1

or (715) 392-5127

Bayfield County office (715) 394-3644

www.northwest-csa.org

South Shore School Music Department Presents

Winter Music Events

Winter Concerts and Arts Showcase
Tuesday, December 9
at South Shore School
 2pm Elementary (4K-6)
 6pm HS/MS (7-12)
 Doors open 15 minutes before start time
 Live Streamed on our YouTube channel
 @SouthShoreSchoolDistrict

CAROLING AROUND PORT WING
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 3:30-5PM

Caroling at the Congregate Meal
 In Cornucopia: Tuesday, December 16
 In Port Wing: TBA

PEP BAND AT HS HOME BASKETBALL GAMES
(EXCEPT ON DOUBLE HEADERS)
ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY
WELCOME TO JOIN!



Free Admission to Regular Season Home Athletic Events!!

The South Shore School District Board of Education once again has voted to allow free admission to regular season home sporting events hosted at South Shore for the 2025-26 school year. We understand that families pay a lot of money for food, clothing, and other expenses. We are trying to reduce the cost of families paying to see their children play and also possibly increase attendance at home sporting events. This free admission applies to South Shore fans and fans of the opposing teams! Great things are happening at South Shore, and we want all to feel welcome here!

NOTICE OF ELECTION School Board

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the South Shore School District on Tuesday, April 7th, 2026, the following offices are to be elected. The term of office for a school board member is three years beginning on Monday, April 27th, 2026.

Office	Incumbent
Town of Bell	Justine Broderson
Town of Oulu	K. Terry Burhans
Town of Port Wing	Rebecca Kavajecz

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that a Campaign Finance Registration Statement (Form EB-I) and a Declaration of Candidacy (Form EB-162) must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 6th, 2026 in the District Office of the South Shore School District, located in the South Shore Elementary Building, in Port Wing, Wisconsin (mailing address, Post Office Box 40, Port Wing, WI 54865).

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that, if a primary is necessary, the primary shall be held on Tuesday, February 17th, 2026.

A description of the school district and township boundaries, and other information regarding the School Board Election, may be obtained from Danielle Mikula, Superintendent, in the main office of the School District, telephone: 715-774-3167.

No later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 26th, 2025 prescribed for filing declarations of candidacy the incumbent shall file written notification with the school district clerk if the incumbent is not a candidate for reelection to his or her office.

Acceptable Photo ID will be required to vote at this election. If you do not have a photo ID you may obtain a free ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Given under my hand, this 14th day of November 2025.

Rebecca Kavajecz, Clerk
South Shore Board of Education

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

Public Notice §19.84 (3)

Clyde Clauson, 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, December 10, 2025.**

Members of the 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, December 10, 2025
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 - November 19, 2025
Regular Board Meeting
 - 5.02 Approval of Bills and Budget Report
(Ending November 2025)
 - 5.03 Approve Personnel Report
6. Committee Report/s
 - 6.1 Finance & Operations
7. New Business
 - 7.01 Building Project Pre-Construction Update
 - 7.02 Resolution Establishing Parameters for the Sale of
Not to Exceed \$2,750,000 General Obligation
Promissory Notes
 - 7.03 Finance & Investment Updates
 - 7.04 Consider Insurance Renewal Approval
 - 7.05 Consider School Calendar Approval
8. Administrative & Other Reports

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- 8.01 CESA 12 Delegate Report
- 8.02 Superintendent's Report
9. Upcoming Dates
 - 9.01 Upcoming Dates
10. Meeting Closing
 - 10.01 Adjournment

• Board of Education •

School Board Regular Meeting Minutes

Meeting Held Wednesday, November 19, 2025

(Minutes to be approved at the 12-10-25 Board meeting)

A **Regular Board of Education meeting** was held on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, in the LMC at South Shore Jr-Sr High School, Port Wing, WI. 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 Clauson at 5:00pm.

Roll Call: Present: Justine Broderson, Terry Burhans, Clyde Clauson, Merlyn Coy, Mark Hoefling, Rebecca Kavajecz, James Stemwedel (until 7:15pm). Absent and excused: None. Also, present, Danielle Mikula, Superintendent.

1.02 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. RECOGNITION / HIGHLIGHTS

2.01 We Are South Shore

Highlights of the Strategic Planning Team

2.02 ACKNOWLEDGE AND ACCEPT DONATIONS

We would like to thank the following organization for their generous donations:

- First Lutheran Church for their donation of \$500 to support food and nutrition for families.

3. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

3.01 Audience Participation Guidelines - Limit 5 minutes
None.

4. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

4.01 Modifications to Agenda Items or Prior Minutes
None.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

5.01 Approve Meeting Minutes

- October 22, 2025 Regular Board Meeting and
October 27, 2025 Special board Meeting

5.02 Approval of Bills and Budget (ending October 2025)

Approval of Bills and Budget (ending October 2025)
General fund 99164-99292 and payroll/direct deposit on
900015227-900015314 and 3965 through 3976 for
payment.

5.03 Approve Personnel Report

New Hires:
For Information

(Continued on top of page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

- Angie Shober, Paraprofessional - effective November 1, 2025
- Ethan Bratley, Boys Baseball Coach
- Bill Trautt, head Track Coach,
- Madison Trautt, Assistant Track Coach

For Approval

- Emily Sprengelmeyer, HS Mathematics Teacher - effective December 1, 2025

Separations:

- Scotlin Jardine, Paraprofessional - effective November 17, 2025

Motion by Stemwedel, second by Hoefling to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roll call vote: Yes: Broderson, Burhans, Clauson, Hoefling, Kavajecz, and Stemwedel. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Coy. Motion carried by roll call voice vote.

6. Committee Reports

6.01 Teaching & Learning

The Committee met and discussed: District Data Assessment, update on South Shore SAIL's Team Progress, discussed College and Career Readiness and an update on 4K-12 Health Curriculum renewal.

6.02 Finance & Operations

The Committee met and reviewed and discussed bills and budget balances, update on PMA Investment Plan, facilities updates and discussed our upcoming project phasing plan.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.01 PMA Finance & Investment Plan Presentation

Josh Barbian from PMA provided information on our investments of the referendum funds, reviewed cash flow and strategy for investing some of our fund balance.

The Finance Committee will meet and discuss how much of the fund balance to keep liquid and develop a strategy for investment for future approval.

Motion by Stemwedel, second by Burhans to get bids for investing \$3 million of the fund balance and take action. Roll call vote: Yes: Broderson, Burhans, Clauson, Hoefling, Kavajecz, and Stemwedel. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Coy. Motion carried by roll call voice vote.

7.02 Strategic Planning Update: Consider Approving Vision, Mission, Commitments

Motion by Burhans, second by Kavajecz to approve the Strategic Planning documents as presented. Roll call vote: Yes: Broderson, Burhans, Clauson, Hoefling, Kavajecz, and Stemwedel. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Coy. Motion carried by roll call voice vote.

7.03 Quarter Check-In: Fall Screening and Q1 Grades Update

Principal Simpson presented our assessment numbers. Our growth scores are improving and maintaining which shows the positive impact of what we've been doing. Also presented were 7-12 Q1

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D/F percentages.

7.04 District Report Card Presentation

Principal Simpson gave a presentation on the State Report Card. Our elementary achieved a rating of Exceeds Expectations and the 7-12 Meets Expectations.

7.05 Board Development Tool

The Board will be getting the tool soon via email.

8. Administrative & Other Reports

8.01 CESA 12 Delegate Report

- Met last night.
- Emphasis on learning more about Native American attendance in schools
- Sports summit 16 of 17 districts attended focusing on sports mental health concerns
- Information shared on the LEAD program
- Building lighting updates now and roof in spring, looking to add a conference room

8.02 Superintendent's Report

- Preconstruction meetings began today
- Fall break next week for students, staff in-service two days
- A consultant is coming to discuss classroom layouts with teachers

9. Upcoming Dates

9.01 Upcoming Dates

- December 9, 2025 Finance & Operations Committee Meeting at 4:30 pm
- December 3, 2025 Strategic Planning Committee Meeting from 8 am to 3 pm
- December 6, 2025 Education Foundation Fundraiser at Bell Town Hall from 6 pm to 9 pm
- December 10, 2025 Regular Board Meeting at 5:30 pm

10. Closed Session - The Board will Convene in Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85(1)(c) as Specified.

10.01 CLOSED SESSION: The Board will convene in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 19.85 (1)(c) Employee Compensation for Long-Term Substitute Compensation Request and Superintendent Goals and Mutual Expectations Quarterly Check-In

Motion by Hoefling, second by Burhans to adjourn to closed session at 7:15 pm pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 19.85 (1)(c) for Employee Compensation for Long-Term Substitute Compensation Request and Superintendent Goals and Mutual Expectations Quarterly Check-In. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. MEETING CLOSING

11.01 Adjournment

Adjourned at 7:34pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Kavajecz



JANUARY ACTIVITY CALENDAR

	Winter Break No School	Winter Break No School	Winter Break No School	1 New Year's Day Winter Break No School	2 No School for Students Staff In-Service Varsity BBB at Spooner Varsity GBB at Webster	3
4	5 BBB at Drummond	6 GBB at Drummond PTO Meeting	7 Finance & Operations Committee Meeting NWMA MS AC Choir at Ashland	8 BBB at Hurley	9 GBB at Hurley	10
11	12 BBB vs LCO at Home	13 GBB vs LCO at Home JV Canceled NWMA MS Band at Ashland	14	15 BBB at Mellen	16 2nd Quarter Ends GBB at Mellen MS Volleyball vs Solon Springs at Home	17
18	19 MS Volleyball vs Bayfield at Home	20 BBB vs Mercer at Home JV Canceled GBB vs Mercer at Home	21	22 GBB at Solon Springs MS Volleyball vs LCO at Home	23 BBB at Solon Springs	24
25	26 GBB at Bayfield	27 BBB at Bayfield MS Volleyball vs Drummond at Home	28 Regular Board Meeting	29 GBB vs Washburn at Home	30 BBB vs Washburn at Home	31

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PORT WING, WI 54865
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CAR-RT-SORT

DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

POSTAL CUSTOMER SOUTH SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Mission Statement
Connect. Empower. Soar.