

2026-2027 BACK-TO-SCHOOL MESSAGE FROM SUZANNE STELL

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your family have enjoyed a wonderful, relaxing summer filled with fun and lasting memories.

It's always exciting to watch Shelton transition from summer programs to a new school year. We welcomed students, teachers and staff to campus this week for Back-to-School Prep Week. Other students return Aug. 3 for football, cheer and volleyball practice; Aug. 6 for Chargerettes; Aug. 8 for Middle School football; Aug. 11 for cross country; and Aug. 13 for Middle School volleyball.

Before long, our entire campus will once again be together!

We want to share our plans for our back-to-school events, along with a few important details to help parents prepare for the beginning of the school year.

All Shelton parents are invited to attend a virtual Zoom parent orientation on Thursday, Aug. 13. The meeting will begin with a 15-minute welcome and orientation for parents of new students and parents whose children are new to a division.

- **Grades 5-8:** 5:30 p.m.: Zoom link
- **Grades EC-4:** 6:15 p.m.: Zoom link
- **Grades 9-12:** 7:00 p.m.: Zoom link

In addition, students entering ninth grade and all other students who are new to Upper School will attend **Upper School Orientation** on Monday, August 17, from 8:30–11:30 a.m.

We look forward to welcoming all students and parents to campus for our come-and-go **Meet the Advisor** on Tuesday, August 18:

- **Grades EC-4**: 9:00–10:30 a.m.
- **Grades 5-8**: 11:15 a.m.–12:45 p.m.
- **Grades 9-12**: 1:30–3:00 p.m.

The first day of school is Wednesday, August 19. Please contact your division office with any questions (Lower School, ext. 2246; Middle School, ext. 2259; Upper School, ext. 2272).

Everything you need to know about back-to-school at Shelton, including carpool information, is available on our Back-to-School page at this link.

Auditorium Update

Construction continues on Shelton's new auditorium, which is scheduled for completion in time for the 2027-2028 school year. In partnership with Hill & Wilkinson, we're building a state-of-the-art performance space that will serve Shelton students, families, staff and the broader community for generations to come.

The 10,400-square-foot auditorium will feature an 80-foot-wide, 30-foot-deep main stage, a 50-foot fly loft, an orchestra pit and sensory-friendly acoustics and lighting. Seating approximately 450 to 470 people, the facility will host school-wide assemblies, performances, lectures and community events. The project is made possible through the generosity of the

Leading the Way in Responsible AI for Students with Learning Differences

This summer, Shelton's Technology team formed an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Task Force made up of teachers from the Lower, Middle and Upper Schools to explore how emerging technologies can best support students with learning differences. The committee is developing recommendations that reflect Shelton's expertise in educating students with learning differences while prioritizing student learning, critical thinking, digital citizenship, privacy and the responsible use of AI. As AI continues to evolve, our faculty will thoughtfully evaluate new tools that enhance learning and support student growth, independence and success.

Looking Ahead: Henry Winkler Visits Shelton

We couldn't imagine a better way to conclude Shelton's yearlong 50th anniversary celebration than by welcoming Emmy Award-winning actor, producer, director and bestselling children's author **Henry Winkler** to campus on Sept. 14. Mr. Winkler will speak with our students, teachers and staff about overcoming dyslexia and learning differences through his program, "Overcoming Dyslexia and Learning Differences: Making It Your Superpower Like Hank Zipzer."

Mr. Winkler's story resonates deeply with the Shelton community. He has shared that he didn't discover he had dyslexia until age 31. Through his advocacy and bestselling *Hank Zipzer* books, he has inspired millions of children to see that learning differently is a strength. We're grateful to former Shelton parent **Cindy Ward** and Shelton alumna **Katy Ward** for making this special event possible in memory of **Bill Ward**, a devoted Shelton parent, longtime Board leader and champion of Shelton's mission.

Aerospace Engineer and Adventurer Meghan S. Buchanan to Inspire Shelton Community

This September, Shelton is excited to welcome **Meghan S. Buchanan**, a neurodivergent aerospace engineer, adventure athlete, author and keynote speaker. Diagnosed with dyslexia and ADHD at age 7, Ms. Buchanan has turned challenges into extraordinary achievements, becoming the first rocket scientist to summit the world's Seven Summits. She is now pursuing her goal of becoming the first U.S. woman to complete the Adventurers Grand Slam by climbing the Seven Summits and completing unsupported expeditions to the North and South poles.

Ms. Buchanan will speak with Shelton students on Sept. 24, lead professional learning for teachers on Sept. 25 and serve as a keynote speaker at Shelton's Embracing Neurodiversity Conference on Sept. 26. Through her GGRIT™ framework — Gratitude, Growth, Resilience, Integrity and Tenacity — she empowers individuals and teams to transform obstacles into opportunities and pursue lives of purpose and possibility.

Security & Volunteer Information

The safety of our students remains our highest priority. **Bob Sherman**, our Director of Campus Safety & Security, holds a Master Peace Officer certification and served for 30 years with the Burleson Police Department. Shelton has three Shelton security staff members, one Dallas police officer and eight D&L Security officers providing 24/7 coverage.

This year, Shelton is further enhancing campus security with the addition of a new security booth at the Summerside entrance, funded through the generosity of our wonderful Shelton Parents' Association.

At Shelton, there are two types of volunteer and visitor roles: High Contact and Low Contact.

- High Contact volunteers may supervise or work directly with students (such as Corral volunteers, coaches or outside tutors) and are required to complete a short online application at this link and pass a background check.
- Low Contact roles (such as class party helpers or visitors attending a scheduled meeting) only require a photo ID to be scanned at the front desk. For more information about Shelton's volunteer and visitor policy, click this link.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to maintain a safe and secure environment for all Shelton students.

Summer at Shelton

Summer is a busy time at Shelton. Our staff finalized records from the past school year and planned for teacher in-service, summer school and the 2026–2027 school year.

- **Summer, The Shelton Way** had 810 students, supported by 76 teachers, 18 assistants and two volunteers.
- **The Shelton Scholars Program** served 90 students, with an additional 20 participating through our partnership with St. Philip's School.
- **The Shelton Speech Center** hosted Language Adventures and Articulation Adventures camps.
- **The Shelton Evaluation Center** served students clients from all over the United States as well as from the DFW metroplex.
- **Shelton Outreach & Training** continued to expand its impact during the 2025-2026 school year, credentialing 200 adult learners in the Montessori and Multisensory Language Education (MSLE) programs, presenting at conferences and workshops that reached more than 1,500 educators and professionals and earning recertification of its SARA and SALA training centers through the International Multisensory Language Education Council.

Staff In-Service Training
We're excited to welcome our new staff members, who begin in-service on August 3. Our returning faculty members will also be back on that day to prepare for the year ahead.

We look forward to a great year ahead!

Go Chargers!

Sincerely,



Suzanne Stell
Shelton Executive Director