
SHERRARD C.U.S.D. 200



2026 STATE OF THE DISTRICT

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION BY: SUPERINTENDENT DR. CARL JOHNSON



Introduction

In this State of the District Report, I will review the events of the preceding calendar year and share my analysis of various aspects of our school district. These aspects include district finances, the staff, the students, our academic programs, facilities and transportation. I am proud to continue recognizing the long history and traditions of success and achievement of the Sherrard School District!

Warm regards,

Dr. Carl Johnson
Superintendent,
Sherrard CUSD #200

2025-26 Summary - Things to Note

District Level News:

- For the seventh year in a row (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025), Sherrard received "Recognition Level" for its Financial Profile Rating given by the Illinois State Board of Education, the highest attainable (see attachment).
- The issue of General Obligation Refunding School Bonds will be paid off in 10 years. The District is far below borrowing capacity, resulting in a more favorable financial rating.
- With the assistance of the district's auditing firm Bohnsack and Frommelt LLC, the district continues to strengthen its internal controls, eliminating past repeated findings.
- The district's Bullying Plan continues to be followed, with an informational video produced and posted online. The Plan is revised bi-annually.
- Logo Refresh: The district unveiled a new tiger mascot logo last year to represent its strength, unity, and commitment to excellence.
- All seven Board members and the superintendent attended the annual Board Convention in Chicago. Recognized as one of the nation's largest state education conferences, the Joint Annual Conference is an excellent training event for school board members, administrators, and business officials. Our District presented at last year's conference in November as well!
- The caretakers of the Lowell N. Johnson Charitable Foundation again gave our district \$18,500 to be used by the K-6 buildings for equipment and supplies
- In what has become a tremendous display of generosity, the Looser Flake Charitable Foundation Board again granted our district funds for education and technology-related purchases. The following is a brief description of the items that were obtained with grant money.
 - This year we received \$27,000 to be used for updating our technology & curriculum for all students and \$7600 for new Band equipment.
 - Over the past five years, this generous contribution has totaled over \$530,000 for Technology, Innovation and Curriculum!
- The Veterans Day Ceremony hosted at the Sherrard High School was well-attended with every building in attendance, veterans as honored guests and community members.
 - Students from across the district honored veterans through performance - singing patriotic songs, band students played, a patriotic display by the art club and video created and produced by STV media students. Elementary students contributed patriotic drawings on the back of programs as a 'thank you' to Veterans. Community members sent in messages of appreciation shown in a slideshow on the scoreboard.
 - Speakers were U.S. Representative Eric Sorensen and Captain John Robertson, U.S. Army 1968–1972.

- Media coverage included QC Times, WQAD Local 4 News, and WHBF TV.
- 78 Veterans attended, of those 62 pre-registered, the majority had related students seated with them.
- Tiger Talent recipients each month were honored with a video produced and aired during school board meetings. Their colleagues and students were interviewed on camera and spoke on their behalf about their qualities that set them apart. Recipients were:
 - Aug.- HS-Erin DeKeyrel; Sep -JH-Haylie Selhost; Oct. -MV-Steve Miller; Nov.-SGS - Deb Spengler; Dec.-WGS-Melanie Flickinger; Jan.-HS Lori Arnold; Feb.-Cindy Pope-JH; Mar. -MV Christy Pagett; Apr. -SGS-Allyson Williamson; May-WGS-Reshea Lawson
- Kindergarten videos for Winola and Sherrard Elementary were created and shown during their open houses to help both students and parents feel more confident and excited as they begin this next chapter.
- The BHASED Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) program continues to be hosted by Sherrard, with elementary students at Winola and intermediate students at Matherville.

Communications Via Social Media

Link to Year In Review- <https://youtu.be/pYsdBV5e2YY>

- The Year in Review mailer campaign combined direct mail and digital engagement to highlight district achievements. 10,001 mailers arrived in mailboxes end of April, directing recipients to a dedicated landing page featuring a 13:44-minute video highlighting features and accomplishments from March 2025 through April 2026, along with links to notable sports accomplishments and district stories from throughout the year. The landing page received 284 views from 154 active users, with an average engagement time of approximately 2 minutes.
 - The video received 190 views on YouTube, with 18 hours of total watch time. Viewers watched an average of 5:43, or 41.6% of the 13:44-minute video.
 - The campaign reached families and shared district accomplishments with the community through both print and digital platforms.
 - -The Landing page has a compilation of feature stories and full coverage from throughout the school year, found at <https://www.sherrard.us/departments/communications/year-in-review>.
- Wrestling Program Promotion: A 5½-minute video created to highlight the wrestling program for Alumni Wrestling Night, titled "*Sherrard Wrestling: A Legacy of Dedication and Honor*," was shown as part of a ceremonial singlet retirement ceremony in January. Interviews featured Coach Jeff Garrett, several current and former wrestlers, and Superintendent Dr. Johnson. The video has reached 102,000 views across YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram to date.
- Social Media Reach: A short 42-second 2025 Homecoming kickoff video featuring Assistant Principal Andrea Cooper and Principal Alex Johnson participating in a student cheer/dance has generated significant community engagement, reaching 2.4 million views on Instagram and 101,000 views on Facebook to date.
- Media Coverage & Student Achievement: 2026 graduate Ava Egel's acceptance to the United States Military Academy at West Point, the first female and only the second Sherrard High School student in 40 years to earn the opportunity, generated coverage from WQAD, KWQC, WHBF, WRMJ Radio, and the Quad-City Times.
- Feature Story & Media Engagement: A feature story highlighting the Hitchcock family's gift of kindergarten light tables in memory of longtime Sherrard Elementary kindergarten teacher Carolyn Hitchcock in February brought attention to the lasting impact of her 40-plus years of service and the hands-on learning opportunities provided to students. The story was covered by WQAD and WRMJ Radio.

Communications Via Social Media

Facebook

- Followers: 4.7K (+36% YoY)
Approximately 3.6 times the district's 1,300 students, representing an audience nearly 262% larger than district enrollment.
- Content Interactions/Engagement: 314,514 (+65.1% YoY)
- Profile Visits: 127,577 (+6.9% YoY)
- Video Views:
 - 3-second views: 326,231 (+450% YoY)
 - 1-minute views: 22,474 (+342% YoY)
- Total Watch Time: 106 days, 12 hours (+425% YoY)

Instagram

- Followers: 1,339 (+11.5% YoY)
Now slightly exceeds the district's approximately 1,300 students.
- Views: 2.9 million (+1,187.5% YoY)
- Reach: 1 million (+3,965% YoY)

Top posts combined:

- -Ava Egel Makes History - West Point Accepted: 62,605 views, 725 likes
- -One Final Walk Through the Years: 29.4k views, 556 likes
- (Facebook only) 1st Semester Honor Roll Announced!: 26.1k views, 118 likes
- -25-26 Sherrard HS Signing Day!: 24.1k views, 301 likes

Key Takeaways:

- Facebook followers continue to exceed district enrollment, showing strong community engagement and continued audience growth.
- Instagram experienced dramatic growth in reach and total views, significantly expanding the district's visibility beyond its follower base.
- Video content continues to perform strongly, with major increases in both short-form views and total watch time on Facebook, while Instagram content generated 2.9 million views.

Facilities Related

- The District was again approved for a \$50,000 School Maintenance Grant
- After a busy year of construction last year, things finally slowed down this year but still included major steps forwards:
 - Courtyard paving project: patio & paving completed
 - New LED lighting throughout the district
 - Double electronic locks for all front access points at the 5 schools
 - LED lamps in district gyms
 - Gym 1 floor refinish
 - Installation of new bell/paging system at SHS/SJrHS, replacing 1970s system
 - We have numbered all doors and outside and inside to improve safety measures
 - New Curtains for the Auditorium
 - In the process of updating security cameras. It should be completed by the start of 2027-28 school year.
 - Established a history of Sherrard exhibit in the high school library
 - New Discus & Batting Cages

Staff Related

- The administrators have continued promoting staff wellness and appreciation. These initiatives have been used extensively for improving the District's climate and culture, a need determined by staff survey.

- On the last staff attendance day, everyone was allowed to leave 3 hours early if they donated \$5 for each hour. We raised over \$1300! The money was donated to the academic foundation.
- The following staff members retired in May, 2026:
- Melanie Flickenger (Winola)
- Beth Ryan (Winola)
- Sanya Boucher (SHS)
- Lori Arnold (SHS)
- Tom Thompson (SHS)
- Teresa Boraas (SHS)

Curriculum & Student Related

- Elementary
 - Exact Path curriculum by Edmentum is in year 2 of implementation. This is a differentiated, personalized learning platform where students enhance their skills based on Illinois learning standards while learning at their own pace at their own level regardless of the current grade in school. Exact Path is now being implemented at the JrHS as well.
 - Our Amplify ELA curriculum is in its second year of implementation as well. Based on the science of reading, it represents a huge step forward in both vertical & horizontal curriculum integration.
 - Both WGS and SGS have many students participating in local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts Troops
 - MV, WGS, & SGS students were treated to an assembly from Canadian traditionalist music trio Cecilia as a featured ensemble in the Quad Cities Arts Visiting Artist Series
- SHS
 - Adopted the language from the I LOVE YOU GUYS foundation for emergency situations.
 - Reestablished school assemblies to promote school pride and recognize students and club members for their efforts.
 - We hosted a Club Fair to start the year to continue to promote student involvement. We had nearly 75% of students participate in at least one activity
 - SHS Illinois State Scholars: Grace Bohnert, Michaela Brown, David Browning, Victoria Browning, Aliza Dominique, Jackson Jones, Megan Mackin, Quinn O'Donnell, Sierra Slavish, Grace Tucker, Joseph (Ryder) Veronda
 - Hosted the 2026 Academic Achievement night with the help of the Sherrard Education Foundation we were able to give several scholarships to various department winners.
 - Hosted the Tiger Impact Awards to recognize students for hard work, great attendance and/or participating in 3 sports. The event was a schoolwide assembly with positive results
 - IPA Awards winners - Jackson Jones and Mackenzie Volkert
 - 2 students received a score of 5 on AP testing. This is the most test scores with 5 on AP testing in Sherrard history. Our students also took 108 exams the most in Sherrard history (We took 95 exams in 2025)
 - NHS reports the highest number of volunteer hours in recent history during the 25-26 school year.
 - Created a Grow Your Own Teacher Prep program to help our students gain experience in the field of Education
 - Established a new Dual Credit course, Political Science, that will be taught by Sherrard teachers.
 - We have hired a new Agriculture teacher with a background in plant science to help utilize our green house more.

- The STV production has now become a credit-bearing course. They will continue to do morning announcements, but also will have time to teach the technology to students to grow the program.
- We were able to fill many positions last year including Spanish, Physics, Art and a Librarian. We currently need two special education teachers, but are fully staffed besides that which includes paras, bus drivers, cooks and custodians.
- Brian Adams received Coach of the Year honors for Strength and Conditioning by the NHSSCA.
- End of year staff survey
 - Staff report they experienced great classes with positive student behavior, strong engagement, academic growth, and meaningful connections.
 - Staff report fewer disciplinary issues in class.
 - Staff report building stronger rapport and trust with coworkers that facilitates better collaboration as well as gratitude for a fun work environment.
- SJrHS
 - Implemented a homeroom period at the beginning of the school day to help our students focus on executive functioning skills. A big piece of that was an implementation filling out daily student planners.
 - Along with the high school, we implemented a weekly advisory period. We split our focus between enrichment opportunities, required drills, and staff directed activities.
 - Year 2 of MTSS process for ELA and Math
 - Math - 21 students increased by an average of 6.13 RIT points.
 - ELA - 23 students increased by an average of 5.825 RIT points
 - Honor Roll
 - 1st semester Honor Roll - 62 High Honor Roll - 30
 - 2nd semester Honor Roll - 72 High Honor Roll - 32
 - 7th Grade Science Field Trip to Nahant Marsh donated by a community member
 - 2 different career exploration trips
 - Year 2 of Leadership Development Program and FCA
 - Prairieland Conference Leadership Award - John Churchill and Kenzie Gross
 - Illinois Principal's Association Leadership Award - Alaina Volkert and John Churchill
 - Illinois Elementary School Association Scholar Attitude Nominee - Alaina Volkert
 - Started an end of the year award ceremony to recognize department awards, attendance, and other accomplishments. Each teacher nominated 2 students. One was supposed to be the most valuable class member, while the other was supposed to be the one that has shown the most growth throughout the year.
 - Added a seventh grade registration night to help answer questions about transitioning to the junior high.
 - JH PFit created a top 10 list and records for both vertical jump and flying 10, giving our students a goal to target.

SHS Extracurriculars

Band

- 13 TRAC Festival All Conference Students
- Marching Band – 2nd Place at Dunlap Marching Invitational, Best Visual Caption at Geneseo Marching Invitational
- ILMEA District Band Members:

- High School: Alex Serre, David Hergert, Lillian Estes, Kyden Vestal
- Junior High: Katelyn Slavish
- o John Phillips Sousa Band Award Winner -- Grace Tucker
- o Louis Armstrong Jazz Award Winner -- Cyndylou Rosales
- o Solo & Ensemble Contest Results:
- o 20 Division 1 Ratings, 9 Division 2 Ratings, and 2 Division 3 Ratings (For Band & Choir events total)
- o Best of Day Awards:
 - o Brennan Cresap, Drew Buckwalter, Garrett Gleason (Instrumental Trio)
 - o Grace Tucker (Bell Solo)

IHSA Organizational Contest Results: Division I Rating for Concert Band

Choir

- o 8 TRAC Festival All Conference Students
 - o ILMEA All State District Choir Selections
 - o 2 high school students -- Mackenzie Volkert and Vivian Shivers
 - o 4 junior high students -- Alaina Volkert, Delaney Whelchel, Ava Cornell, & Henry Ahrens
- IHSA Organizational Contest Results: Division 2 Rating for Concert Choir

FFA

- **Section 3 Ag Education CDE:**
 - o Hannah Schmidt, Colbie Parrish
- **Section 3 Ag Sales CDE:**
 - o Hannah Schmidt, Mason Vogt, Cooper Thomas, Olivia Speck
- **Section 3 Job Interview CDE:**
 - o Cooper Thomas, Olivia Speck
- **Section 3 Agronomy:**
 - o Varsity Team placed 3rd (Muireann Zippe, William Ahrens, Hannah Schmidt) - 3rd overall team
 - o Muireann Zippe - 8th overall individual
 - o William Ahrens - 9th overall individual

Section 3 Horse Judging:

- o Reasons Division Team: Kylie Williams, Kaylee Conner, Lacey Gardner, Hannah Flynn -1st place
- o Kylie Williams - 1st overall individual
- o Non-Reasons Division Team: Maddy Moran, Colbie Parrish, Morgan Little, Miley Baker - 2nd place
- o Maddy Moran - 3rd place individual
- o Colbie Parrish - 4th place individual
- Middle School Division Team: Caleb Thompson, Adelyn Spicer, Jocelyn Erickson, Paige Hollins
- Miley Moore - 1st place
 - o Caleb Thompson - 1st place individual
 - o Adelyn Spicer - 2nd place individual
 - o Jocelyn Erickson - 3rd place individual
 - o Paige Hollins - 7th place individual
 - o Miley Moore - 8th place individual

State Horse Judging:

- Reasons Division Team: Kaylee Conner, Kiley Williams, Hannah Flynn, Lacey - 3rd overall team, Kaylee Conner 4th place individual
 - Non-Reasons Division Team: Colbie Parrish, Maddy Moran, Morgan Little, Miley Baker - 1st overall team, Colbie Parrish - 4th overall individual
 - Middle School Division Team: Jocelyn Erickson, Miley Moore, Paige Hollins, Caleb Thompson - 4th overall team

- o Jocelyn Erickson - 4th overall individual

Section 3 Vet Science:

- Lacey Gardner, Lillie Estes, Maddy Moran, Miley Baker, Morgan Little - 4th overall team
 - o Lacey Gardner - 8th overall individual

- o Greenhand Team: Colbie Parrish - 4th overall individual

Livestock Judging:

- o Varsity Team: Aliyah McRae, Allison Ziegenhorn, Mason Vogt, Morgan Little - 15th overall team
 - JV Team: Cooper Thomas, Hannah Schmidt, Maxx Starcevich – 40th Overall team

Middle School Rally

- Animal Systems – 3rd team overall – Jocelyn Erickson, Miley Moore, Zoey Shafer

Welding:

- Welding Team took 1st place at the Black Hawk welding contest for the 5th consecutive year.
 - o 6 Sherrard welders in the top 10
 - o Maxx Starcevich was the top individual overall.

Ag Mechanics:

Ag Mechanics team was placed first at the section contest for the 4th straight year and placed 2nd in the State competition. They will be competing in the National Competition in October.

- Carpentry, Will Ahrens and Lillie Estes placed 1st and 2nd
- Ag Power, Landen Logue placed 3rd
- Welding, Dillan Vermost placed 2nd
- Electrical, Asher Stanley placed 2nd
- Surveying, Lacey Gardner placed 1st

Athletics

- 58 All Conference 1st Team
- 44 All Conference 2nd Team
- 17 All Conference Honorable Mention
- All State Honors:
 - Carter Brown – All State Football Honorable Mention
 - Carter Brown – All State Basketball 3rd Team IBCA (Illinois Basketball Coaches Association)
 - Adalynn Elsbury – All State Basketball 3rd Team IBCA
 - Makenzy Moran – All State Softball 2nd Team Catcher ISCA (Illinois Softball Coaches Association)
 - Makensie Westfall – All State Softball 3rd Team Pitcher ISCA
 - Aliza Dominique – All State Track – Pole Vault
 - Sadie Shemek – All State Track – Discus
 - Khloe Kunz – All State Track – Pole Vault
 - Anna Churchill – All State Track – 800m run
 - Cami Anderson, Sophia Bradarich, Piper Russell, Khloe Kunz – All State Track – 4x400m Relay

Boys Cross Country - Conference champions, IHSA Regional Meet Champions

- Alex Belha – TRAC Meet Individual runner up.
- Boys Team Qualified for Sectionals
- Boys Team State Qualifier; Boys team 20th of 30 at State Meet
Qualifiers: Alex Belha, David Browning, Luke Anderson, Payton Summers, Dominic Fahrenkrog, Braiden Krah, Mason Schnell
- Girls Cross Country - Conference champions
 - Anna Churchill – TRAC Meet Individual Champion
 - Girls Team Qualified for Sectionals
 - State Qualifier: Anna Churchill

- Girls Golf – 3rd place at Conference, 5th at Regionals
- Boys Golf – Elias Gaul 9th at Regionals, and a Sectional qualifier
- Boys Soccer – 3rd place in Conference
 - All Conference 2nd Team Chase Laird
 - All Conference Honorable Mention: Kaden Dutton
 - All Conference Honorable Mention Goal Keeper: Gavin Cottrell
- Volleyball
 - Conference Record 7-3
 - All Conference 1st team – Grace Bohnert, Jasmyn McCray
 - All Conference 2nd team – Adalynn Elsbury
 - All Conference Honorable Mention – Jaeci Leffel
- Boys Basketball
 - Won TRAC West Conference 8-2
 - All State IBCA – Carter Brown 3rd Team
 - Carter Brown Iowa/Illinois All Star Game Selection
 - Ryder Veronda Iowa/Illinois All Star Game Selection
- Girls Basketball
 - Conference record: 8-2
 - State Farm Holiday Classic Consolation Champions
 - Adalynn Elsbury – State Farm Holiday Classic All-Tournament team selection, 1000+ career points, Set the school record for assists with 10 in one game, set school record for 3 pointers made in a game with 8. Iowa/Illinois Senior All Star Game Selection.
 - Adalynn Elsbury. – IBCA All State 3rd Team
- Wrestling
 - Kaden Dutton, Kylie Mathis– **State Alternate Qualifier**
 - 1st team All Conference Girls: Sophia Bradarich, Kylie Mathis
 - 2nd Team All Conference Boys: Andrew Knox, Kaden Dutton, Gideon Heist, Cooper Thomas, Johnathon Weakley
 - Honorable Mention Boys: Aidan Eads, Quinn Zimmerman
- Baseball
 - TRAC West Conference 5th Place
 - 2nd Team Pitcher – Eli Matson
 - Honorable Mention Catcher – Gavin Burton
- Softball
 - Conference Finish 2-7
 - All Conference 1st team: Makenzy Moran, Makensie Westfall, Alexis Essary
 - All Conference 2nd Team: Kaylee Faccio, Marisa Neels, Ava Stanley Madison Woodward
- Honorable Mention – Jozlyn Kuffler
- Boys Track and Field
 - All Conference 1st team:
 - David Browning - 3200m run
 - Cooper Thomas - Shot Put
 - Jack Schar, Lane Luxmore, Landon Clark, Gideon Heist - 4 x 100m Relay
 - Braiden Krahll, Land Luxmore, Jack Schar, Gideon Heist - 4 x 200m Relay
 - All Conference 2nd Team:
 - Braiden Krahll - 200m
 - Luke Anderson, Payton Summers - 800m Run
 - Alex Belha, David Browning – 1600m Run
 - Javin Jones – 110m High Hurdles
 - Luke Anderson, Gavin Cervantes, Hunter Shemek, Andrew Knox – 4 x 800m Relay
 - Gideon Heist, Luke Anderson, Payton Summers, Andrew Knox – 4 x 400m Relay

- Ethan Turner – Discus
 - Evan Zentic – Pole Vault
 - Jack Schar – High Jump
 - Brennan Cresap – Triple Jump
- State Qualifiers
 - David Browning – 1600m run
 - Cooper Thomas- Shot Put
 - Jack Schar – High Jump
 - Payton Summers- 800m run
 - Luke Anderson, Gavin Cervantes, Hunter Shemek, Andrew Knox – 4 x 800m Relay
- Girls Track and Field
 - 6th Conference Title in a row
 - All Conference 1st team:
 - Aliza Dominique – Pole Vault
 - Khloe Kunz – Pole Vault
 - Sadie Shemek – Discus
 - Jasmine McDaniel – Discus
 - Kiera Shillinger – Shot Put
 - Sophia Bradarich- Long Jump
 - Maysie Hubbs – Triple Jump
 - Khloe Kunz – 300m Hurdles
 - Piper Russell – 400m Dash
 - Anna Churchill – 800m Run
 - Cami Anderson, Sophia Bradarich, Aliza Dominique, Piper Russel – 4x100m Relay
 - Cami Anderson, Aliza Dominique, Sophia Bradarich, Anna Churchill – 4 x 400m Relay
 - All Conference 2nd Team:
 - Ava Graves – Triple Jump
 - Piper Russel – 100m Dash
 - Maysie Hubbs – 300m Hurdles
 - Tori Browning – 3200m Run
 - Cami Anderson, McKenzie Locke, Aliza Dominique, Sophia Bradarich – 4x200m Relay
 - Anna Churchill, Kammie Swanson, Kalia Ray, Glory Wakeland – 4x800m Relay
 - All Conference- Honorable Mention
 - Cami Anderson – High Jump
 - Ava Graves – 100m Hurdles
 - Piper Russell – 200m Dash
 - Tori Browning – 1600m Run
 - Tori Browning – 3200m Run
 - 1st Place at 1A Sectional Meet
 - 7th of 79 at State
 - State Qualifiers
 - Cami Anderson – High Jump, 4x100 relay, 4 x 200 relay 4x400 relay (4 yr state qualifier)
 - Sophia Bradarich - 4x100 relay, 4x400 relay (1 yr state qualifier)
 - Tori Browning – 4x800 relay (2 yr state qualifier)
 - Anna Churchill – 800m run, 1600m run, 4 X 800 Relay, 4x400 relay (3 yr state qualifier)
 - Aliza Dominique – Pole Vault, 4x100 relay, 4 x 200 relay 4x400 relay (4 yr state qualifier)
 - Kylie Mathis – 4x800 Relay (2 yr state qualifier)
 - Jasmine McDaniel – Discus (2 yr state qualifier)

- Piper Russell - 4x100 relay, 4 x 200 relay 4x400 relay (1 yr state qualifier)
 - Sadie Shemek – Discus (2 yr state qualifier)
 - Kammie Swanson- 4x800 relay (1 yr state qualifier)
 - Ava Graves - 4x800 relay (1 yr state qualifier)
- State Medalists
 - Pole Vault – Aliza Dominique
 - Discus – Sadie Shemek
 - Pole Vault – Khloe Kunz
 - 800m Run – Anna Churchill
 - 4x400 Relay – Cami Anderson, Sophia Bradarich, Piper Russell, Khloe Kunz
- Girls Soccer
 - Season Record – 21-5
 - Conference Champions 4-0
 - All- Sectional Awards
 - All-Sectional: Adalynn Elsbury
 - All Sectional Honorable Metntion: Tegan Butler
 - All-Sectional Academic: Alyssa Layer
 - All- Sectional: Violet Fiers

SJrHS Student Extracurriculars

Brought back the JH play. We had 12 junior high students that participated and 4 high school student directors that helped with the 4 one act plays.

ILMEA State Choir - Delaney Whelchel, Henry Ahrens, Alaina Volkert, and Ava Cornell

IESA Organizational - Chorus and Concert Band Division 1 Ratings

IESA Solo and Ensemble - 2 best of the day awards - Alaina Volkert and Henry Ahrens

JH FFA - Middle School Horse Judging Team 4th in State - Team consisted of Jocelyn Erickson, Miley Moore, and Paige Hollins and Caleb Thompson. All four finished in the top 25.

Athletics:

7th Grade Girls Basketball IESA Class 3A Regional Champions

8th Grade Boys Basketball IESA Class 3A Regional Champions

IESA Wrestling

- Hudson King 2nd place
- Oliver Heist - SQ
- IKWF Wrestling
- Eliza Gustafson - 2nd Place
- Lainey Lowery - 8th Place
- Audrey Foster - 4th Place

IESA Track and Field

- 8th Grade Girls 4x100 Relay (SQ) - Kenzie Gross, Zoey Brooks, Delaney Whelchel, Ainsley Groth
- 7th Grade Boys 4x100 Relay (SQ) - Tony Morgan, Raul Bautista, Miles Christian, & Cody Spreit
- 8th Grade Boys 4x100 Relay (5th) - Oliver Heist, Dirks McLaughlin, Ari Wates, & Dominic Brown
- Oliver Heist 8th Boys 100m Dash (SQ)
- Kenzie Gross 8th Girls 100m and 200m Dash (SQ)
- River Ploog 8th Girls 100 M Hurdles (8th)
- Bryce Zentic 7th Boys Shot Put (SQ)

Community Resources/Partnerships:

- Grants and Funding
 - Lowell Johnson Charitable Foundation
 - Sherrard Academic Foundation
 - Looser-Flake Charitable Foundation
- Sherrard Booster Club
- Area Fire Departments
 - Supporting fire drills and safety awareness
- Libraries
 - SG: Library director attends/presents at Career Day and hosts 1st grade Field Trip (EOY)
- Y Before and After School Care Program
 - Continued AM/PM availability at SGS
- Ag in the Classroom
 - Monthly presentations for 2nd grade students and end of the year horse visit
 - 2nd Grade field trip to ACE Camp
- Junior Achievement
 - Connected with multiple classrooms throughout the district to provide financial literacy instruction
- Mercer County Historical Society
 - 4th grade Field Trip, Lincoln poster contest
- Health:
 - Dental Bus (ToothMobile) visiting district during Spring
- 16 local business, groups, and clubs donated to Matherville's Turkey Bingo event. We had another packed house.
- 17 community organizations had a table at the Matherville Community Night providing resources and information to our families.

Transportation Related

- The Board approved the purchase of a new full size bus, two SUVs and a Mini-Van for a total of \$258,572
- The District purchased & continues to implement StopFinder transportation software. The features of the new software include GPS systems on all buses and an app allowing parents to see schedules and get notifications when the route is near their stop.

Finance Related

- The district's finances continue to be strong. As mentioned in the "Things to Note" section above, the Illinois State Board of Education again gave the district its highest Financial Profile Rating with a score of 3.9. (See attachments)
- Prior to purchasing district bonds, Sherrard obtained a rating from Standard and Poor's. This favorable AA-/Stable rating allowed us to attract more investors, giving us a lower interest rate for the bonds.
- The District's operating expense per pupil is \$14,362.
- The Preschool For All Grant included a one-time increase of \$28,392
- Investment Funds- Interest rates for the district Money Market and CDs were renegotiated to capture a maximum amount of revenue, exceeding \$2,000,000 over the past five years.

Final Analysis

Academic Analysis

Our district, from the Pre-K level to the high school has a wonderful, broad array of classes and experiences for our students. I feel we must continue to find ways for partnerships and pathways for our students through vocational courses, fine arts courses, high academic courses, and business-related courses. Our most significant challenge is to overcome the teacher shortage/vacancy issues that we are facing, particularly at the secondary levels. This will increase at the secondary level through attrition and demand. We will continue to seek out the new teachers who are able to provide our students with the quality education Sherrard has always provided.

The addition of a K-6 curriculum coordinator is showing dividends tremendous. Steve Miller is starting his 4th year in a dual-role of instructional technology and curriculum. Under his guidance the district has been transitioning to consistent, effective, research based means to increase K-6 student achievement. Our instructional technology is phenomenal for a district this size and our IT framework is being upgraded to ensure we are ready for the future.

- New fiber lines are currently in place and operating between the high school and all other buildings in the district.
- Ongoing upgrades to technology infrastructure in terms of new switches, battery backups, and servers continues, with an estimated \$300,000 in upgrades over the next 3 years.
- IT support is now 2 full-time employees.

We have made continuous improvement of technology a goal and continue to offer any and all professional development needed to staff to ensure we take advantage of advances.

Student Analysis

- Sherrard low income average was 30.1% – the state's low income average 50%
- Sherrard students with IEPs 10% - the state average is 16.3%
- Sherrard drop-out rate is under 3% - state's drop-out rate 3%
- Sherrard student chronic absenteeism is 14.8% – State chronic absenteeism is 25.4%
- Our student demographics are relatively stable and the vast majority of the students are compliant, hard-working and well-behaved.
- Student enrollment is still declining, particularly this past year.

Staffing Analysis

- Sherrard student to teacher ratio elementary 22:1 – state's ratio 17:1
- Sherrard student to teacher ratio high school 12:1 – state's ratio 17:1
- Sherrard average teacher salary \$59,145
- Sherrard teachers with master's degree 42%
- Sherrard teacher retention rate 89.3% - state's average 89.5%
- This is the 3rd year of a 3-year contract with the SEA.
- The teacher shortage issue is nationwide and will likely continue to worsen in the coming years. Illinois has been impacted less than our neighboring states for a variety of reasons, but we are still feeling the effects.
- Sherrard was selected to be a participant in a Teacher Vacancy Grant Pilot program due to our number of open positions. This is definitely having an impact, as we have improved to the state average in this category.

Transportation Analysis

- Like most districts in America, we continue to have a critical shortage of substitute bus drivers.
- Our bus fleet is in good working order and the cycle for replacing buses is adequate. Our "non-bus" fleet has been substantially upgraded over the past 3 years as well.
- We continue to replace two buses per year, rotating out the most worn in our fleet.
- The finances for the transportation department are solid.

Facilities Analysis

Our district contains excellent buildings that are among the best in the area! The Board has made a commitment to the community to work towards provide the very best opportunities and it certainly shows in our facilities. Over my 1st two years here, the \$14,000,000 repair, renovation, and expansion project is a testament to this commitment. Many more smaller projects have been completed, with more projects are on the horizon!

Maintaining the facilities has been a focal point of the district as well. Our maintenance team and outside contractors have teamed up to make sure our top-notch facilities stay that way! Ken Hoffman with Outdoor Innovations has done an incredible job maintaining the landscaping. The District has also worked to keep the parking lots freshly sealed and striped within a rotating schedule.

Future projects to consider include: ceiling tiles & metal grid work need to be replaced in most buildings; the playground equipment at Winola needs some work; Matherville needs a bigger parking lot; our district could use always use another heated storage building; the parking in front of the high school needs to be expanded; the SHS Courtyard project is one step closer to reality as well.

Finance Analysis

Property value (EAV) in the district continues to increase, albeit at a less intense pace than the last few years, but still results in strong property tax revenue. Due to this increase in EAV, the Board has been able to lower the tax rates. To a certain extent, that makes our district even more attractive when compared to other local districts. Given the educator shortage and recruitment challenges, we will likely need to maintain it so that we can meet these financial challenges that are sure to come in the future.

Revenues are stable right now both due to the EAV situation and the Evidence Based Funding System created by the state of Illinois. However, the past shows us that strong revenues will not last. Inevitably, the District will be forced to implement budget reduction measures. If we fail to plan for this while times are good, we risk the wonderful things that have been accomplished with our collective efforts. The district will need to maintain cash reserves to ensure finances are somewhat “cushioned” against tough times.

Closing Remarks

The Sherrard School District has been placed in an excellent spot by the Board of Education and its solid financial leadership. As a product of this very school system, I have a sense of pride and responsibility that goes much farther than my job title.

We have a phenomenal community, staff and Board of Education; I feel that the continued support from the community is what sets us apart from many districts in the state. In short, we are entrusted by the community to make it a better place each and every day. When I was given the opportunity to lead this district, I thought my professional dream had come true. Working with this community for three years has proven that statement true!

While our District faces many difficult realities present in today's educational world, I have complete faith we will not just survive, but thrive. My unwavering, overarching goal is to enhance the district and make it impossible for anyone else in the area to ignore; when new families come to this area, we are working to guarantee the Sherrard District to be the first and final place they look.

Attachment 1

Financial Profile Score

The Illinois State Board of Education has developed the School District Financial Profile to help monitor the finances of school districts and identify which are moving toward financial difficulty. Five indicators are individually scored and weighted in order to arrive at a Total Profile Score. The results are slotted into a category of a four, three, two or one with four being the highest and best category possible.

Since 2003, Sherrard has received the "Recognition" designation in all but three years (2005, 2006, 2009) when we received the "Review" designation. The score range for "Recognition" is 3.54-4.00. Our FY25 score was 3.90. We have received a perfect score (4.0) on six occasions (2011, 2012, 2013, 2019, 2020, 2021). The score is based on five criteria:

Indicators

1. Fund Balance to Revenue Ratio – The result of dividing the ending fund balances by the revenues for the Ed, O&M, Transportation and Working Cash funds.
2. Expenditure to Revenue Ratio – Computed by dividing total expenditures for the Ed, O&M and Transportation funds plus Working Cash.
3. Days Cash on Hand – The number of days a district could meet operating expenditures provided no additional revenues were received.
4. Percent of Short-Term Borrowing Ability Remaining – The sum of unpaid Tax Anticipation Warrants divided by 85% of the EAV multiplied by the tax rates for the Ed, O&M and Transportation funds.
5. Percent of Long-Term Debt Margin Remaining – The District's EAV multiplied by its maximum general obligation debt limitation, reduced by any outstanding long-term debt.

Financial Profile Designation

Financial Recognition (highest rating)	3.54 – 4.0
Financial Review	3.08 – 3.53
Financial Early Warning	2.62 – 3.07
Financial Watch (lowest rating)	1.00 – 2.61

Attachment 2:

Overview of Finances

Fund balances (Est. as of 6/30/2026):

Ed Fund	\$8,768,589
O&M Fund	\$1,553,251
Transportation	\$884,942
Tort	\$273,795

IMRF/FICA	\$894,453
*Working Cash	\$1,179,379

History of district balances (cash reserve in six main funds)

2025	\$13,617,199
2024	\$12,447,432
2023	\$12,073,064
2022	\$11,368,959
2021	\$10,469,325
2020	\$10,793,783
2019	\$9,299,785
2018	\$7,108,372
2017	\$8,239,239
2016	\$8,277,867
2015	\$8,877,680
2014	\$8,987,641
2013	\$8,403,408
2012	\$8,152,993
2011	\$7,425,081
2010	\$5,859,426

Sherrard Student Enrollment

Year	Enrolled	Increase/Decrease
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1989	1817	
1990	1814	-3
1991	1771	-43
1992	1782	11
1993	1806	24
1994	1835	29
1995	1919	84
1996	1936	17
1997	1989	53
1998	1886	-103
1999	1893	7
2000	1859	-34
2001	1802	-57
2002	1774	-28
2003	1794	20
2004	1765	-29
2005	1733	-32
2006	1770	37
2007	1751	-19
2008	1627	-124
2009	1590	-37
2010	1566	-24
2011	1559	-7
2012	1595	36
2013	1541	-54
2014	1578	37
2015	1520	-58
2016	1469	-51
2017	1464	-5
2018	1392	-72
2019	1402	10
2020	1375	-27
2021	1381	6
2022	1359	-22
2023	1354	-5
2024	1315	-39
2025	1286	-99

Preliminary FY27 Enrollment by Grade Level			
	SG	WG	Tot.

PreK		55	
K	30	34	64
1	31	43	74
2	42	47	89
3	41	36	77
4	42	35	77
5			92
6			81
7			88
8			88
9			106
10			92
11			113
12			91
Total			1187

Winola annexation took place in the fall of 1988 & peak enrollment was in the 1997/98 school year.