— *Spirit of Shelton* —

THE HORIZON

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF SHELTON SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 2025





















2024-2025 Annual Report of Gifts

June 1, 2024 - May 31, 2025

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The Horizon is published by Shelton's Communications and Marketing Department. This issue includes stories about the 2024-2025 school year and Shelton's 2024-2025 Annual Report of Gifts.

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MISSION STATEMENT

Shelton is a school and resource center dedicated to — making a difference — by serving and empowering the lives of — students who learn differently — Because Not All Great Minds Think Alike.

VISION STATEMENT

A world model in education — of individuals who learn differently — through Education — Evaluation — Therapy — Research — and Outreach.



ABOUT THE ARTIST: CHARLIE WOLF

Charlie Wolf, a senior at Shelton, finds peace and clarity through creating art. "It's one of the few things that can get my mind to quiet down," she says. "It's a way to paint vivid depictions of the stories in my head that tend to be swifter and easier for the world to understand than a 200-page novel."

At Shelton, Charlie feels supported and empowered. "I feel accepted and understood for my learning difference, and I've learned to realize that my ADHD is not always an obstacle, but something that can sometimes work in my favor."



In Memory of Karen Shaw

This issue of Horizon is dedicated to our dear colleague **Karen Shaw**, who passed away Sept. 20, 2025. Karen was part of the Shelton family since 1998, serving in the Middle School, most recently as a permanent substitute and also supporting the aftercare program. She touched countless lives with her kindness and dedication.

Shelton Executive Director **Suzanne Stell** shared, "If a teacher, parent or student ever needed something — even just words of encouragement or a listening ear — Karen always made the time to help at the very moment it was needed most and she always did it with a smile."

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Suzanne Stell, M.Ed., CALT



As we enter the 2025–2026 school year and begin celebrating Shelton's 50th anniversary, we look back with gratitude on an extraordinary 2024-2025 school year that set the stage for this milestone moment. Shelton's growth and spirit continue to inspire. As the largest independent school serving intelligent students with learning differences, our impact reaches beyond the classroom, shaping futures and transforming lives every day.

We began the 2024–2025 school year with 1,102 students and concluded with 1,136, including 230 new Chargers representing 100 ZIP codes. Behind every number is a story of growth, confidence and success — a reflection of the partnership between our families and faculty who share a deep belief in what our students can achieve.

Celebrating 50 Years of Learning Without Limits

As the 2024–2025 school year concluded, Shelton looked ahead to a historic milestone — its 50th anniversary in 2025–2026. Founded by Dr. June Shelton on April 2, 1976, in Dallas, the Shelton School & Evaluation Center began with just 48 students in preschool through sixth grade in a church building, supported by a dedicated board of trustees and parent community.

Half a century later, Shelton stands as the world's leader in specialized education for intelligent students who learn differently, with programs that have shaped the lives of thousands and inspired educational change far beyond our campus.

The 50th anniversary celebration began in spring 2025 with two memorable student events. On May 5, 742 students in grades five through 11 gathered on the football field to form a "50," captured by photographer **Hillsman Stuart Jackson**. A week later, students sealed Shelton's 50th anniversary time capsule inside the illuminated "S" installation in the Dining Hall.

As the 2025-2026 school year began, the celebration expanded to the entire Shelton community. Highlights included the 50th Anniversary reunion for former teachers and staff, the Feed My Starving Children MobilePack that brought together more than 5,000 volunteers and a spirited Homecoming celebration featuring a drone light show that revealed Shelton's 50th logo and the entertainment for Shelton's 2026 Stampede auction. In October, Shelton partnered with the Dallas branch of the International Dyslexia Association, led by Shelton parent and Dallas IDA board president **Dahlem Dodson**, for a screening of the documentary "Hopeville" and a panel discussion on literacy and evidence-based reading instruction.

Looking ahead, the celebration continues throughout the 2025-2026 school year, culminating with Shelton Stampede 2026 on April 11 at the Fairmont Dallas, headlined by Little Big Town — a night honoring Shelton's legacy and the people who made it possible. Other highlights include a luncheon honoring former Shelton Parents' Association presidents and Stampede auction chairs, the varsity football game at The Star in Frisco on Nov. 8, 2025 and the premiere of Shelton's 50th Legacy video later in the school year. A special guest speaker will also visit campus in April to commemorate the milestone year.

Shelton's reach now extends through its Outreach & Training Center, Evaluation Center and Speech Center, as well as our Shelton Pathfinders alumni mentorship program. Each of these initiatives reflects Shelton's enduring commitment to advocacy and innovation in the field of learning differences.

A Year of Growth and Accomplishment

Our students continue to amaze us with their achievements across academics, arts and athletics. The Class of 2025, the largest in school history, includes 101 graduates who received 506 college acceptances to 54 colleges in 21 states, earning $12.6 million in merit scholarships. Sixty-seven students from the Class of 2025 took the ACT, collectively earning a score of 30 or higher on 49 sections — scoring in the 94th percentile nationally in various subjects. One senior earned a composite ACT score of 35, and two students earned a perfect score of 36 on the ACT reading section. Here's a look at a few more ways our students made us proud:

- Valedictorian **Ford Myers** studies business at the University of Texas at Austin and was elected one of two freshman student representatives at UT's student government.
- Salutatorian **Kathryn Guerra** studies biology and biochemistry at Trinity University.
- **Enzo Ampolini** received the $253,808 Singer Scholarship at the University of Miami.
- **Ethan Gulden** joined SMU's Hilltop Scholars Program.
- Four seniors signed to play collegiate sports, and three were accepted into competitive fine arts programs in film, music and visual art.

Together, the Class of 2025 completed 10,052 community service hours, living out Shelton's mission beyond the classroom.

Fine Arts

Under the direction of **Anné Hughes**, Shelton's Fine Arts program continues to thrive. Students dazzled audiences in two major productions — "The Matchmaker" and "Footloose" — both performed to record crowds. Forty-three seniors earned the Purple and Gold Award for lettering in a fine arts discipline, including band, drumline, choir, photography, theatre arts and visual arts.

Throughout the year, Shelton's music, visual arts and film programs flourished. Vocal Charge, under **Blair King**, presented three concerts, competed in the TAPPS Solo and Ensemble Contest and earned multiple All-State and Superior ratings. In the spring, Shelton celebrated its Week of the Arts, featuring choir and band concerts, a student art reception in the Gampper Art Gallery, the Advanced Acting class's

performance of “Almost, Maine” and screenings of 18 student films at the Shelton Film Festival.

Athletics

Athletics excelled this year thanks to Athletic Director **Alan Burt**, Assistant Athletic Director **Michelle Rivera** and a dedicated team of coaches and staff. Shelton fielded 60 teams, with 65 percent of Upper School students and 66 percent of Middle School students participating in at least one sport.

- 25 Upper School athletes earned Academic All-State honors.
- 72 Upper School athletes received TAPPS All-District or All-State recognition.
- Boys Cross Country finished second in state, with **Jack Conger** placing sixth individually.
- The Chargerettes and Charger Cheer teams both finished fourth at the TAPPS State competition.
- Boys Golf placed second in state.
- In track and field, **Grayson Metz** earned his second consecutive state title in shot put, and **Drew Metrailer** was state champion in the 800 meters.

Innovation and Community

Innovation continues to thrive at Shelton. This year saw the debut of Urban Homesteading, a semester-long Upper School course where students maintained beehives, built a chicken coop and raised chicks under the leadership of **Tripp Givens** and **Zac Ladd**.

The new illuminated “S” art installation in the Dining Hall — designed by Studio 11 Design founder and Shelton parent **Kellie Sirna** with contributions from **Aphrodite Paulos, Kathleen Goree** and **Christy O’Neal** — stands as a daily symbol of Shelton’s mission and community spirit.

Through Shelton Pathfinders, seniors are now connecting with alumni mentors for career and college guidance, an initiative championed by the Class of 2025’s **Katie Guerra** and led by Chief Advancement Officer **Christi Contreras** and Alumni Relations Coordinator **Carolyn Strickfaden**.

Meanwhile, Hope Squad, Shelton’s peer-to-peer mental health support group, continues to foster a culture of compassion and understanding. Junior and senior members participated in the Texas Peer-to-Peer Youth Conference in Arlington, representing Shelton among students statewide.

On Jan. 31, 2025, Shelton hosted its 23rd Annual Ethics Symposium, “Shaping Your Future With Integrity,” bringing together students, educators and professionals to explore how ethics guide real-world decisions. Student Council President **Ford Myers** and alumnus **Nathan England** (Class of 2005) opened the event, urging students to protect their reputations and stay true to their values. **Bob Mong**, former University of North Texas-Dallas president and former *Dallas Morning News* editor, delivered the keynote, “Living a Life of Integrity,” encouraging students to pair intellect with ethics and follow their conscience. Panel discussions on social media, engineering and sports featured professionals from Southern Methodist University, UT Dallas, *The Dallas Morning News* and K Strategies Group.

Shelton in the Media

This year, Shelton earned recognition across Dallas and beyond for its leadership in education and advocacy for students with learning differences. *D Magazine* featured Shelton’s 50th anniversary, highlighting its impact over five decades, while *The Dallas Morning News* recognized the school’s growth in its 140th anniversary special section. Fox 4’s **Clarice Tinsley** covered Shelton’s Feed My Starving Children MobilePack and iHeartRadio’s **Anna de Haro** interviewed senior **Kate Williams** and me during 2024’s Learning Differences and Dyslexia Awareness Month, helping to amplify Shelton’s message to a wide audience.

Gratitude for Leadership and Support

Shelton’s success is rooted in collaboration and exceptional leadership. My thanks go to our Associate Head of School **Mellany Barnett** and heads of school — **Christine Davis, Patricia Gallaher, Jenny Cheatham** — and to our assistant heads of school **Lena Hilbert, Beth Womble, Rachel Brandt, Dyana Payne, Will Riemer, Zac Ladd** and **Terri Wilson** for ensuring every Shelton student is known, supported and celebrated.

I also want to thank Chief Advancement Officer **Christi Contreras** and Development Officer **Julie Griffith**, along with Annual Fund Chairs **Chrissy Collins** and **Julie Mitchell**, for leading a record-breaking $1,501,778 Annual Fund.

Our Shelton Parents’ Association, led by Co-Presidents **Kimberly Kahn** and **Leigh Erin Lundy** and Director of Volunteer Relations & Events **Shelly Lloyd**, presented a check for $930,000 to Shelton in May 2025. Their tireless work, along with the support of Stampede Co-Chairs **Lindsey Sherry** and **Carolyn Strickfaden**, continues to enrich every corner of our community.

Shelton’s continued excellence is supported by dedicated professionals across divisions and departments whose teams serve thousands of students, families and educators within Shelton, throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth area, across the nation and around the world. Special thanks to **Krista Norwood**, director of the Speech Center; **Dr. Laure Ames**, director of the Evaluation Center; and **Chris Bedenbaugh**, director of Outreach & Training, for their leadership and commitment to advancing Shelton’s mission of empowering individuals with learning differences.

Moving Forward Together

As we celebrate 50 years of excellence and look ahead to Shelton’s next chapter, one truth remains constant: Learning differences are not limitations. They are the foundation of our students’ creativity, resilience and success.

Thank you for your trust, your partnership and your belief in Shelton’s mission. Together, we will continue to build on this incredible legacy — preparing students to learn without limits for generations to come.

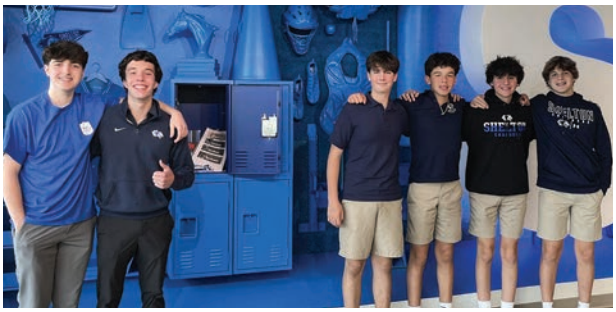
SHELTON'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Learning Without Limits: Shelton Celebrates 50 Years

The 2025-2026 school year marks a milestone unlike any other in Shelton's history — the school's 50th anniversary. Founded in 1976 by Dr. June Shelton with 48 students in a Dallas church, Shelton has grown into the world's largest independent school for intelligent students with learning differences, serving more than 1,078 students on its North Dallas campus.

Throughout the anniversary year, the Shelton community is celebrating five decades of innovation, leadership and learning without limits through a series of events, projects and tributes honoring its journey.





From left: Richard Goree, Hudson Ramsey, Reid Sirna, Luis Salinas, Dimitri Paulos and Colton Abbott.

A Year of Milestones and Memories

Shelton's 50th anniversary celebration began in the spring of 2025 with two memorable student events. On May 5, 742 students in grades five through 11 gathered on the football field to form a massive "50," captured by photographer **Hillsman Stuart Jackson** — a powerful visual of unity and pride.

A week later, on May 12, students helped seal Shelton's 50th anniversary time capsule, capturing the spirit of today's Shelton for future generations. The capsule — placed inside the illuminated "S" installation in the Dining Hall — includes a Shelton uniform, a Fine Arts playbill, a sports jersey, a drumstick, a copy of the Shelton Literary Magazine, student letters and more. Students **Dimitri Paulos, Reid Sirna, Richard Goree, Hudson Ramsey, Colton Abbott, Luis Salinas** and **Jack Wetherington** helped curate and seal the collection.

As the 2025-2026 school year began, the celebrations expanded to include the entire Shelton community. On Aug. 28, a kickoff reunion welcomed former teachers, coaches and staff back to campus for a night of trivia, storytelling and filming for Shelton's 50th legacy video. Earlier that month, the Fine Arts Department energized faculty at in-service with a 50th anniversary quiz bowl and prizes, setting a festive tone for the year ahead.

In September, Shelton hosted one of its most meaningful community service efforts to date — the Feed My Starving Children MobilePack. More than 5,000 volunteers — students, parents, alumni, staff and community members — packed 2,969 boxes totaling 641,304 meals, later shipped to Guyana, El Salvador and Zambia. The event drew local media attention, including coverage by Fox 4's **Clarice Tinsley**.

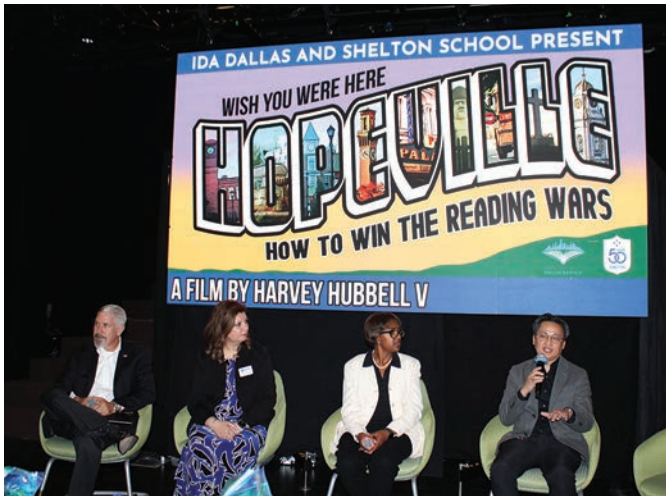
Homecoming Week, held Sept. 22–27, 2025, brought the celebration to new heights. During half-time of the Sept. 26 varsity football game, a drone show illuminated the sky with Shelton's 50th logo, revealed Little Big Town as the Stampede 2026 headliner and announced that Shelton Varsity Football would face Covenant at The Star in Frisco on Nov. 8. The event was made possible through the generous support and coordination of the Shelton Parents' Association, with special thanks to the **Gene** and **Jerry Jones** family for making the game at The Star possible.



From left: Shelton Director of Admission Meghan Miller; former Director of Admission Diann Slaton; and Assistant Director of Admission Wendy Deppe.



In October, Shelton partnered with the Dallas branch of the International Dyslexia Association, led by Shelton parent and board president **Dahlem Dodson**, to host a film screening of "Hopeville," followed by a panel discussion on America's literacy crisis and evidence-based reading instruction — one of many ways Shelton continues to advance its mission through advocacy and outreach.



Shelton in the Spotlight

Shelton's 50th anniversary has also been recognized across the region. A feature story in *D Magazine* highlighted the school's pioneering role in education for students with learning differences, while a *Dallas Morning News* 140th anniversary special section carried Shelton's commemorative ad. New fence banners on campus — along with pole banners on Hillcrest and on Frankford east of the Tollway — and a refreshed timeline wall display mark the 50th visually for all who visit.

The Shelton Parents' Association released limited-edition anniversary merchandise, including T-shirts, mugs, totes and ornaments. Weekly "Fun Facts" and "Share Your Shelton Memories" features run in Shelton's ePost, Staff Stuff and social media channels, encouraging the community to share stories and photos on the interactive 50th Anniversary Memory Wall at shelton.org/50th-anniversary.

Continuing the Celebration

The celebration continues throughout 2025-2026, culminating with Shelton Stampede 2026 on April 11 at the Fairmont Dallas, headlined by Little Big Town — a night honoring Shelton's legacy and the people who made it possible.

Earlier in the 2025-2026 school year, highlights included a luncheon on Oct. 24 honoring former SPA presidents and Stampede auction chairs, and the varsity football game at The Star on Nov. 8. The premiere of the 50th legacy video and a special guest speaker visit in April will round out Shelton's milestone year.

As Shelton celebrates half a century of empowering students to reach their full potential, the message is clear: Learning differences are not limitations — they are pathways to success. Through 50 years of dedication, innovation and community, Shelton continues to shape the future of education — one student at a time.

ADVANCEMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Christi Contreras, Chief Advancement Officer



This year has marked a defining chapter in Shelton School's story of impact and progress. Guided by our mission and fueled by the generosity of our community, we are proud to share the milestones that helped propel Shelton forward.

Celebrating the Completion of Our Campus Capital Campaign

In one of the most significant milestones in Shelton's history, we officially concluded the capital campaign for our new campus. In May, we celebrated the campaign's success with the installation of our donor wall in the main lobby.

Record-Breaking Annual Fund Participation

This year's Annual Fund saw record levels of participation across all constituencies, especially among faculty/staff and current families. Faculty and staff participation increased 13% over last year and participation from current parents increased by 5%. With gifts ranging from $5 to $50,000, every single donor made an impact no matter the size of their contribution. Collectively, these funds help Shelton meet the unique needs of each learner every day. The Annual Fund is Shelton's most essential fundraising effort and involves all members of the Shelton community. The Annual Fund's impact touches all aspects of our exceptional program, providing resources and opportunities that would not otherwise be possible.

A Stronger Alumni Network

Shelton's alumni community grew stronger and more connected this year, with new alumni programming such as The Pathfinders mentoring program, which matches current Shelton seniors with alumni to help navigate life after Shelton. In the year ahead, our focus will turn toward building leadership pipelines, expanding mentorship opportunities and deepening alumni involvement in both giving and volunteer efforts.



From left: Shelton Executive Director Suzanne Stell and Shelton parents Aphrodite and Sam Paulos joined the May celebration of the successful capital campaign and the unveiling of the donor wall in Shelton's main lobby.

Gratitude and Vision

None of this would be possible without our donors, volunteers and advocates. Your belief in Shelton's mission enables us to dream bigger and do more for our students. Thank you for investing in Shelton. Together, we're not just imagining a brighter future — we're building it.



Shelton's Advancement staff includes Capital Campaign Manager Amie Jennings, Development Coordinator Alayna Mosteller, Chief Advancement Officer Christi Contreras, Alumni Relations Manager Carolyn Strickfaden and Development Officer Julie Griffith.

SHELTON ANNUAL FUND



Gina Rangel Peña and Chrissy Collins

2024–2025 Annual Fund: A Message of Gratitude from Your Outgoing Annual Fund Co-Chairs

It has been a true privilege to serve as your Annual Fund Co-Chairs. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our community, we made great progress toward our 2024–2025 Annual Fund goals. Together, we raised over $1.5 million and achieved more than 40% family participation and 65% faculty/staff participation, marking the highest level of engagement ever.

We are thrilled to recognize more than 180 first-time donors. Each new voice in our donor community reinforces the strength of our shared mission.

Your contributions have had a powerful, immediate impact: enabling $3.5 million in tuition assistance, maintaining small class sizes and supporting professional development for our educators — all of which helps ensure every student at Shelton receives the opportunity to thrive.

This high level of participation also strengthens Shelton's ability to secure foundation and corporate grants, multiplying the value of every donation.

As we look forward to Shelton's 2025–2026 Annual Fund and 50th anniversary, we do so with immense pride and gratitude. Shelton is stronger than ever because of you.

Thank you for an unforgettable year of support and community.

With appreciation,
Chrissy Collins *and* ***Julie Mitchell***
2024–2025 Annual Fund Co-Chairs



Chrissy Collins and Julie Mitchell

2025–2026 Annual Fund: 50 Years of Learning Without Limits

We are honored to step into the role of Annual Fund Co-Chairs as Shelton celebrates a milestone unlike any other — 50 years of transforming lives through education.

Since 1976, Shelton has been a place where learning differences are not only understood but embraced, empowering every student to succeed. This year's 50th anniversary is a powerful reminder of that legacy.

Thanks to the incredible leadership of last year's Annual Fund Co-Chairs and the generosity of families, alumni, faculty and friends, Shelton raised more than $1.5 million and saw record-breaking participation. We are inspired by that achievement and excited to build on that momentum in the year ahead.

Your support directly shapes the Shelton experience — ensuring small classes, innovative tools, expert teachers and tuition assistance that opens doors for families. Every gift is a statement of belief in our students and in Shelton's mission.

As we look ahead, our goal is to continue strengthening our community of donors and celebrating the extraordinary impact of collective giving. Together, we can ensure that the next 50 years are just as bold, inclusive and transformative.

Thank you for your continued commitment. We can't wait to see what we accomplish in 2025–2026.

Chrissy Collins *and* ***Gina Rangel Peña***
2025–2026 Annual Fund Co-Chairs

SHELTON
50 YEARS OF LEARNING WITHOUT LIMITS
25-26 ANNUAL FUND

Scan the QR code to visit the 2025–2026 Annual Fund Donation Page

SPEECH CENTER NEWS

Krista Norwood, M.S., CCC/SLP, Director of Shelton Speech Center



At the Shelton Speech Center, our mission remains rooted in early identification, personalized intervention and meaningful progress for children with speech and language differences. As part of Shelton School and the broader Dallas community, we continue to offer comprehensive screenings, evaluations and high-quality therapy services delivered by a team of licensed and experienced speech-language pathologists.

Building Foundations Through Early Screening

One of the most critical aspects of our work is our annual screening initiative, conducted each fall across 15 partner schools throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Between late August and November, we screen approximately 2,000 children ages 2 to 6, evaluating communication, vision, hearing and early literacy skills. These screenings allow us to identify potential challenges — such as articulation errors or delayed language development — at a time when intervention can have the most lasting impact.



Research continues to underscore that speech and language development are foundational to literacy acquisition. Many children who later struggle with reading begin their academic journey with undetected articulation or language impairments. By identifying and addressing these concerns in the preschool years, we can help minimize future academic hurdles and strengthen the pathway to fluent reading and confident communication. Our goal is always to ensure children are equipped with the communication tools they need to succeed socially and academically.



Shelton Speech Center staff members are dedicated to providing high-quality evaluation and treatment for children with developmental delays and speech and language disorders. **Back row:** Ari Victor, Melissa Cole, Stephanie Weatherford, Lindsay Cobert; **front row:** Avie Nikolopoulos, Chelsea Maxey, Krista Norwood.

Year-Round Therapy That Supports the Whole Child

During the 2024–2025 school year, Shelton Speech Center clinicians provided approximately 6,000 individual and small-group therapy sessions for students ranging from preschool through high school. Therapy targets include articulation, expressive and receptive language, phonological awareness, fluency, pragmatic language and reading comprehension. Students are served both on the Shelton campus and at private schools across the Metroplex.

Each therapy plan is uniquely tailored to a child's needs, incorporating evidence-based strategies and collaborative input from families and educators. Our therapists bring specialized training to their work with students in areas such as social competencies, fluency, motor speech development and literacy-based language intervention.

Summer Therapeutic Programs

The Shelton Speech Center also offers a robust summer lineup of therapeutic programs designed to maintain progress and promote growth in a fun, enriching environment.



Shelton's summer speech-therapy programs keep students building communication skills through engaging, play-based learning and personalized support.

- **Language Adventures** is an eight-week intensive language therapy program for ages 2 to 7, using themed weeks (for example, animals, space, community helpers) to expand vocabulary, sentence structure and comprehension.
- **Articulation Adventures** provides targeted therapy for students with persistent speech sound errors, helping to improve clarity and confidence in speech.
- **iSocialize** teaches elementary-age students how to navigate the "hidden rules" of social interaction through engaging in group activities, conversation practice and perspective-taking exercises.

Professional Development and Community Outreach

Beyond direct therapy services, the Speech Center continues to serve as a training site for graduate student interns and a professional development hub for speech-language pathologists in the region. Shelton School, an ASHA-Approved Continuing Education Provider, hosted several "Lunch-and-Learn" events for speech pathologists during the school year. Workshops were organized by Shelton speech-language pathologist **Rachel Stock** and covered topics in the field such as stuttering, voice therapy, structured reading approaches and myofunctional therapy.

SHELTON EVALUATION CENTER

Laure Ames, Ph.D., Director of Shelton Evaluation Center

The Shelton Evaluation Center stands out in the Dallas area for its highly experienced team, which provides a wide range of evaluations and integrates findings across assessments to develop a complete picture of each client. Services include psychoeducational evaluations and specialized assessments for ADHD and Autism Spectrum Disorder. We serve individuals from age 3 through adulthood.

We frequently diagnose dysgraphia at the Shelton Evaluation Center. It is a disorder that often occurs with learning disabilities and/or ADHD. According to the latest Texas Dyslexia Handbook (TDH) published in August 2024 (tea.texas.gov), "dysgraphia is best defined as a neurodevelopmental disorder manifested by illegible and/or inefficient handwriting due to difficulty with letter formation. This difficulty is the result of deficits in graphomotor function (hand movements used for writing) and/or storing and retrieving orthographic codes (letter forms) (Berninger, 2015). Secondary consequences may include problems with spelling and written expression."



Prior to the diagnostic characteristics listed in the TDH, we usually only diagnosed dysgraphia if handwriting was illegible. But the TDH expanded the diagnostic criteria. These criteria now include:

- Variably shaped and poorly formed letters
- Excessive erasures and cross-outs
- Poor spacing between letters and words
- Letter and number reversals beyond early stages of writing
- Awkward, inconsistent pencil grip
- Heavy pressure and hand fatigue
- Slow writing and copying with legible or illegible handwriting (Andrews & Lombardino, 2014)

Additional consequences of dysgraphia may include:

- Difficulty with unedited written spelling
- Low volume of written output as well as problems with other aspects of written expression



When evaluating for dysgraphia, our battery of tests may include measures of visual motor integration, visual perception, motor coordination, orthographic processing, writing samples, writing fluency and spelling. To make a diagnosis, we assess pencil grip, pencil control, letter formation, handwriting, timed and untimed writing and fluency in the writing samples we obtain.

The treatment for dysgraphia is occupational therapy (OT). However, OT may not be as beneficial for older students. Accommodations are usually very helpful. According to the TDH, these accommodations may include:

- Allow more time for written tasks including note taking, copying and tests
- Reduce the length requirements of written assignments
- Provide copies of notes or assign a note-taking buddy to assist with filling in missing information
- Allow the student to audio record important assignments and/or take oral tests
- Assist the student with developing logical steps to complete a writing assignment instead of doing it all at once
- Allow the use of technology (e.g., speech-to-text software, etc.)
- Allow the student to use cursive or manuscript, whichever is most legible and efficient
- Allow the student to use graph paper for math, or to turn lined paper sideways, to help with lining up columns of numbers
- Offer an alternative to a written project such as an oral report, dramatic presentation or visual media project

If you have any questions about our Evaluation Center, please call 972-774-1772, Extension 2243. We look forward to working with you to help your child.



Shelton Evaluation Center team members Debbie Ripchick, Joni Williams, Dr. Laure Ames, Stephanie McCain and Stacie Soto continue a legacy of excellence in assessment, carrying forward a tradition that has served clients since 1976.

OUTREACH OFFERINGS

Christine Bedenbaugh, M.ED., LDT, CALT, QI, Director of Shelton Outreach & Training

Shelton's Outreach & Training department was established to extend the impact of Shelton's proven teaching methods beyond our campus. Through specialized training programs, the department equips educators with the tools and techniques used in Shelton classrooms — collectively known as "the Shelton Way." These programs help teachers earn certifications and degrees in research-based remediation practices, enabling them to support students in discovering how they learn most effectively.

In addition to educator training, Outreach & Training plays a vital role in promoting Shelton's mission to a broader audience. By raising awareness of our school and its unique approach, the department supports admissions efforts, attracts skilled educators and expands access to professional development offerings across the education community.

Since 1990, the Outreach & Training Department has trained more than 3,762 teachers in the DuBard Association, Montessori, MTA (Multisensory Teaching Approach), Sequential English Education (SEE) and Take Flight programs. Here are some highlights about Outreach:

- In 2024-2025, Outreach impacted 7,500 individuals through training, workshops and presentations.
- More than 4,206 non-Shelton students have been supported through the Saturday Scholars Program. Shelton Outreach is also partnering with St. Philip's School to launch a Scholars Program there.
- The Outreach & Training Department oversees a literacy project made possible by grants aimed at supporting teachers and students in Texas.
- Outreach has trained hundreds of thousands of teachers, parents and professionals through short-term workshops and presentations worldwide, furthering our mission to empower, enrich and engage the learning community.
- The Outreach staff serves on more than 20 national boards and committees. They participate in shaping new legislation, improving existing laws and guiding the future of services for children who learn differently.
- Outreach partners with Dallas Baptist University (DBU) to offer adult learners the opportunity to earn a Master's degree through training courses at Shelton. Currently, **Chris Bedenbaugh, Dr. Joyce Pickering** and **Jessica Newman** serve as adjunct professors at DBU.
- Outreach also partners with the University of West Alabama as it seeks International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC) accreditation for its newly created Master of Education program in Dyslexia Therapy, utilizing the Take Flight curriculum.
- Outreach continues its partnership with the Alabama Reading Initiative to provide Take Flight Therapy Level Training leading to certification. This year's four cohorts served 94 Alabama educators.
- Take Flight, Sequential English Education (SEE) and Multisensory Teaching Approach (MTA) have all been approved by the Texas Education Agency as Dyslexia Intervention programs.

Meet the Outreach & Training Staff

Christine Bedenbaugh, MAE, LDT, CALT, QI, Director of Shelton Outreach & Training and Educational Diagnostician



As the director of Shelton's Outreach & Training Department, **Chris Bedenbaugh** assists in facilitating the goals of her team, who provide instruction to adult learners teaching children who learn differently, as well as members who instruct in the Montessori Method. She is also the director of Shelton Academic Language Approach/Multisensory Teaching Approach (SALA/MTA) and Shelton Academic Reading Approach (SARA)/Take Flight: A Comprehensive Intervention for Students with Dyslexia. For the 2024–2025 school year, SARA and SALA delivered more than 235 trainings and short-term workshops. Chris was honored to complete her term as president of the International Multisensory Language Education Council (IMSLEC). The mission of IMSLEC is to accredit quality training courses for the professional preparation of multisensory structured language education specialists. She is celebrating 38 years as an educator, including 20 at Shelton.

Dr. Gulzar Babool, Ed.D, AMS EI-II, NAMTA WSMC, Director of Shelton Montessori Training



Dr. Gulzar Babool is passionate about Montessori and is an avid advocate for students with learning differences. Under her directorship, Shelton Montessori Training has grown to serve both public and private sector schools. It now offers training from Early Childhood to Upper Elementary levels, in addition to Administrator training, Montessori Applied to Children at Risk (MACAR) and the AMS Montessori Inclusion Endorsement. Gulzar develops content, establishes numerous virtual deliverables and continues to be a leader in the Montessori space.

In addition to being a Montessorian for more than 20 years, Gulzar has a doctorate in Educational Leadership from Southern Methodist University, where she researched the use of a multisensory approach to teach reading to students with dyslexia. She facilitated a partnership with SMU that offers reduced tuition to all Shelton adult learners.

Gulzar serves on the American Montessori Society (AMS) Board of Directors and is a founding board member of Teacher Education and Advocacy for Montessori (TEAM). She is a chair of the AMS Teacher Education Action Commission (TEAC) and a frequent speaker at schools and national conferences. She has shared her expertise on Montessori and learning differences as a panelist at AMS conferences and at the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE) Symposium, where she presented strategies for accommodating adult learners in teacher education programs.



Jessica Newman is the Director of Sequential English Education (SEE) program, and Shelton Executive Director Emerita Dr. Joyce Pickering is creator of the SEE program.

Dr. Joyce Pickering, SLP/CCC, CALT, QI, LDT, AMS-EC, HUM.D., Executive Director Emerita



As the creator of the Sequential English Education (SEE) program, **Dr. Joyce Pickering** has promoted several special projects utilizing the SEE method. These projects have brought the skill of reading to thousands of children worldwide. She also established the Montessori Applied to Children at Risk (MACAR) program, which provides unique guidance to many at-risk children. Dr. Pickering is a widely sought-after keynote speaker who gives many presentations each year. As the founder of Outreach, Dr. Pickering is an unwavering advocate for students who learn differently. She is the co-author of "Montessori Strategies for Children with Learning Differences: The MACAR Model" with **Sylvia O. Richardson**.

Suzanne Crawford, M.Ed., LDT, CALT-QI, Educational Diagnostician and Outreach Instructor



Consistent with Shelton's mission of making a difference in the lives of students who learn differently, **Suzanne Crawford** is responsible for training and supporting adult learners in MTA, Take Flight and all curricula developed by the Center for Dyslexia at Scottish Rite for Children.

Danyle Duke, CALT-ICALP, LDT, SEE Program Training Coordinator, Instructor of Teaching Level



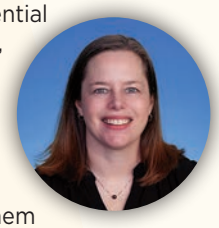
Danyle Duke trains teachers in the SEE Program, expertly guiding them on the pathway to certification with IMSLEC, ALTA and/or IDA. As SEE Program Training Coordinator, she manages records for SEE Teaching, Therapy and Instructor Levels to ensure trainees meet certification requirements. Danyle brings to SEE trainings, Outreach presentations and workshops her 20-year experience as a Shelton Middle School teacher/adviser, 17-year experience as a SEE instructor and her lifelong experience as a learning-different learner. She is devoted to making a positive impact in the lives of learning-different learners and the teachers who guide and teach them.

Hema Jagada, MSc, AMS Early Childhood, Montessori Coordinator



Hema Jagada joined Shelton Montessori Training in 2023 and supports adult learners in all aspects of their training. She brings more than 14 years of experience to the training program, develops content, gives presentations and instructs within the program. She is an Emerging Leaders Fellow through the American Montessori Society and served on the AMS Innovation Fellowship Think Tank.

Jessica Newman, CCC-SLP, M.A, CALT, QI, Director of Scholars and DuBard Association Method, Director of SEE



Jessica Newman is the director of the Sequential English Education (SEE) program at Shelton, where she oversees both the SEE and DuBard Association Method programs and serves as an instructor in both. She helps coordinate language therapy services in the Lower and Middle School, including observing and mentoring teachers to help them individualize their instruction.

Jessica also directs the Scholars Program, which provides low-cost reading tutoring to students in the community. In this role she benchmarks students, organizes groups, hires and trains tutors and ensures the program's effectiveness. Her connection to the Scholars Program runs deep — she first joined as a tutor 26 years ago while in high school.

Beyond Shelton, Jessica supports Outreach initiatives by conducting training sessions and leading short-term workshops in the community, and she also serves as an adjunct professor at Dallas Baptist University.

Consuela Teague, Outreach & Training Programs Associate and Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator



Consuela Teague supports the planning, implementation and evaluation of Take Flight and MTA programs. She also coordinates activities, manages logistics and ensures effective communication among participants. In addition, Consuela handles billing, processes the Outreach storefront orders and coordinates website updates.

Yvette Zapata, M. Ed AMS- EI, Montessori Training Coordinator



With 15 years in the classroom, including significant time as an Elementary I and II guide, **Yvette Zapata** has honed her skills and received her credential from the Shelton Training program. Yvette is not only recognized for her specialization in Early Literacy but also holds membership in Pi Lambda Theta, the National Honor Society of Educators at SMU.

Cynthia DeVoll, Outreach & Training Administrative Assistant



Cynthia DeVoll is Outreach's Administrative Assistant and works on special projects for the department. She says, "I love working in an office toward a common goal and making a positive impact on those around me."

FROM THE ASSOCIATE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Mellany Barnett, Associate Head of School



Upper School students now have more ways than ever to explore their interests beyond the classroom, with more than eight new non-traditional clubs and classes introduced this year.

At the heart of these offerings is a shared goal: helping every student feel connected. Strong social connections are proven to support mental health, and we want every student to find a group where they can belong and contribute.

Each of these opportunities began with a simple idea — an idea that found someone passionate and persistent enough to bring it to life. In some cases, it was a staff member; in others, a student. But every initiative had one thing in common: someone dedicated to making it happen.

Among the newest opportunities are Hope Squad, Shelton Wranglers, Coffee House, Girl Talk, Urban Homesteading and Shelton Pathfinders.



Junior and senior members of Shelton's Hope Squad participated in the 2025 Texas Peer-to-Peer Youth Conference in Arlington, joining students from across Texas to learn about mental health awareness.

Hope Squad is a powerful, nationwide initiative focused on mental health awareness and peer-to-peer support. **Jack Bendalin** (Shelton Class of 2025) and his mother, **Susan**, played a pivotal role in bringing the program to Shelton, recognizing the need for student-driven resources. Hope Squad trains students to act as approachable advocates, helping peers feel seen, supported and safe. Their efforts are building a culture of compassion, kindness and understanding across the Shelton community.

The Shelton Wranglers tap into school spirit and leadership. This student-led group supports athletic events and energizes the student body. The spirited group was often seen running flags at football games and rallying the crowd at volleyball, basketball and baseball games. Students **Dylan Lowry, Ford Myers, Hudson Ramsey** and **Charlie Raynaud** were key players in reviving the Wrangler tradition.

Coffee House is a creative space where students share original poetry, music and stories in an open-mic format. It's a cozy, low-pressure environment that celebrates self-expression and artistic voice. Students first enjoyed this event at the ISAS Fine Arts Conference and then brought it to life at Shelton. **Ford Myers** (Shelton Class of 2025) led the initiative and found a supportive sponsor in Shelton Director of Fine Arts **Anné Hughes**.

Girl Talk offers a safe, supportive space for young women to discuss real-life topics, build confidence and mentor one another through open dialogue and shared experiences. The program began with one club in 2002, and there are now 96 clubs nationwide. In Shelton's Girl Talk Club, eighth-grade girls joined Upper School girls on Wednesday afternoons in the library, where they bonded over shared experiences — and one unforgettable cake! Girl Talk was led by **Avery Macha** and **Ella Trevino**, students in the Class of 2025, and sponsored by **Morgan Richard**.

The **Shelton Pathfinders Program** connects current Shelton seniors with Shelton alumni mentors who offer guidance, advice and real-world insights to support students as they prepare for life beyond graduation. Designed to foster meaningful connections, Pathfinders provides students with the opportunity to learn from alumni who have successfully navigated similar challenges and paths. **Katie Guerra** (Shelton Class of 2025) played an instrumental role in creating this program, which launched an exciting new chapter in alumni and community connections.



Layla Erickson, Lydia Stroh and Ford Jouvenal joined Shelton Assistant Head of Upper School Zac Ladd in caring for Shelton's two-week-old chicks.

Inspired by the Shelton Beehive and supported by our generous Shelton Parents' Association, Shelton's **Urban Homesteading Club** has become a semester-long course. From animal care and gardening to tool use and construction, the program emphasizes hands-on, real-world learning. Students focused on routines for maintaining the beehives and worked to establish a chicken coop and vegetable garden. These projects involved designing and building the coop and raised garden beds, as well as selecting chicken breeds and plant varieties.

These new offerings reflect the creativity, compassion and initiative of the Shelton community. Students and staff are working together to shape a school culture where everyone can find their place. As more students step up with ideas and more staff members lend their support, the possibilities are limitless.

Shelton Affiliates With National Organizations

Shelton is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS). NAIS serves independent schools by offering research and trend analysis, guidance on leadership and governance and professional development opportunities for school and board leaders. Shelton is also accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS), a respected accrediting body that upholds rigorous standards of excellence for independent schools in the region. ISAS accreditation reflects Shelton's commitment to high-quality education, strong governance and continuous improvement.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

ISAS Independent Schools Association of the Southwest

SHELTON'S SCHOLARS PROGRAM



The Shelton School is a bustling place in the summer, hosting training classes, enrichment opportunities and academic courses. This includes the Scholars Program, led by **Jessica Newman**, Director of Scholars and Shelton Sequential English Education (SEE), which serves students with language-based learning differences who are 6 years of age and older. Students come from all over the Metroplex, with some families driving over an hour to attend.

The Scholars Program, part of Sheton's Outreach & Training department, is designed for students from the community who are not enrolled at Shelton. It offers an intensive three-week summer course called Summer Scholars and continues during the fall and spring with a 13-week, Saturday-only course.

Families typically seek out the Scholars Program after realizing their children are struggling with reading, writing and spelling. The program supplements services students receive at their schools or replaces them when students are no longer eligible. Families are drawn to Shelton's resources and reputation, as well as the convenience and affordability of the program. They stay for the results.



Students are admitted after completing an informal assessment or submitting test results from another evaluation center. They are placed into small groups based on ability. In receiving targeted intervention, many students discover for the first time that others share their learning differences — often sparking engagement and friendship. Kids enjoy learning with peers who are like them.



At the heart of this densely packed program is the SEE curriculum — a comprehensive, multisensory, structured approach to language remediation developed by **Dr. Joyce Pickering**, Shelton's Executive Director Emerita, based on the work of **Dr. Charles Shedd**.

Dr. Shedd's model for training volunteers to help students with dyslexia proved to be a highly effective and low-cost method of providing remediation services. Building on this foundation, Dr. Pickering pioneered the Scholars Program at Shelton in 1990 to address unmet needs in the broader community. Since then, hundreds of tutors have received extensive training and supervision to deliver the SEE curriculum through the Scholars Program.

Tutors include college students, Shelton alumni, current and former teachers, retirees, parents and grandparents. Some are experienced professionals working toward advanced certification or licensure; others are beginning a journey that may lead to a future in teaching. In every case, they share a commitment to serving students with learning differences.

The Shelton Scholars Program provides essential services to many students in the DFW area. By trading in a portion of their summer break — a time when most students experience learning loss — these students are building critical skills in oral and written spelling, reading, grammar, vocabulary, cursive handwriting, auditory discrimination and memory.

And they're having fun, too. Whether shooting hoops during a break or making playdates with newfound friends, their growing confidence is easy to see.

LOWER SCHOOL NEWS

Christine Davis, Head of Lower School



With 298 students in the 2024-2025 school year, Lower School set a record for its largest enrollment. Students and teachers were engaged in their classrooms with Montessori lessons, language therapy and special events both on and off campus. All Lower School students experienced robust enrichment through the specials program.

At the Early Childhood through second-grade level, students participated in STEAM, library/makerspace, PE and Showtime. At the third- and fourth-grade level, offerings included drama, music, STEM, coding, art and PE. Across all of Lower School, students received direct social skills instruction through the Character Strong program.

International Day of Peace

Lower School students came together to celebrate the International Day of Peace on Sept. 19, 2024. Music teacher and band director **Ken Utz** led students and staff in singing and signing "Light a Candle for Peace."



Junior Charger Cheer

Lower School students in Early Childhood through fourth grade learned a cheer routine from Shelton's Varsity Cheer team and Chargerettes. They participated in the Junior Charger Cheer Clinic and performed during halftime at the varsity football game on Sept. 13, 2024.

Maria Montessori's Birthday

Lower School celebrated **Maria Montessori** on Aug. 30, 2024, in honor of her birthday on Aug. 31. **Chef Christian Moreno** and his staff helped bring the celebration to life with a pink tower cake and iced pink tower cookies. Parent volunteers assisted with cookie distribution as students and staff honored the woman who created the philosophy and materials used to deliver Shelton's multisensory curriculum.



The Dallas Zoo

The Dallas Zoo visited Shelton on Oct. 8, 2024, giving Lower School students the chance to meet a variety of animals, including an anteater, a bearded dragon, a tortoise and an owl. Students learned fun facts about each animal and were able to pet some of the furry and scaly creatures.

Togetherness Picnic

On Oct. 18, 2024, third- and fourth-grade students came together for a special field day focused on building connections and celebrating togetherness. Organized by teacher **Jennifer Drake**, the day included activities across the gym, baseball field, playground and classrooms. Parent volunteers helped make the event special by leading games and serving a picnic-style lunch.

Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair was a big hit in Lower School, thanks to librarians **Mary Drexler** and **Marissa Montgomery**. Students explored a wide variety of books, sparking excitement and a love for reading. On Oct. 17 and 21, 2024, families joined for Books and Bagels with a Special Friend, making memories over stories and snacks. It was a joyful celebration of books, friendship and community.

Homecoming Week

On Oct. 28, 2024, the whole school gathered for the homecoming pep rally on the football field. Lower School students celebrated their adopted high school seniors, helped announce the homecoming court and presented each nominee with a special gift.

Veterans Day

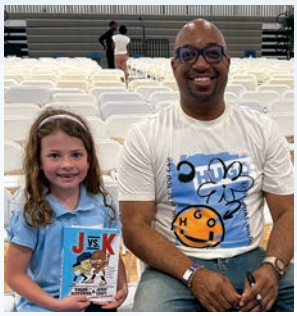
On Nov. 11, 2024, Lower School students gathered in the Moody Fine Arts Lobby for a heartfelt Veterans Day ceremony honoring Shelton staff members who have served in the military. Each veteran was recognized and thanked for their service. Students presented handmade posters from each classroom along with a small token of appreciation to show gratitude. It was a meaningful morning filled with pride, respect and reflection as the community came together to honor those who have given so much.

Primary Field Trips

Primary students enjoyed two field trips that brought their learning to life. At the Dallas Children's Theater, they experienced "Dino-Light," a glow-in-the-dark show combining puppetry, dance and technology. At the Heritage Farmstead Museum, students participated in the Farmer Duck Tour, which featured a storytime reading and hands-on farm chores. Both trips offered interactive ways to explore storytelling, science and history.

Author Visits

Lower School students were inspired by visits from three celebrated authors this year — **Kwame Alexander, Jerry Craft** and **Don Tate**. Each author shared stories, creative processes and personal journeys as writers and illustrators. The events were made possible by the Shelton Parents' Association in collaboration with librarians **Mary Drexler** and **Marissa Montgomery**. The authors sparked imagination and a love of storytelling in young readers.





Early Childhood Through Second-Grade Winter Parade

Lower School hosted its fourth annual Early Childhood through second-grade Winter Parade, a festive tradition that brings joy and creativity to the community. Each class proudly marched with a themed float imagined by Drama Teacher **Donna Gonzalez**. With the support of the specials team — **Ken Utz, Gretchen Goldstucker** and **Charlotte Fisher** — the parade came to life. It was a celebration of imagination, teamwork and holiday cheer.

Celebrations

Lower School celebrations are held six times a year to honor every first- through fourth-grade student. Teachers share individualized comments recognizing each child's unique gifts and the positive impact they bring to the classroom community. Parents are invited to attend and celebrate with their child.

Native American Storyteller

Lower School students were captivated by a visit from Native American storyteller **Dorayne Breedlove**. Through music and engaging tales, she shared cultural traditions and the importance of honoring ancestry and community. Her storytelling sparked curiosity and appreciation across all Early Childhood through fourth-grade classrooms.

Third/Fourth-Grade Specials Showcase

Every six weeks, third/fourth-grade students shine during their Specials Showcase, inviting parents to campus to celebrate their creativity and hard work. Families enjoy watching students perform in short plays, share recorder skills, present imaginative STEM creations and display vibrant art projects. These rotating showcases in drama, music, art and STEM give students the opportunity to express themselves and build confidence in front of an audience. It is a joyful and inspiring celebration of student talent and growth.

Boots and Bling

Lower School families kicked up their boots at this year's Boots and Bling dance. Friday night welcomed mothers and sons, while Saturday was reserved for fathers and daughters. Guests enjoyed a DJ, dancing, food, a photo booth and a festive hat bar to complete their western look. The Shelton Parents' Association hosted this special tradition that brings the community together in style.

Third/Fourth-Grade Field Trips

This year, students enjoyed a variety of enriching field trips that brought learning to life beyond the classroom. While each class visited different destinations, third/fourth-grade students explored the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, Dallas Arboretum, Frontiers of Flight Museum, John Bunker Sands Wetland Center, The Dallas World Aquarium, Pure Land Farm and Dallas Children's Theater to see "James and the Giant Peach." These experiences added enrichment and were often tied directly to the cultural curriculum.

Horses and Humans

As part of the Lower School wellness program, third/fourth-grade students participated in Horses and Humans, a hands-on equine therapy experience on campus. Students built confidence, self-awareness and teamwork skills while interacting with the horses through guided activities. This unique program continues to be a highlight of the year, offering powerful lessons through connection and care.





Spectacular!

Early Childhood through second-grade students lit up the stage in our fourth annual "Spectacular" — a joyful showcase of music and drama skills learned in their Showtime special. Each class performed a unique number tailored to their personality, from a high-energy Lower School drum line to a clever Charlie Chaplin-style silent movie. A huge thank-you to our Specials team for creating, directing and bringing this magical performance to life. Following the show, students celebrated their hard work with family at a fun cast party featuring cookies and lemonade.



Mayfest

Lower School wrapped up the year with a sunny celebration at Mayfest on May 9. This year's beach-themed "Fun in the Sun" event featured bounce houses, games and a magic show by **James Wand**. The day also included a farewell to each advisory's adopted senior, as students presented gift baskets filled with well wishes for their next adventure. Families joined in the fun for this special half-day, topped off with **Chef Christian Moreno's** ice cream sandwiches.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Patricia Gallaher, Head of Middle School



Eighth-Grade Trip

In April, Shelton's eighth-grade class embarked on a four-day journey to explore Boston's historic landmarks, museums and sites. Highlights included the Boston Tea Party Museum, the Freedom Trail, Boston Common, Plymouth Rock and the Plimoth Patuxet Museums. Students capped off their adventure with a behind-the-scenes tour of Fenway Park, Boston's famous Duck Tours and a visit to Harvard University.







Seventh-Grade Trip

Seventh-grade students explored Texas history, ecology, science and team-building through two day-long experiences. In Waco, they toured the Dr Pepper Museum, created personalized soda in a chemistry lab and applied their math skills at the Texas Sports Hall of Fame before enjoying lunch. The other trip took them to the Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Glen Rose for a guided tour, hike and ecology lessons. They also enjoyed lunch at Hammond's BBQ and visited Big Rock Park to walk in the footsteps of dinosaurs.



Seventh-Grade Science: Heart Dissection

This semester, seventh-grade science classes studied the circulatory system through a hands-on pig heart dissection. Because of its similarity to a human heart, the pig heart offered students an invaluable opportunity to study chambers, valves and connecting blood vessels. **Dr. Christine Stiles**, mother of seventh-grader **Christopher Stiles**, joined three class periods to lead a demonstration and discuss heart diseases. This unforgettable experience deepened students' understanding of anatomy and their appreciation for science.

Exploring Arts, STEM and More in Electives

Middle School students took Visual Art, Ceramics, Band and Drumline, Drama, Piano, PE and Dance, Vocal Music, STEM, Coding, Life Hacks, Digital Photography, Woodworking, Podcasting and Esports. Seventh- and eighth-grade Ceramics students explored hand-building techniques and the potter's wheel. Eighth-grade podcasting students learned to plan, record and edit using GarageBand. Musical theatre students presented "Into the Woods Jr." in the fall and "Annie Kids" in the spring. Fifth- and sixth-grade students in drama, vocal music and dance performed throughout the year, while STEM students in all grades worked on projects requiring creativity, collaboration and critical thinking.





LEGO Robotics Team

The Middle School LEGO Robotics team designed and programmed a robot to complete missions on an ocean-themed map for the First LEGO League challenge. Students also engineered a prototype AI submarine to explore ocean depths. They met with an MIT oceanographer for feedback, then presented to a panel of judges. The team competed in the qualifier in December and a showcase in February, where they earned second place.





Celebrating Mayfest With Games and Talent Show



During the all-school Mayfest pep rally, each advisory presented a gift to their senior before enjoying a morning of activities. Fifth-graders played on the baseball field, in the gym and on inflatables. Sixth-graders rotated through advisory games including ring toss with pool floats, bocce ball, javelin with pool noodles, obstacle course races and indoor detective games. Seventh-graders enjoyed a photo and video scavenger hunt and water relays. Eighth-graders played kickball, ran relays and joined in water games. The day concluded with classmates and teachers sharing their talents in the Middle School Talent Show.



Fifth-Grade Collin County Adventure Camp Trip

In September, fifth-grade students bonded through team-building activities at Collin County Adventure Camp. They tested their aim at archery, climbed the rock wall and enjoyed a weekend of camaraderie with classmates and teachers.



Sixth-Grade Camp Carter Trip

Sixth-grade students spent two days at Camp Carter in Fort Worth. Activities included a wilderness survival challenge, hiking, fossil hunting, archery and cooking doughnuts over a campfire.



Fifth- and Sixth-Grade Final Awards Assembly



Congratulations to the 120 fifth-graders and 118 sixth-graders who received awards on May 13. Fifth-grader **Parker Betbadal** received the Shelton Parents' Association Award, sixth-grader **Dean Lipchitz** received the Rollen Family Endowed Scholarship and sixth-grader **Talia Perry** received the Stephen Warder Hipp Award.



UPPER SCHOOL NEWS

Jenny Cheatham, Head of Upper School



Shelton's seniors marked their final year with traditions that celebrated school spirit and lasting memories. The Class of 2025 kicked off the year with The Last First Day of School on Aug. 15, 2024. At the annual Senior Hero ceremony, each student recognized a mentor who had made a meaningful impact. Homecoming Week brought energy to campus with themed Dress-Out Days, while Senior Rally Days united the class in spirited games and competitions. Through the Adopt-a-Senior program, seniors built connections with younger students, modeling leadership and friendship. As the year drew to a close, students who finished in the top 10 in the class attended a breakfast with their families. Students in the class gathered for Shred Day to decorate old uniforms, joined the Senior Walk at Mayfest and capped it all off with graduation on May 17, 2025.





Academic and Extracurricular Highlights

- **Theatre Arts:** Students showcased their skills in productions like "The Matchmaker" and "Footloose," earning accolades for their performances.
- **Athletics:** Shelton teams made their mark at state, with Boys Cross Country finishing as runner-up, Varsity Cheer and the Chargerettes each placing fourth, Girls Tennis earning state runner-up and Boys Golf also finishing as state runner-up.
- **Community Service:** Upper School students contributed 10,052 hours of community service, demonstrating their dedication to civic engagement.





National Honor Society

Since 2012, Upper School has had a chapter of the National Honor Society, recognizing students for high academic achievement, good character and strong leadership skills. NHS held a donation drive benefiting the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center and collected nearly 500 items to support high school-aged students. They also offered tutoring during midterm and exam mornings to strengthen academic and leadership skills.

Shelton's Upper School NHS inducted new members on Feb. 26, including four seniors, six juniors and 47 sophomores. Congratulations to the new NHS members. NHS officers for 2024-2025 included:

- President: **Ella Trevino**
- Vice President: **Ford Myers**
- Parliamentarian: **Dylan Tompkins**
- VP Membership: **Davis Aaron**
- Historian: **Charlie Raynaud**

Upper School Student Council

Members of the Upper School Student Council partnered with the Shelton Spirit Organization to plan pep rallies, host the Homecoming dance and organize a Halloween party for fifth graders. The 2024-2025 Upper School Student Council included:

- Student Body President: **Ford Myers**
- Student Body Vice President: **Dylan Tompkins**
- Athletics Representative: **Ryan Kollinger**
- Fine Arts Representative: **Charlie Raynaud**
- Senior Class President: **Ella Trevino**
- Junior Class President: **Hudson Ramsey**
- Sophomore Class Co-Presidents: **Alex Chloupek** and **Sydney Davis**
- Freshman Class President: **Ella Kaczmarczyk**

Seniors & Parents Celebration Luncheon



Heather, Eric and Keagan McGehearty

Shelton seniors and their parents gathered April 17 for the Seniors & Parents Celebration Luncheon, featuring Upper School Engineering teacher **Tripp Givens** as faculty speaker.

In a talk titled "Life Isn't Fair," Givens spoke about resilience and perseverance, reminding students that Shelton's challenges prepared them to navigate adversity with strength and confidence. "You built stamina. You built resilience," he said. "When life gets unfair — and it will — you won't just survive. You'll find meaning, and you'll be proud of yourself."

The luncheon was catered by Head Chef and CEO **Jeffrey Kollinger** of The Spice of Life Catering, father of senior **Ryan Kollinger**.

Shelton Ethics Symposium

The Shelton School hosted its 23rd Annual Ethics Symposium, "Shaping Your Future with Integrity," on January 31. The event brought together students, educators and professionals to explore ethical principles and their role in education, careers and daily life.

Student Council President **Ford Myers** opened the day, and Shelton alumnus **Nathan England** (Class of 2005) gave the "Charge for the Day," urging students to guard their reputation and live by their values.

Keynote speaker **Bob Mong**, former president of the University of North Texas at Dallas and former editor of *The Dallas Morning News*, encouraged students to trust their instincts, value temperament as much as intelligence and lead with integrity. "Ethics often has to do with doing more than you have to do," Mong said.

Students also participated in panel discussions on ethics in social media, engineering and sports, featuring experts from SMU, UT Dallas, K Strategies Group and *The Dallas Morning News*. The day concluded with interactive activities that challenged students to apply ethical principles to real-world dilemmas.



Upper School Literary Magazine

The spring 2025 issue of the Shelton Upper School Literary Magazine was published by the Creative Writing Club. Founded in 2021 by **Jen Jen Dayton**, Class of 2025 and club president, the group offered Upper School students a platform to share their writing, receive feedback and learn from one another under the guidance of faculty adviser **Sophia Van Den Handel**.



Shelton Coffee Houses

Upper School students organized and performed in several Coffee Houses during the school year, giving the Shelton community a place to enjoy music, dance, comedy and more. The final event on May 8, sponsored by Scotty P's, drew a large crowd and raised more than $700 for theater construction. Coffee House was launched by the Class of 2025's **Ford Myers**.

ASL 2 Students Performed Original Plays for Lower School

On April 1, 2025, Shelton's American Sign Language 2 students continued a beloved tradition by writing and performing original plays entirely in ASL for the Lower School. This year's productions included "The Minions: Beyond the Stars" and "Scooby Doo: Where's the Van?"

Upper School Trip to Japan

Forty-four Shelton students and eight chaperones departed May 27, 2025, for the Upper School Japan trip, visiting Tokyo, Mount Fuji, Kyoto and Osaka. In preparation, students attended monthly lunches to study Japanese culture and traditions, then experienced it firsthand by dining at local restaurants, visiting Shinto and Buddhist temples and touring historic sites.



Will Holmes Memorial Bench



The Class of 2025 dedicated the **Will Holmes Memorial Bench** to honor their classmate, who passed away during his freshman year. Will, who began at Shelton in fifth grade, received the Spirit of Shelton Award as an eighth grader and was one of four boys nominated for the Adele Wolf Award. He was also a proud member of the Shelton Drumline.



The bench is located in the grass between the school and the parking lot along the Upper School/Middle School carpool route.

FINE ARTS FEATURES

Anné Hughes, Director of Fine Arts



At Shelton, fine arts are an integral part of our students' educational journey, nurturing creativity, critical thinking and a strong sense of community. Through Theatre Arts, students grow in self-expression, building confidence while exploring diverse perspectives through the study and performance of plays and musicals. Our vocal and instrumental music programs instill discipline and foster teamwork while enhancing cognitive abilities and supporting emotional well-being. Visual arts inspire students to communicate their ideas through imagery, nurturing imagination and honing problem-solving skills. Photography and Film offer dynamic ways for students to tell their own stories while developing technical expertise and visual literacy.

The Moody Fine Arts Center, with its beauty and functionality, serves as a vibrant hub for artistic exploration and collaboration. Here, students come together in a space where creativity thrives, enriching both their artistic and academic growth. By immersing themselves in these disciplines, students cultivate a deeper understanding and appreciation of the arts, preparing them for success in both their personal and academic futures.

SHELTON
FINE ARTS





Fine Arts Highlights

Upper School Theatre presented the fall play, Thornton Wilder's "The Matchmaker," Oct. 23, 24 and 26, 2024, to near sell-out audiences. The show involved 55 students in cast and crew. Additionally, more than 80 students in cast, crew and student orchestra collaborated to present the winter musical, "Footloose," Feb. 13-15 and Feb. 20 and 22, 2025.









The Gampper Art Gallery, located in the lobby of the Moody Fine Arts Center, features rotating works by Shelton art students of all grade levels. An exciting addition to the program this year is the dedicated ceramics program in grades seven through 12. Gallery highlights included "Night of the Arts" in May, which featured two-dimensional and three-dimensional art and photography created by Upper School students. Artwork by Lower School students is displayed during the Lower School Spectacular in April.





- The Charger Daily News is produced daily in the film studio and editing rooms.
- Upper School film students hosted the 2025 Shelton Film Festival at Studio Movie Grill-Spring Valley in early May. More than 20 films were screened in a full house of movie theater patrons.
- Band and Drumline students continue to enjoy the spacious Schmidt Family Band Hall, where they rehearse for performances at pep rallies, sports games and Grandparents' Day. Their fall concert, featuring more than 140 band students, was performed Dec. 12 in the large gym. The spring band concert was held May 1 and again showcased more than 140 band students from grades four through 12.





Vocal Charge, the Upper School Choir, held a fall concert in mid-October, featuring traditional concert music and debuting their new formal concert attire. Vocal Charge also sang holiday selections live on WRR radio in early December. Their spring choir concert was held April 30 in the Black Box Theatre and featured songs from around the world, with student singers in costumes to enhance the experience.

Middle School drama and choir classes held performances at the end of each quarter. More than 25 drama and choir students combined to perform the musical "Into the Woods Jr." to two sell-out audiences in early November 2024



In addition, the following students will pursue Fine Arts in college:

- **Liam Christensen:** the Dodge Film School at Chapman University in Orange, Calif., to study film and television production
- **Nate Milhizer:** Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn., for a degree in music performance
- **Kate Williams:** Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn., for a degree in visual art

Lower School students in grades three and four in art, music and drama ended each rotation with a showcase for parents highlighting their work. Fine Arts students in Early Childhood through second grade combined to perform the Lower School Spectacular in April 2025. The performances included song, dance and comedy skits by our youngest Fine Arts students.







SPOTLIGHT ON SPORTS

Alan Burt, Director of Athletics & Physical Education



Shelton Athletics builds character and leadership through health, fitness and fun. We emphasize commitment, teamwork, resilience and sportsmanship while fostering respect and personal growth.

Our teams compete in TAPPS, TAPS, YMCA, Spring Valley Association and Sportsplex.

Upper School Sports

Four Shelton seniors in the Class of 2025 signed to play sports in college:

- **Jack Conger:** Sewanee, University of the South, Cross Country and Track
- **Grayson Henegar:** Lubbock Christian University, Golf
- **Grayson Metz:** Carnegie Mellon University, Football and Track
- **Peyton Yammarino:** Rhodes College, Football

Cross Country

Cross Country (TAPPS Class 4A), led by Head Coach **Taiesha Olden** and Assistant Coach **Mike Willoughby**, saw both the boys and girls teams compete at the TAPPS state meet, where the Varsity Boys team finished as state runner-up.

- **Jack Conger:** sixth place, All-State; Academic All-State
- **Drew Metrailer:** 11th place, All-State
- **Alex Whitaker:** 14th place, All-State; Academic All-State

Varsity Volleyball

Varsity Volleyball (TAPPS Class 4A, District 3) earned its first playoff berth in 20 years, advancing to the area round.

- **Brooke Blackmire:** 2nd Team All-District
- **Sydney Davis:** 2nd Team All-District
- **Annie Fulton:** 1st Team All-District; Academic All-State
- **Chloe Weiner:** Honorable Mention All-District
- **Kat Williams:** Honorable Mention All-District
- **Paige Wood:** Honorable Mention All-District

Varsity Football

Varsity football (TAPPS Division III, District 2) returned to TAPPS district play and qualified for the playoffs, advancing to the area round, with **Taylor Ogden** setting school records for 2,285 rushing yards and 35 touchdowns in a season, along with career records for rushing yards, total yards and total touchdowns.



- **Cash Amason:** Honorable Mention All-District Linebacker
- **Jaden Ball:** 2nd Team All-District Running Back; 2nd Team All-District Defensive Back; Academic All-State
- **Jayvien Brown:** Honorable Mention All-District Defensive Back
- **Jeremiah Choice:** 2nd Team All-District Defensive Back; Honorable Mention All-District Running Back



- **Anthony Coppolino:** 1st Team All-District Offensive Lineman; 2nd Team All-District Linebacker; 2nd Team All-State Offensive Lineman; Academic All-State
- **Ryan Kollinger:** 2nd Team All-District Offensive Lineman; Academic All-State
- **Isaac Kornbluth:** Honorable Mention All-District Wide Receiver
- **Jackson LeLash:** Honorable Mention All-District Kicker; 1st Team All-District Punter; Honorable Mention All-State Punter; Academic All-State
- **Grayson Metz:** 1st Team All-District Offensive Lineman; 1st Team All-District Defensive Lineman; 2nd Team All-State Offensive Lineman; 1st Team All-State Defensive Lineman; Academic All-State
- **Taylor Ogden:** 1st Team All-District Running Back; 1st Team All-State Running Back; Academic All-State
- **Brock Rogers:** 2nd Team All-District Linebacker
- **Ryder Weidenbaker:** Honorable Mention All-District Offensive Lineman
- **Jacob Wood:** Honorable Mention All-District Tight End; 2nd Team All-District Defensive Lineman; Academic All-State
- **Peyton Yammarino:** Honorable Mention All-District Defensive Lineman





Varsity Cheer

Varsity Cheer (TAPPS Class 4A) placed fourth in the Small Schools division at state.

- **Vivien Perryman:** Honorable Mention All-State
- **Andi Shapan:** 2nd Team All-State; Academic All-State
- **Nora Twomey:** 1st Team All-State; Academic All-State
- **Maddie Washburn:** 1st Team All-State; Academic All-State





Chargerettes

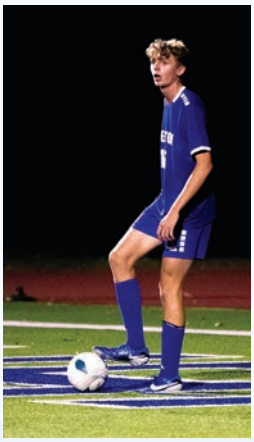
The Chargerettes (TAPPS Division IV) placed fourth in the Small Schools division at state.

- **Makena Bice:** 1st Team All-State; Academic All-State
- **Ellery Maxson:** 2nd Team All-State; Academic All-State
- **Summer Moreno:** 2nd Team All-State; Academic All-State
- **Phoebe Rupp:** Honorable Mention All-State

Varsity Boys Soccer

Varsity Boys Soccer (TAPPS Division III, District 1) finished in a three-way tie for third place in the district.

- **Colton Lee:** Honorable Mention All-District Defender
- **Jake Osborn:** 1st Team All-District Defender; Defensive Player of the Year in District; Academic All-State
- **Sean Sipes:** 2nd Team All-District Midfielder; Academic All-State
- **Weston Williams:** 1st Team All-District Goalkeeper





Varsity Girls Soccer

Varsity Girls Soccer (TAPPS Division III, District 1) had an incredible year of growth, with a record number of players earning postseason honors.

- **Laila Abbasi:** 2nd Team All-District Defense
- **Ruth Carpenter:** Honorable Mention All-District Forward
- **Addison Carrier:** 1st Team All-District Goalkeeper
- **Sophia Dye:** 2nd Team All-District Defense; Academic All-State
- **Megan Myers:** 2nd Team All-District Midfielder; Academic All-State

Varsity Boys Swim

Varsity Boys Swim (TAPPS Division III) placed fifth at regionals and 14th at state.

- **Jackson McDowell**: Regionals: fourth in 200-Meter Freestyle Relay; fifth in 400-Meter Freestyle Relay. State: Qualifier in 200-Meter Freestyle Relay and 400-Meter Freestyle Relay
- **Bergen Parker:** Regionals: fourth in 200-Meter Freestyle Relay; fifth in 400-Meter Freestyle Relay. State: Qualifier in 200-Meter Freestyle Relay and 400-Meter Freestyle Relay
- **Jack Poray:** Regionals: fourth in 200-Meter Freestyle Relay; fifth in 400-Meter Freestyle Relay. State: Qualifier in 200-Meter Freestyle Relay and 400-Meter Freestyle Relay
- **Sam Turner:** Regionals: third in 200-Meter Freestyle and 500-Meter Freestyle; fourth in 200-Meter Freestyle Relay; fifth in 400-Meter Freestyle Relay. State: Honorable Mention All-State in 500-Meter Freestyle; Qualifier in 200-Meter Freestyle, 200-Meter Freestyle Relay and 400-Meter Freestyle Relay



Varsity Girls Swim

Varsity Girls Swim (TAPPS Division III) placed ninth at regionals and 28th at state.

- **Ellie Goodno:** Honorable Mention All-Region in 100-Meter Butterfly and 200 Individual Medley; state qualifier in 100-Meter Butterfly and 200 Individual Medley

Varsity Girls Basketball

Varsity Girls Basketball (TAPPS Class 4A, District 3) finished fourth in the district.

- **Makena Bice:** Honorable Mention All-District
- **Alex Segal:** 2nd Team All-District
- **Jordan Weidenbaker:** Honorable Mention All-District

SPOTLIGHT ON SPORTS CONTINUED

Varsity Boys Basketball

Varsity Boys Basketball (TAPPS Class 4A, District 3) finished fourth in the district.

- **Milo Burke:** Honorable Mention All-District
- **Luke Jackson:** Honorable Mention All-District
- **Charlie Magids:** 2nd Team All-District
- **Merrick Russell:** 2nd Team All-District
- **Ja'ir Span:** 1st Team All-District; Academic All-State

Varsity Girls Tennis

Varsity Girls Tennis (TAPPS Class 4A, District 2) won the district championship and finished as the Class 4A state runner-up.

- **Laila Abbasi:** Honorable Mention All-District Girls Singles; State Qualifier
- **Berkley Cox:** 2nd Team All-District Girls Doubles; State Champion Girls Doubles
- **Emory Cox:** 2nd Team All-District Girls Doubles; State Champion Girls Doubles
- **Brynn Selby:** 2nd Team All-District Girls Singles; State Qualifier; Academic All-State

Varsity Boys Tennis

Varsity Boys Tennis (TAPPS Class 4A, District 2) finished as the district runner-up.

- **Connor Johnson:** Honorable Mention All-District Boys Singles; State Qualifier Boys Singles
- **Ford Myers:** 1st Team All-District Boys Singles; State Semi-Finalist Boys Singles; Academic All-State

Varsity Boys Golf

Varsity Boys Golf (TAPPS Class 4A, District 2) competed strongly in district and state play, with the team contributing to multiple all-state finishes.

Team Results:

- First place: CCA Cougar Classic
- Second place: Lobo Invitational, Bullard Invitational
- District: Runner-up in Class 4A, District 2 (**Collier Day, William Dean, Grayson Henegar, Nick Raymond, Everett Shultz**); **Owen Myers** qualified as an individual for regionals
- Regionals: Runner-up (**Grayson Henegar, William Dean, Collier Day, Nick Raymond, Everett Shultz**)
- State: Runner-up (**Grayson Henegar, William Dean, Collier Day, Nick Raymond, Everett Shultz**)

Individual Results:

- **Collier Day:** All-Region, seventh place
- **William Dean:** All-District, third place; Academic All-State
- **Grayson Henegar:** All-District, third place; All-State, sixth place
- **Owen Myers:** All-District, eighth place; Regional Qualifier
- **Nicholas Raymond:** Academic All-State
- **Everett Shultz:** All-State, eighth place

Varsity Baseball

Varsity Baseball (TAPPS Division III, District 3) finished fourth in district play.

Individual Results:

- **Jack Bendalin:** Second Team All-District; Academic All-State
- **Graham Bishop:** First Team All-District
- **Andrew Busker:** Honorable Mention All-District
- **Hudson Cooper:** Honorable Mention All-District
- **Hank Kauffman:** Second Team All-District
- **Colton Lee:** Second Team All-District
- **Weston Williams:** First Team All-District; Honorable Mention All-State
- **Ivan Young:** Honorable Mention All-District

Varsity Boys Track and Field



Varsity Boys Track (TAPPS Class 4A, District 2) won the district championship, placed fifth at regionals and finished 12th at state.

Individual Results:

- **Jaden Ball:** Honorable Mention All-District, 4x100-Meter Relay
- **Jeremiah Choice:** Honorable Mention All-District, 300-Meter Hurdles; Honorable Mention All-District, 4x100-Meter Relay
- **Jack Conger:** Honorable Mention All District, 3200-Meter; Second Team All-District, 1600-Meter; Second Team All-District, 4x400-Meter Relay; State Qualifier, 3200-Meter and 1600-Meter; Academic All-State



- **Drew Curtis:** Honorable Mention All-District, Discus
- **Drew Metrailer:** District Champion, 800-Meter; Regional Champion, 800-Meter; Honorable Mention All-District, 400-Meter; State Champion, 800-Meter; State Qualifier, 400-Meter
- **Greyson Metz:** District Champion, Shot Put; State Champion, Shot Put; Academic All-State
- **Kingston Moore:** Honorable Mention All-District, 4x100-Meter Relay; Second Team All-District, 4x400-Meter Relay
- **Taylor Ogden:** Second Team All-District, Long Jump and Triple Jump; Honorable Mention All-District, 200-Meter and 4x100-Meter Relay; Second Team All-District, 4x400-Meter Relay; State Qualifier, Triple Jump; Academic All-State
- **Jonas Ritz-Meuret:** Honorable Mention All-District, 400-Meter; Second Team All-District, 4x400-Meter Relay
- **Alex Whitaker:** Honorable Mention All-District, 3200-Meter; State Qualifier, 3200-Meter; Academic All-State

Middle School Sports

Football
Under new coach **Michael Cooper**, the tackle football team earned four wins during the season with a roster of 50 players. Fifth- and sixth-grade students played flag football through the SVAA league, with four teams participating.

Volleyball
Division I and Division II volleyball teams competed in TAPS and both earned playoff opportunities. The Division III team played games at the Sportsplex, while the fifth- and sixth-grade teams competed in SVAA.

Cross Country
Shelton competed in several meets, with athletes improving their times throughout the season.

Cheer
Led by **Ty Smith**, 24 girls prepared and performed at pep rallies, football games and basketball games.



Boys Basketball
Both Division I and Division II basketball teams earned playoff spots in TAPS, with the Division II team advancing to the semifinals. Two Division III teams, two sixth-grade teams and two fifth-grade teams all competed in the SVAA league.

Girls Basketball
Shelton fielded both a Division I and Division II team, and both qualified for the TAPS playoffs. The fifth-grade girls team competed in SVAA, earning three wins.

Boys Soccer
Led by coaches **Frank Arana** and **Eddie Moreno**, Shelton advanced to the TAPS championship game and finished as runner-up.

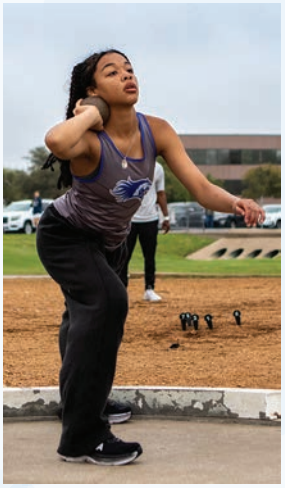
Girls Soccer
The girls team continued its success this season, advancing to the TAPS semifinals and finishing in third place.

Baseball
The team finished another strong season, placing third in the regular season and in the TAPS postseason tournament. The fifth- and sixth-grade teams played through the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Association.



Tennis
The tennis team had another strong season, with several players advancing in the TAPS postseason tournament.

Golf
Coaches **Mark Lamoreaux** and **David Fletcher** led a successful season that saw many players improve their scores and knowledge of the game.



Track and Field
Shelton hosted two meets, with the team placing high in every competition. Athletes had multiple individual wins and many set personal records.

BELIEVE COMPETE FINISH!! #bcf #gochargers

OFF THE SHELF LIBRARY UPDATE

Kelli Yonker, Director of Libraries



At Shelton, our library programs play a vital role in supporting student success both academically and personally. Through thoughtfully curated collections of print and digital resources — including books, magazines, academic journals, e-books, Playaways, Wonderbooks and online databases — we meet a wide range of interests and learning needs. Our libraries go beyond the shelves, offering enriching experiences like makerspaces, reading challenges, book clubs, "lunch bunch" gatherings, volunteer opportunities and author visits. Shelton librarians build meaningful connections with students through storytimes, engaging lessons and hands-on activities, helping each child develop confidence, build friendships and discover the joy of reading and learning.



Author Visits

Shelton students were fortunate to enjoy several inspiring author visits this year. Author-illustrator **Don Tate** visited twice, first sharing his story and creative talents with third through eighth graders. So moved by his visit, many students created an e-book of thank-you notes that was sent to him. Tate also engaged our youngest readers in Early Childhood through second grade with a fun interactive session about reading, books and illustrating. Several students had the chance to create their own drawings — seven lucky kids even took home original artwork from Tate.



In March, we welcomed five-time author **Lindsey Stoddard**, who presented to three different groups of third through eighth graders, making it a magical day filled with inspiration.

The excitement continued in May, when national best-selling authors **Kwame Alexander** and **Jerry Craft** visited Shelton. Speaking to students from first through 11th grade, they introduced their latest collaboration, "J vs. K," an illustrated chapter book. They shared the powerful impact of writing, reading, language, poetry, art and creativity in transforming lives. Students were thrilled to hear their stories of perseverance and success as Newbery Medal-winning authors. After the presentation, Alexander and Craft signed copies of their book for eager first through ninth graders and teachers.



These unforgettable visits brought storytelling and creativity to life, inspiring our students in countless ways.



Shelton Book Fair

The librarians held Shelton's annual book fair Oct. 15-23, 2024. It was a huge success with more than $28,000 in books sold, which means more than 4,600 books are in our students' hands. Everyone enjoyed the coordinated events with dads and special friends.



Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Shelton Book Fair a success. Through your generosity, you helped purchase new library books and expand many classroom libraries for our teachers.



A huge thank-you to our Shelton Parents' Association Book Fair organizer **Nancy Dodson** and all the SPA volunteers who helped the event run smoothly. The Shelton librarians appreciate your encouragement of the love of reading.





National Library Week

National Library Week was April 7-11, 2025. During the week, Shelton librarians invited students and parents to explore and celebrate the many adventures and opportunities the libraries offer each day. As a special thank-you to faculty and staff for their ongoing support, the librarians hosted a morning treat with doughnuts and coffee before school. It was a wonderful way to recognize the vital role libraries play in our community.

Book Buddies

During the 2024-2025 school year, Shelton librarians started a new cross-divisional collaboration, Book Buddies. Several Middle School reading and English classes were paired with Lower School Library classes. These groups met once a month, allowing Middle School students to read to Lower School students.

Books covered a wide variety of topics and monthly themes such as Black History Month, National Poetry Month and Earth Day. Students also participated in related crafts, formed friendships with peers outside their division and expanded their reading abilities.

Bluebonnet Reading Challenge

Our third- through sixth-grade students enthusiastically participated in the statewide Bluebonnet Reading Challenge this year — and their results were outstanding. Eighty-six third- and fourth-grade students read an impressive 631 books, while 98 fifth-grade students read a total of 726 books. These numbers greatly exceeded last year's totals.

To celebrate, students enjoyed weekly "lunch bunch" gatherings in the library. Nineteen sixth-grade students added to the excitement by reading 131 Bluebonnet books. We are especially proud of the students who read at least five titles and earned the opportunity to vote for their favorite book. It was a fantastic accomplishment for our young readers.

Fifth-Grade Library Ambassadors and Upper School Volunteers

This year, the Lower School Library was buzzing with student leadership and collaboration. Many fifth-grade students served as library ambassadors each morning, taking on a variety of responsibilities — from checking books in and out, caring for the tortoise and managing the makerspace to prepping table caddies, cleaning furniture and iPads, curating book displays and delivering materials to classrooms.

We are also grateful for our Upper School students who volunteered their time to assist with library maintenance, circulation, makerspace organization and support for younger learners — all while earning community service hours.

A Variety of Reading Activities Across Campus

From our youngest learners to our upper schoolers, students across every grade took part in reading activities this year.

In the fall, 53 Lower School students joined the Great Pumpkin Challenge, reading 253 books and decorating pumpkins as favorite characters. In the spring, 94 students from Early Childhood through second grade read 1,037 books in the Trot Into Reading challenge, then completed projects to share what they had learned.

Early grades also joined national literacy events such as Paper Bag Princess Day, Dot Day and Earth Day. One class tied history and reading together with "I Survived the Molasses Flood."

Third- through fifth-grade students set new records in their Reading Challenge, with 125 participants finishing 1,291 books. Twenty-one read all 25 titles. Their efforts were celebrated with frozen treats, book giveaways and outdoor games.



Eighth graders held a Book Tasting to sample and discuss new titles, while Middle School students shared favorite reads in Blind Date With a Book. Upper School students launched a Reading Club and visited Lower School classrooms to read aloud.

By the Numbers

39,879	Total cataloged items
36	Number of books per student
12,834	Elementary books and cataloged items
27,045	Secondary books and cataloged items
421,631	Database searches
22,135	Library materials circulated
298,844	Digital pages read in the Learning Ally Program

Library Staff



Mary Drexler
Library Media Specialist, Early Childhood-Second Grade



Marissa Montgomery
Library Media Specialist, Third-Fifth Grades



Morgan Richard
Middle School Library Media, Sixth-Eighth Grades

TECHNOLOGY TRENDS

Tina Larson, Director of Technology



The Technology Team supports Shelton's four entities: the school, the Evaluation Center, the Speech Center and the Outreach & Training department.

In May, eight staff members from across all divisions traveled to Austin for a day at the Apple campus. During their visit, the team explored Apple's coding and programming curriculum, gaining hands-on experience with Swift Playgrounds and Xcode.

Following the visit, the team was tasked with reimagining the technology curriculum — from early learners through Upper School — with a focus on thoughtfully and strategically integrating Swift Playgrounds and Xcode. The goal is to develop a structured program that allows interested students to advance and excel in technology and programming along personalized learning paths.

Shelton envisions its creative and innovative students graduating with certifications as app developers, app designers or programmers.



Joey Newman tries out Apple Vision Pro.



From left: Meghan Ball, Amanda Liese, Charlotte Fisher, Tina Larson, Sara Brown, Joey Newman, Mellany Barnett, Lilly Barnett (Shelton Class of 2024) and Brittany Jones.

Shelton Technology By the Numbers

- **80+ miles of fiber and copper cable**
- **State-of-the-art network configuration**
- **An Interactive flat panel in every classroom**
- **2,600 + devices**
  - Computers
  - iPads
  - Interactive flat panels (SmartBoard)
  - Printers
  - Video display monitors

AV Specialist Joins Technology Team

In July 2024, **James Rolando** joined Shelton as Audio Visual Specialist. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Theatre from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. James returned to DFW in 2016 to begin his career in live event and commercial AV. He spent eight years at the University of Texas at Arlington as lead lighting technician and was part of the production team that opened Dickies Arena in Fort Worth. At home, James enjoys video games and building computers.

New Educational Technology Coordinator

In June 2025, **Amanda Liese** was named Shelton's Educational Technology Coordinator. She began at Shelton in 2018 as an Upper School math teacher and became head of the math department in 2022. Amanda holds a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education and Mathematics from Oklahoma State University and a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in Educational Technology from Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

"I'm excited to have the opportunity to be a resource to help all staff members with their specific technological needs, no matter their capacity," Amanda said. "I get to take my passion for the Shelton community to a new level by supporting our incredible staff members."

Technology Staff



Stefan Babick
Computer Systems Specialist



Amanda Liese
Coordinator of Educational Technology



Eddie Moreno
Computer Systems Specialist



James Rolando
Audio Video Specialist



Corey Smith
Computer Systems Specialist

SHELTON'S "WHO WE ARE" ART INSTALLATION



In 2025, the Shelton School unveiled an extraordinary art installation in Charger blue — an illuminated 27-foot-wide by 10-foot-tall "S" composed of custom-made and found objects. Displayed prominently in the dining hall, the piece celebrates Shelton's four educational pillars: Academics, Athletics, Fine Arts and STEM. Embedded within the assemblage are Montessori materials and STEM elements, representing Shelton's unique multisensory approach. The overarching message: These pillars work together to create a dynamic, well-rounded learning environment that reflects the heart of the Shelton experience.

A Collaborative Artistic Vision

The project was a true collaborative effort. **Kellie Sirna**, Shelton parent and founder of Studio 11 Design, led the design execution, helping bring the vision to life as a thoughtful reflection of Shelton's vibrant and supportive community. Middle School art teacher **Kathleen Goree** and Shelton parent **Aphrodite Paulos** designed the initial layout, while **Christy O'Neal**, an in-house artist at Lou Verne by Studio 11 Design, brought the vision to life with her artistic expertise. The **Aphrodite and Sam Paulos Foundation** played a key role in making the project possible with a generous contribution.



From left: Kellie Sirna, Shelton parent and founder of Studio 11 Design; Middle School Visual Arts Teacher Kathleen Goree; Shelton parent Aphrodite Paulos of the Aphrodite and Sam Paulos Foundation; and Shelton Executive Director Suzanne Stell.

"This installation is deeply personal to me. Shelton isn't just where our children learn; it's a community we pour our hearts into," said Sirna. "We are not just supporters. We are mothers who are grateful for the opportunity to play a part in its ongoing legacy. Looking ahead to Shelton's 50th anniversary in 2025-2026, this piece serves as a foundation for future traditions, and I'm especially proud that our sons will be part of that celebration, continuing the legacy we've helped shape."



From left: Shelton eighth-grader Reid Sirna, Kellie Sirna, Shelton parent and founder of Studio 11 Design; Middle School Visual Arts Teacher Kathleen Goree, Shelton 11th-grader Richard Goree; Shelton parent Aphrodite Paulos of the Aphrodite and Sam Paulos Foundation, and Shelton eighth-grader Dimitri Paulos.

The Meaning Behind the Artwork

Shelton Executive Director **Suzanne Stell** said the artwork embodies Shelton's commitment to making a difference in the lives of students who learn differently. "Every day, it reminds students that their unique ways of learning are strengths to be celebrated and that confidence, perseverance and a love for learning open endless possibilities."

ACCESSING COLLEGE ACCOMMODATIONS

Debbie Knox, M.Ed., Director of College and Career Advising



For students with learning differences, college presents both new opportunities and challenges. A key to success is securing necessary accommodations. Unlike high school, where accommodations are provided under IEPs and 504 Plans, colleges operate under different laws, requiring students to take an active role in requesting accommodations.

Here's what students and families need to know about accessing accommodations in college:

1. Understand the Difference: K-12 vs. College
- In high school, accommodations are provided under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- In college, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 still apply, but students must self-advocate and submit documentation to request accommodations.

2. Obtain Proper Documentation
- Colleges typically require recent documentation, often within the past three years. This can include:
  - A psychoeducational evaluation (The Shelton Evaluation Center provides evaluations: 972-774-1772, ext 2243.)
  - A letter of diagnosis outlining the learning difference and recommended accommodations
  - A high school 504 Plan or IEP (helpful, but not sufficient on its own)

3. Research the College's Disability Services Office
- Visit the Disability Services Office (DSO) when touring colleges.
- Check the college website for DSO contact information, forms, guidelines and deadlines.
- Apply to Disability Services and request accommodations before classes begin.

4. Be Aware of Common Accommodations
- Extended time on tests
- Note-taking assistance or permission to record lectures
- Alternative testing environments (for example, a quiet room)
- Access to audiobooks or text-to-speech technology
- Priority registration
- Reduced course load

5. Encourage Self-Advocacy
- Unlike high school, parents cannot advocate for students in college.
- Students must take the lead in managing their accommodations:
  - Meet with professors to introduce themselves.
  - Explain their learning difference and needs in a confident manner.
  - Utilize campus resources such as tutoring centers or academic coaching.

***Debbie Knox** is the Director of College and Career Advising at the Shelton School, where she is dedicated to helping students navigate the college admissions process and plan for their future.*

Shelton Hosted the 2025 Alumni Panel

The Upper School hosted the annual Shelton Alumni Panel on Jan. 14, 2025. Four graduates shared valuable information, advice and inspiration to help prepare students for life after Shelton.

Shelton Director of College and Career Advising **Debbie Knox** hosted the event with the following alumni panelists:

Clay Brandenburg (Class of 2023)
- Hendrix College
- Majoring in Business and playing football and baseball
- *"The nice thing about being at a smaller school is that we have relationships with our professors."*

Ellie Goodwin (Class of 2020)
- Baylor University, Nursing
- Graduated in May 2025; plans to become a pediatric oncology nurse
- *"What's most important is meeting your deadlines. Also, take advantage of your accommodations, such as extra time."*



From left: Shelton Chief Advancement Officer Christi Contreras, Shelton Director of College and Career Advising Debbie Knox, Sam Marchant (Shelton Class of 2023), Ethan Proctor (Shelton Class of 2023), Clay Brandenburg (Shelton Class of 2023), Ellie Goodwin (Shelton Class of 2020), Shelton Associate Director of College & Career Counseling Mark Carter and Shelton Alumni Relations Coordinator Carolyn Strickfaden.

Sam Marchant (Class of 2023)
- Universal Technical Institute
- Attending a leading technical training provider and plans to pursue online college
- *"Pay attention and go to class."*

Ethan Proctor (Class of 2023)
- Austin College
- Received a Presidential Scholarship; majoring in Business/Finance
- *"Shelton did a great job helping me understand what my learning differences are."*

SUMMER, THE SHELTON WAY 2025

Shelton School concluded another successful session of Summer, The Shelton Way, held June 9-27, 2025, providing students with a fun and enriching experience. From Early Childhood through 12th grade, participants engaged in a wide range of offerings. Whether strengthening academic skills or discovering new interests, students immersed themselves in activities such as academic courses, sports camps, fine arts, LEGO and Makerspaces classes and the always-popular Drone Flying class.

The success of Shelton's Summer School was largely due to the exceptional leadership of Director of Shelton Auxiliary Programs **Sara Brown**, Summer School Coordinator for Lower School **Tabitha Valdez**, Summer School Coordinator of Middle and Upper Schools **Dr. Samantha Cason**, and Scholars Director **Jessica Newman**. Thanks to their dedication and coordination, the program saw an impressive 714 registrations, supported by a strong team of 92 teachers and 14 assistants.

Summer school teachers, division heads, assistant heads, coaches and staff all worked to make the program a meaningful and enriching experience for the students. Additionally, SAGE provided delicious summer lunches that kept everyone fueled for their busy days of learning.

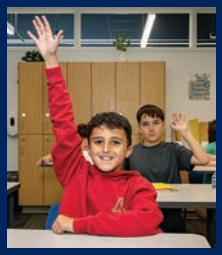
With the conclusion of the summer program, Shelton welcomed students back for Back-to-School Prep Week, which ran from July 28 to Aug. 1, 2025. This transition week gave students the opportunity to reconnect with their peers, get familiar with their new schedules and prepare mentally and academically for the school year ahead.



























COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS BEYOND THE CAMPUS

Terri Wilson, Upper School Community Service Coordinator



Volunteering offers countless opportunities to make a meaningful impact and engage with the community. At Shelton, community service is a vital component of our students' educational journey. During the 2024–2025 academic year, Shelton Upper School students contributed more than 10,052 hours to volunteer efforts.

"These experiences deeply influenced me and helped me discover a passion for teaching and making a difference in students' lives."

— Jane Hirschenberger, Shelton Class of 2026







Jane Hirschenberger: 11th grade*
Young Adult Category: ages 16 - 24
Silver Award: 175 - 249 hours

"The community service projects I participated in include Camp Barnabas, Vacation Bible School (VBS), the North Texas Food Bank, Parkway Hills Baptist Church renovations and Center of Hope. I was inspired to take part in these service opportunities because I wanted to make a positive impact on people's lives and their families. I believe it's important for others to witness God's grace and mercy and to experience the love He has shown us.

"At VBS, I completed 12 hours of service and at Camp Barnabas, I served for 144 hours — bringing my total to over 150 hours. The most memorable experience by far was Camp Barnabas, a camp designed for children with special needs including Down syndrome, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, autism and more. During my time there, I was assigned two campers. My first camper was a girl with cerebral palsy who used a wheelchair and was mostly nonverbal. We assisted her with daily living activities such as changing her diaper, feeding her, showering her and transporting her around the camp. My second camper was a 13-year-old girl who behaved younger than her age and was very active, often running around during meals and needing constant supervision.

"These experiences deeply influenced me and helped me discover a passion for teaching and making a difference in students' lives. At Camp Barnabas, I learned that I want to help, teach and better understand people and their needs. While I've spoken a lot about Camp Barnabas, it's because the experience left a lasting impression on me. I faced many challenges including pushing myself beyond my physical limits due to chronic back pain while doing wheelchair transfers and constant movement. I was also tested mentally and emotionally by the demands of a camper who was always on the go. I relied on prayer, community support from my Christian peers and faith to overcome these difficulties.

"This experience taught me the value of patience, perseverance and learning through service. One piece of advice I would give to other students is to go where you feel called — even if it pushes you out of your comfort zone, whether mentally or physically. Confidence doesn't come instantly; it takes time, effort and trust in the process."



Brent Venable: ninth grade*
Teen Category: ages 11 - 15
Gold Award: 100+ hours

"My community service was centered on leading and organizing a team of volunteers to plan, design and build a sandbox for Hyer Elementary School. This project involved coordinating with school staff, sourcing materials, managing timelines and ensuring the final structure was safe, functional and met the needs of the students. The experience strengthened my leadership, project management and communication skills while also allowing me to make a meaningful contribution to the community."

** Denotes grade level in the 2024-2025 school year*

Heston Dios: 11th grade*



Young Adult Category: ages 16 - 24
Gold Award: 250+ hours

"Throughout high school, I've dedicated more than 300 hours to community service, with 260 of those spent volunteering at a summer camp mentoring 7- and 8-year-olds for an entire month. These kids might not otherwise have the chance to enjoy such a meaningful experience, so we worked hard to give them the best month of their lives.

"When I was younger, I attended a summer camp and had an unforgettable time, all thanks to the counselors who guided, supported and helped shape who I am today. Their positive impact inspired me to step into that same role to be a mentor and role model for the next generation of campers. In addition to the summer camp, I've also volunteered with Feed My Starving Children, an organization that provides nutritious meals to children in need around the world. It's incredibly rewarding to know the food we pack is helping families who are facing hunger and hardship.

"To other students considering community service, I'd say this: Choose something that genuinely means something to you. For me, it's all about uplifting younger kids, encouraging them to grow into kind, strong individuals and helping families in poverty-stricken areas. When your heart is in it, the impact you make becomes even more powerful."





Upper School Honors Ceremony

The following students were recognized at the 2024 Upper School Honors Ceremony.

Throughout the year, Shelton students have dedicated significant time to serving the community. Many of our students have gone above and beyond the required service hours, and we are proud to recognize their outstanding contributions. The following individuals completed between 50 and 99 hours of community service:

Ninth Grade
Cooper Gill
Maddex Maguregui
John Stuart

10th Grade
Lola Bridges
Brooke Edwards
Sasha Fairman
Reese Olsen
Miles Schendle
Samuel Turner
Ryder Weidenbaker

11th Grade
Lauren Battaglia
Olivia Breedlove
Katherine Keesy
Isaac Kornbluth
Grafton Robinson
Andi Shapan
Zoya Ukani

12th Grade
Ford Myers
Beatrix Peterson
Jordan Weidenbaker
Savannah Zasa

Presidential Community Service Awards

Teen (Ages 11–15)

Gold (100+ hours):
- Connor Johnson
- Micah McCrary
- Owen Simmons
- Brent Venable

Bronze (50–74 hours):
- Jackson Edwards
- Ella Musick
- James Shell

Young Adult (Ages 16–25)

Gold (250+ hours):
- Heston Dios

Silver (175–249 hours):
- Jane Hirschenberger

Bronze (100–174 hours):
- Addison Carrier
- Maddie Givens
- Catherine Johnson
- Jenah Ramji
- Jonas Ritz-Meuret
- Chloe Weathers
- Kathryn Williams
- Andi Yung

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS BEYOND THE CAMPUS CONTINUED

Maddie Givens: 11th grade*
Young Adult Category: ages 16 - 24 years
Bronze Award 100 - 174 hours



"Volunteering at Moss Haven Farm Summer Camp was a transformative experience that deepened my appreciation for community engagement and the importance of giving back. Teaching children about healthy eating and lifestyle habits provided me with a strong sense of purpose and responsibility. I witnessed the powerful impact of small hands-on lessons — such as demonstrating how to plant vegetables or discussing the benefits of fresh produce — in sparking curiosity and encouraging healthier choices. It was deeply rewarding to know that my efforts were contributing to a healthier future for these children while also prompting me to reflect on my own habits and the example I set for others.

"This experience also significantly enhanced my communication and leadership skills. Working with children from diverse backgrounds required patience, creativity and empathy — traits that I have since applied in many areas of my life. Watching their excitement as they tasted new vegetables or created nutritious snacks reinforced the idea that positive change often begins with education and encouragement. Volunteering at Moss Haven Farm not only allowed me to support a meaningful cause but also reshaped my understanding of community, wellness and the role I can play in advancing both."



Jonas Ritz-Meuret: 11th grade*
Young Adult Category: Ages 16 - 24 years
Bronze Award 100 - 174 hours



"Community service has been an incredibly rewarding experience for me. I have had the opportunity to explore various aspects of volunteer work, including serving lunches with the Salvation Army, working at food pantries, participating in Boy Scouts activities such as the White Rock Lake clean-up and Eagle Scout projects, assisting at a major sports event and supporting the varsity basketball team at my school. Over the course of this school year, I have completed more than 130 hours of volunteer service.

"One of the most memorable experiences was helping to set up the pregame flags of the United States and Mexico during the CONCACAF tournament at AT&T Stadium in front of tens of thousands of fans. Witnessing the gratitude of those I've helped and knowing that my efforts brought happiness to others has been deeply fulfilling.

"In particular, my work in soup kitchens and food distribution centers has shown me the powerful impact of dedicating time to people in need. These experiences have inspired me to seek out more opportunities to support my community and make a positive difference in the lives of others."

Andi Yung: 10th grade*
Young Adult Category: Ages 16 - 24 years
Bronze Award 100 - 174 hours



"Last summer, I worked for one week at a theater summer camp hosted by North Texas Performing Arts, assisting children ages 6 to 8. I helped them collaborate and develop their ideas into a cohesive story, which they performed as a show at the end of the week.

"My favorite part of the experience was working with the kids. They were incredibly sweet and full of creativity. On the final day, they surprised me with drawings and heartfelt goodbye notes, which meant a lot to me. I believe we made a meaningful impact on each other and it's an experience I will always treasure."

Addison Carrier: 10th grade*
Young Adult Category: ages 16 - 24 years
Bronze Award: 100 - 174 hours



"From June 2024 to May 2025, I completed more than 130 hours of community service across more than nine organizations. The primary organizations I served were The Storehouse and Operation Kindness. I've had a love for animals since I was young, so volunteering at Operation Kindness was a natural fit, especially working in the kitten nursery where I was able to apply my school knowledge and learn more about the biology, treatment and care of animals. The Storehouse is part of my church community which made it convenient and gave me the opportunity to serve alongside my friends. I also volunteered with other organizations including Network of Community Ministries, Ronald McDonald House of Dallas, Minnie's Food Pantry and Feed My Starving Children.

"One of the most meaningful moments I experienced during my service was when a young child hugged me in gratitude after I gave him food. That simple gesture had a profound impact on me and reminded me why this work is so important. Community service has not only shaped my character but has also influenced my future goals. It has inspired me to pursue a science degree with a career aspiration in medical research where I can continue helping others in meaningful ways.



"One challenge I encountered during my volunteer work was the language barrier when communicating with Spanish-speaking community members. To overcome this, I've started taking Spanish classes to better serve and connect with others in the future."

SHELTON DONOR WALL CELEBRATION



In 2016, Shelton launched the most ambitious fundraising effort in its history — the New Home for Shelton Capital Campaign. The campaign set out to transform Shelton's future by building a permanent campus on Preston Road designed to inspire learning, foster community and support every student's success.

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the Shelton community, that dream became a reality. The result is a beautiful, purpose-built campus that stands as a daily reminder of what our community can accomplish together.

To celebrate this achievement, Shelton unveiled a permanent donor wall in May 2025. Located in the main lobby, the wall serves not only as a recognition of generosity but also as an enduring symbol of gratitude, legacy and community spirit.

The successful completion of the New Home for Shelton Capital Campaign has positioned the school for a new era of excellence. Our students now learn and grow on a campus built with their needs at heart. Together, we have created more than a campus — we have built a home.























STAFF STUFF



From left: Shelton staff SPARK Award winners Monica Orr, Honey Harris, Lisa Winkler, Claudia Kuhnast, Susan Sutton, Bailey Glass, Andrea Baker and Sophia Van Den Handel

2024-2025 Shelton SPARK Awards Recognized Staff

Three Shelton teachers and five Shelton counselors received the 2024–2025 Shelton Parents' Association Recognition Kudos (SPARK) Award at the May 23 Shelton End-of-the-Year Staff Appreciation Luncheon. This marked the 10th year that SPA presented the recognition. Awards were based on comments received in the spring parent survey. Each winner received a SPARK crystal statue, thanks to the coordination of Shelton parent **Emily Touchstone**. They also received a check from the Shelton Parents' Association.

Lower School: Honey Harris

Lower School Head **Christine Davis** described **Honey Harris** as a kind and caring spirit who served her students with compassion while instilling the skills and confidence they needed to thrive. Parents echoed that praise, with **Molly Hayes** sharing, "Ms. Harris knew exactly how to gently push, inspire and encourage each child to excel. Both of my children overcame learning differences and now thrive with a love of learning. She was a true gift to her students and one of the reasons Shelton is such a special place."

Middle School: Monica Orr

Monica Orr made a real difference in the lives of her students through her expertise, consistency and unwavering commitment. One parent shared, "She was nothing short of phenomenal, offering the perfect balance of being firm yet loving." Another praised her for providing "the academic challenge, emotional support and structured skill-building that had a transformative impact on my child."

Upper School: Sophia Van Den Handel

Upper School teacher **Sophia Van Den Handel** was celebrated by Shelton parents for her creativity, calm confidence and deep passion for writing. One parent shared, "Her passion for reading and writing and international experience gave her a depth of understanding of the world around her that transcended into her classroom teaching." Ms. Van Den Handel motivated countless students to work hard and dream big — especially through her leadership in publishing Shelton's Upper School Literary Magazine two years in a row.

All Around: Shelton Counselors

This year's All-Around SPARK Award went to Shelton's remarkable counseling team: **Andrea Baker, Bailey Glass, Claudia Kuhnast, Susan Sutton** and **Lisa Winkler**. Here were the comments about the team: "This team was committed to supporting our students in their academic journey and their personal well-being. They provided teachers with specific social/emotional programming in each division to support mental health concerns, character building and challenges related to social media."

Betty Glasheen Award Supports Immersive Learning Opportunity for Lower School Teacher

Lower School teacher **Jill Alessandra-Garza** received the 2025 Betty Glasheen Endowed Faculty Scholarship Award, which supports unique professional development for Lower School teachers.

Jill planned to explore Arizona's deserts and Native American sites to enrich her third and fourth graders' study of U.S. biomes with firsthand stories and materials.



Jill Alessandra-Garza

The award honors longtime Shelton supporter **Betty "Mama G" Glasheen**, who served Shelton from 1979 to 2019 and often said, "If you're lucky enough to go to Shelton, you're lucky enough."

Longevity Award Winners

Congratulations to the following staff members who received Longevity Awards in May 2025:

10 years:

Ed Barry
Siew Chen
Mary Drexler
Hunter Duesing
Marsha Harris
Tobin Knox
Lauren Magee
Christie Morris
Jennifer Ordaz
Christy Sharpe
Clare Stein
Kelly Van Den Handel

15 years:

Christine Davis
Nicole Jones
Krista Norwood

20 years:

Chris Bedenbaugh
Phillip Carroll
Tina Graves
Adrain Hayes
Stephanie McCain
Meghan Miller
Will Riemer
Joni Williams



Shelton volunteers at Feed My Starving Children packed 30,024 meals in 139 boxes on Jan. 6.

Shelton Teachers and Staff United for Community Service Day

On Jan. 6, 2025, 270 Shelton teachers and staff participated in community service projects organized by Director of Admission **Meghan Miller**.

The service projects included:

- **Austin Street Shelter:** A Dallas shelter providing safe overnight lodging, meals and support services for men and women experiencing homelessness
- **Feed My Starving Children:** A nonprofit organization dedicated to providing nutritionally complete meals to starving and malnourished children around the world
- **Lovepacs:** A nonprofit organization that provides meal boxes filled with non-perishable food to children facing food insecurity during extended school breaks
- **The Birthday Party Project:** A nonprofit organization that brings joy to children experiencing homelessness by hosting memorable birthday parties

Miller said, "These moments of coming together not only strengthen the bonds we share as colleagues but also provide an invaluable opportunity to connect with new faces across our staff. An added bonus, of course, was the impact we were able to have on the wider community."



Shelton volunteers at Feed My Starving Children packed 30,024 meals in 139 boxes on Jan. 6.



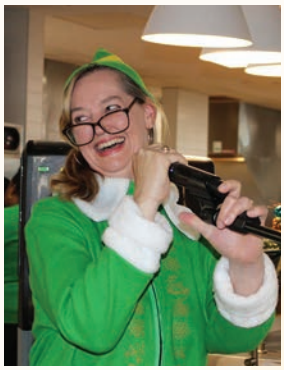
Shelton staff volunteered at Lovepacs on Jan. 6.

Shelton New Hires 2024-2025

Brynnley Beckman	Biology Teacher, Upper School
Carrie Boydston	Lower School Teacher
Jaye Butera	History Teacher, Middle School
Brandon Carpenter	American Sign Language Teacher, Upper School
Stephen Dirks	Math Teacher, Upper School
Mary Beth Eager	Lower School Teacher
Ela Engen	Science/STEM Teacher, Middle School
Michelle Fallon	Lower School Teacher
Tracey Fowler	Campus Safety and Security Officer
Melodee Frazier	Lower School Teacher
Bailey Glass	Counselor, Middle School
Jennifer Goeres	Math Teacher, Middle School
Kim Gunnels	Science Teacher, Middle School
Jana Hajj-Sleiman	Math Teacher, Upper School
Ryan Hardin	English Teacher, Middle School
Michael Hardy	Biology Teacher, Upper School
Julie Hickman	Math Teacher, Middle School
Gillian Horowitz	Fifth-Grade Teacher, Middle School
Laura Hudgins	Art Teacher, Middle School
Carly James	Speech-Language Pathologist, School Speech
Kate Kelley	Math Teacher, Upper School
Haley Marshall	English Teacher, Upper School
Mack McBride	Campus Safety and Security Officer
Abby Miller	Lower School Teacher
Kathy Morrison	Spanish Teacher, Upper School
Heather Payne	English Teacher, Middle School
James Rolando	Audio Visual Coordinator, Technology
Erin Sherman	Life Hacks Teacher, Middle School
Carolyn Strickfaden	Alumni Relations Coordinator
Madison Warrick	Speech-Language Pathologist, School Speech
Jonathan Womble	Fifth-Grade Math/History Teacher, Middle School
Yvette Zapata	Montessori Training Coordinator, Outreach
Mary Zerda	Lower School Teacher

Staff Holiday Party Brought Cheer to Campus

Shelton's staff holiday party on Dec. 18, 2024, was a festive celebration filled with treats, raffles and holiday cheer. Organized by **Laura Berend, Shelly Lloyd** and **Caitlin Royall**, the event featured decorations led by **Christina Rosen** and **Lisa Winkler** and music by DJ **Ken Utz**. Guests enjoyed delicious food and a showstopping Shelton Yule log provided by SAGE Foodservice Director **Christian Moreno** and the SAGE team.



Jenny Duncan composed a poem as the Shelton Holiday Elf.

The celebration included a variety of door prizes donated by Shelton staff members **Bob Sherman, Kendra Murphy, Will Riemer** and more. **Jenny Duncan** entertained attendees with a spirited reading as the Holiday Elf.

Executive Director **Suzanne Stell** shared warm holiday wishes, and Shelton Parents' Association Co-Presidents **Kimberly Kahn** and **Leigh Erin Lundy** acknowledged the hard work of faculty and staff. Thanks to the generosity of Shelton families, the Holiday Happiness initiative raised an extraordinary $128,500 for staff. The effort was coordinated by SPA Holiday Happiness Co-Chairs **Renee Jansen** and **Chuck Marlett**.



Front row: Mary Drexler; back row, from left: Marissa Montgomery, Kelli Yonker and Morgan Richard.

Thank You to Our 2025 Retirees for Their Dedication



Mary Connolly: 14 years
After 14 years of teaching at Shelton, **Mary Connolly** retired. Over the years, she taught Biology, Chemistry, Honors Chemistry, Physics and Forensics, inspiring countless students with her passion for science. Mary looks forward to enjoying time at home with her family and traveling.

"It was truly gratifying to witness students actively engaging in the learning process, especially in the field of science. When alumni returned to express their gratitude, it reinforced the value and fulfillment of teaching."

Amy Cushner: 31 years



After 31 years at Shelton, **Amy Cushner**, Associate Head of School for Early Childhood through Sixth Grade, retired. Cushner began as a first-grade assistant in 1994 and rose through the ranks to leadership roles, including 14 years as assistant head and five as associate head. She also taught MACAR, SEE and other courses through Outreach, presenting across the U.S., China and Canada.

Though stepping away from her role, Cushner will continue consulting, training and educating parents. In her final message, she quoted "The Giving Tree": "I am but a reflection of your own generosity," said the Boy to the Tree.

Susan Ruff: 11 years



Middle School English Department Chair **Susan Ruff** is retiring after 11 wonderful years at Shelton. A Baylor graduate, she taught English in several states across grades 7–11 before focusing on middle school.

"Helping students learn at their own pace and achieve academic success has been the most rewarding part of my teaching career," she said. Ruff plans to travel with her husband, care for her parents and visit her children around the country.

Marsha Harris: 10 years



After earning a journalism degree from University of North Texas and working in advertising, Middle School English teacher **Marsha Harris** followed a longtime dream to become a teacher. She taught in Richardson ISD for nine years before joining Shelton, thanks to encouragement from her best friend, **Susan Ruff**. After another nine wonderful years, Harris and Ruff are retiring together.

"The time has passed so quickly, and I have loved my experience as a Shelton English teacher, but it is time for another chapter," Harris said. She and her husband plan to move to Charlotte, N.C., to be near their children.

Director of Campus Safety & Security Bob Sherman Keeps Shelton Safe



How long have you worked at Shelton?
I started working at Shelton in August 2023 after retiring from the Burleson Police Department.

What are your qualifications?
I served in the U.S. Air Force from 1981 to 1992, with assignments that took me to Germany, Texas, South Korea and Florida. I left the service with an Honorable Discharge and immediately went through the police academy at Tarrant County College, where I graduated as class valedictorian and was named Distinguished Recruit. I started my law enforcement career with the Burleson Police Department in April 1993 and retired in April 2023. Over the years, I worked as a patrol officer, corporal, sergeant and served as the School Resource Officer Supervisor for Burleson ISD. I also led the hostage negotiation team, managed the department's drone (sUAS) program, handled Internal Affairs investigations, worked as an administrative sergeant and helped recruit new officers. I was selected as Supervisor of the Year twice and received the department's Medal of Valor and Life Saving Award.

What do you like about your job?
Being able to help Shelton become a safer place for students, staff, parents and visitors is what I like most about my job. The reason I came out of retirement after only four months was because I saw the need to implement more robust security protocols on campus.

What is one of your favorite memories about working at Shelton?
If you've ever walked past my office, you've probably noticed a bunch of ducks in the window along with several motivational signs. The ducks are there to remind people to "Be the Duck." That means not letting things get to you. Let hate, criticism or angry words roll off you like water off a duck's back. And lastly, it means don't be afraid to jump in and get your feet wet. Some of my favorite memories are when students or staff would come by my office or stop me in the hallway and ask if they could have a duck. Over the years, I've handed out hundreds of ducks and I always keep a few in my pocket, ready to share.

Which of your Shelton colleagues do you admire and why?
Executive Director **Suzanne Stell** is the best leader I've ever worked for. She is passionate, driven and deeply committed to Shelton and its students. Her dedication goes beyond words — she lives Shelton every single day. She lays out the vision, gives you the tools and support you need and trusts you to do the job you were hired to do. She gave me the space and confidence to get things done.

What teacher had the most impact on you and why?
Two fellow staff members, **Marvel Washington** and **Lyndsey Welch**, are like walking sunshine. They bring a lighthearted, easygoing and cheerful vibe to campus every day. You can't help but smile when they're around.

Meet Consuela Teague: Outreach & Training Program Associate, Problem-Solver and Former Ballroom Dancer



How long have you worked at Shelton?
I started on June 1, 2012.

What are your qualifications?
I have a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Management.

What do you like about your job?
I genuinely enjoy the structure and problem-solving aspects of my role. Working with customers, numbers, analyzing data and ensuring everything aligns financially gives me a sense of clarity and purpose. I take pride in creating procedures and finding ways to make systems more efficient and organized. It's important to me to help the department run more smoothly and to support the bigger picture of our training programs.

What do you like about working at Shelton?
What I like most about Shelton is what the school represents in the community. I love being part of an organization that is making a real impact — especially through my work in the training department. Knowing that our department helps prepare more teachers to go out into the community and effectively teach children using proven dyslexia curricula is incredibly rewarding. It creates a chain reaction of support for students with dyslexia.

Which of your Shelton colleagues do you admire?
I admire **Kelly Van Den Handel**, Shelton's Chief Financial Officer. She is not only a strong financial leader, but also someone who genuinely supports professional growth. She has offered guidance and encouragement during key moments in my development, which I truly value. It's clear she cares about both the success of the organization and the people who contribute to its day-to-day work.

What's a fun fact about you?
I used to compete in amateur ballroom dancing — sequins, spins and all!

World Languages Department Chair Abby Garcia Likes to Challenge Her Students in a Positive Way



How long have you worked at Shelton?
I am entering my fourth year.

What is your job?
I am a Spanish II teacher, athletics coach and World Languages Department Chair.

What are your qualifications?
I have a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with minors in Business Administration and Economics from Saint Mary's College. Prior to becoming a teacher, I worked in the accounting field for a company ranked as the 10th-best small company to work for in Dallas.

What do you like about your job?
I like to challenge my students in a positive way. I want them to know that they are more than capable of overcoming any obstacles in their path. In addition, I enjoy finding and integrating ways to relate to my students through a different language.

What do you like about working at Shelton?
I like how intelligent, empathetic and collaborative the teachers are here. This creates a sense of support and community. In addition, I enjoy not having to meal prep lunch every day.

What is one of your favorite memories about working at Shelton?
One of my favorite memories was attending this year's Hero Ceremony. I never thought I would have such a deep impact on a student, and this was a very special moment for me.

Which of your Shelton colleagues do you admire?
I admire **Carol Davies** and **Kathy Morrison**. Both are supportive and kind-hearted and their expertise in the classroom is unmatched. They inspire me to be a better teacher and they are also a fun crew to work with!

What's a fun fact about you?
In college, I got to play against the Women's National Team of Haiti in a preseason soccer game.

Shelton Primary Teacher Tobin Womble Enjoys Forming Bonds With Students



How long have you worked at Shelton?
This is my second year teaching at Shelton.

What is your job?
I am a Primary teacher, first and second grades.

What are your qualifications?
I graduated from Abilene Christian University with a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies, Elementary, a specialization in Reading and an endorsement in Early Childhood Education. I started my career in education teaching second grade in 2002 and have been involved in various aspects of education ever since — as a second-grade classroom teacher, a Special Education teacher for grades K-5 and an Educational Diagnostician. I obtained my Master in Special Education at Texas Woman's University. Prior to coming to Shelton, I spent seven years assessing for dyslexia and helping make recommendations to Section 504 and ARD Committees to implement accommodations for students with dyslexia.

What do you like about your job?
My favorite thing is forming relationships with the students and their families. Watching the students grow in confidence as they experience successes is such a rewarding feeling.

What do you like about working at Shelton?
Shelton is the most incredible place to work because everyone is truly working together to do what is best for our students. The students are at the forefront of everything we do and teachers are given the resources and support to provide each child with the individualized attention that will best help them reach their full potential. The student-teacher ratio is unparalleled. I am grateful to get to be a part of a school environment that encourages and enriches students, that sees potential rather than problems, that focuses on each child's creativity rather than his disability.

What is one of your favorite memories about working at Shelton?
Each year, the Lower School gathers in September for International Peace Day, joining Montessori students from around the globe to "Light a Candle for Peace." It's a beautiful song that is rich in meaning and it is so impactful to hear a chorus of children singing out together as they sign the lyrics. This year, my son **Benjamin** was near the center of the circle with his Early Childhood class and we found ourselves facing one another for the song. We locked eyes and sang to each other. I held back tears while my 4-year-old sang and signed along, "Light a candle for me, light a candle for you, that our wish for world peace will one day come true." It's a memory I will cherish forever.

Which of your Shelton colleagues do you admire?
One thing that really stood out to me when I attended new hire orientation last year was the fact that our Executive Director, **Suzanne Stell**, was present at all of our sessions. Her commitment to our mission became evident to me as I listened to her passionately engage on topics concerning our students as she interacted with the new hires, making a clear effort to learn our names and make us feel welcomed and valued.

Middle School Teacher Tina Graves Marks 20 Years at Shelton and 37 Years in Education



What is your job?
I am a Middle School teacher. This year I have the sixth- and seventh-grade Applied Reading and English blocks as well as eighth-grade SEE. I am also a seventh-grade adviser.

What are your qualifications?
I have a Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies with a minor in English from Northwestern University and an M.Ed. in Secondary Education from the University of North Texas.

What do you like about your job?
The number of dedicated, amazing teachers at Shelton is astounding! The smaller class size is a gift. I'm able to spend time working one-on-one with students. It's impossible to hide in the back row and get lost — because often there is no back row.

What do you like about working at Shelton?
I appreciate the level of trust we are given in planning our instruction. While there is a framework and content that must be addressed in English, we are given the freedom to assess how to best meet our students where they are and help them move forward. We are not required to be in lockstep or on the same page at the same moment

The professional development I've received has been life-changing. When I first started at Shelton, each fall we would revisit the brain. There was so much information packed into that presentation that I took something different away each time I heard it. I've been fortunate to explore all things **Mark Twain** in Hannibal, Mo., attend the Boothbay Literacy Institute and the Tyrolia Literacy Institute and spend a week sitting at the feet of teacher-author extraordinaire **Linda Rief**. Shelton has fed my teacher soul.

What is one of your favorite memories about working at Shelton?
Maybe 10 years ago, at the old campus, I was teaching when I looked up to see a United States Marine in dress blues standing in my doorway. It was former Shelton student **David Oxenreiter** (Shelton Class of 2013). David was in town, had stopped by Shelton and wanted to say hello. This shows the power of relationships — even ones we may not realize we're building.

What's a fun fact about you?
My little brother is eight years younger and he attended Shelton in its early days over on Willow Lane.

Upper School English Teacher Charlotte Lee Has Spent 42 Years Inspiring Students



How long have you worked at Shelton?
This is my 13th year at Shelton as an Upper School English teacher.

What are your qualifications?
I have a Bachelor of Arts in English and taught in the Richardson Independent School District for 29 years. I was then lucky enough to begin teaching at Shelton. This is my 42nd year teaching.

What do you like about your job?
I love teaching literature. I love that my students are invested in the short stories and novels we read. I enjoy the discussions we have and the insight the students bring from their own lives. I especially love the connections they make to their own experiences.

What is one of your favorite memories about working at Shelton?
One of my favorite memories at Shelton involves a senior who told me he "hated to read and had never read a book he liked." After reading a novel for an outside reading project, he told me that maybe "reading wasn't that bad." He went on to read several novels beyond the assigned reading just because he enjoyed them.

Which of your Shelton colleagues do you admire and why?
I admire all of my colleagues at Shelton and the passion, time and dedication they bring to the classroom each day. I feel very lucky to be a part of the Upper School English Department. I am inspired and awed by them every day.

Middle School Drama Teacher Beth Riggs Is Inspired by Students and Known as the Lunch Queen



How long have you worked at Shelton?
Thirteen years.

What is your job?
Middle School Drama Teacher, part-time Lunch Queen and I get to work with the Upper School productions.

What are your qualifications?
I have an Education degree with an emphasis on Drama and Speech.

What do you like about your job?
It is fresh and new every day, and there are wonderful surprises — such as my students' unique talents or the unexpected ways they interpret a script.

What do you like about working at Shelton?
It's the students. They are not just intelligent, kind and hard-working but also bring an absolute joy of life to the school. It's a joy to work with them.

What is one of your favorite memories about working at Shelton?
There are many, but they all have the same theme: I watch Middle School students and Upper School students not just perform but grow. After weeks of rehearsal, laughter and sometimes tears, they surpass their expectations and put on a wonderful performance. It's a testament to their growth and our shared journey.

Which of your Shelton colleagues do you admire and why?
My Fine Arts colleagues are, first and foremost, both fine educators and skilled artists. They can show our students the skills needed in a particular project and tell them the artistry behind the work. It is a privilege to be in this department led by **Anné Hughes**.

What's a fun fact about you?
I qualified to go to the Grand National & World Championship Morgan Horse Show in Oklahoma City and compete in the Nationals and Worlds.

Speech-Language Pathologist Nichole Tsai Is a Creative Problem Solver



How long have you worked at Shelton?
I have been at Shelton for three years.

What is your job?
I'm a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) in the Group Speech Department, working particularly with Lower School students.

What are your qualifications?
I have an undergraduate degree in Communication Science from Texas Woman's University, where I also completed my graduate degree in Speech-Language Pathology. I previously worked at a pediatric home health company for three years prior to starting my position at Shelton.

What do you like about your job?
I've always had a passion for creative problem solving, which this job often involves — incorporating fun activities and games to facilitate tailored learning for each student. Each student presents their own unique set of strengths and challenges, so there's no one-size-fits-all approach. The opportunity to create a learning environment that feels fun yet effective for each student is one of the most rewarding aspects of being an SLP. And being able to witness that "light-bulb moment" when a concept finally clicks is a bonus.

PARENTS' PAGE



The 2024-2025 Shelton Parents' Association led a year focused on building strong community connections through engaging events and purposeful contributions. Events included the Back-to-School Dads' BBQ, New Parent Dinner, Boots and Bling, the Parent Mixer, Food Trucks, Book Fair, Lunch with Dads and the new Moms' Mahjong among many more.

Weekly e-communication of the SPA events was featured in The Scoop, posted by **Corrie Shores**. In addition, the SPA supported Shelton's teachers and staff during Thankful Thursdays and Teacher Appreciation Week. Thanks to Holiday Happiness contributions totaling $128,000 from parents, teachers and staff received generous direct deposit payments. Thank you to the SPA Holiday Happiness Co-Chairs **Chuck Marlett** and **Renee Jansen**.

One of the most ambitious achievements this year was the Stampede Auction. Thanks to the leadership of Auction Co-Chairs **Lindsey Sherry** and **Carolyn Strickfaden** and Director of Volunteer Relations & Events **Shelly Lloyd**, the Stampede was a magnificent evening. Attendees enjoyed the event with "Saved by the Stampede" as a theme.

At the End-of-Year Breakfast, the SPA presented a check for a record $930,000 to Shelton Executive Director **Suzanne Stell**. We are grateful to our wonderful Shelton parents!

2024-2025 SPA Executive Board

- 2024-2025 Presidents **Kimberly Kahn** and **Leigh Erin Lundy**
- Secretary **Laticia Lavarette**
- VP Community Relations **Ashley Romo**
- Treasurer **Michelle Coppolino**
- VP Communications **Corrie Shores**
- VP Lower School **Brettne Hemley**
- VP Middle School **Heather Shell**
- VP Upper School **Gina Rangel-Peña**
- Dads' Group Chair **Kyle DuPont**
- Stampede Co-Chairs **Lindsey Sherry** and **Carolyn Strickfaden**
- Corral Chair **JoAnna Sudbeck**
- SPA Liaison **Shelly Lloyd**

We will remain the SPA co-presidents for the 2025-2026 school year.

Thank you!

Kimberly Kahn and Leigh Erin Lundy



From left to right: Shelly Lloyd, Shelton's Director of Volunteer Relations and Events, Executive Director Suzanne Stell, Stampede Co-Chairs Carolyn Strickfaden and Lindsey Sherry and SPA Co-Presidents Kimberly Kahn and Leigh Erin Lundy

Shelton Parents' Association Presented a Check for $930,000 to the School

Thank you to the 2024-2025 Shelton Parents' Association, led by Co-Presidents **Leigh Erin Lundy** and **Kimberly Kahn**. They presented a check for $930,000 to Shelton Executive Director **Suzanne Stell** at the SPA End-of-the-Year Luncheon on May 14.



Shelton Parents' Association Events

- Back-to-school parties
- New Parent Dinner
- Back-to-School Dads' BBQ
- Fall Parent Mixer
- Lunch With Dads
- Book Fair
- Sky Ranch
- End-of-Year Breakfast
- Staff appreciation lunches
- Food trucks
- Boots and Bling
- Moms' Book Club
- Mom's Mahjong
- Pi Day
- Monthly Zoom meetings
- Division coffees
- Thankful Thursdays
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Stampede
- Holiday Happiness
- Dads' Group







2025 Shelton Stampede Auction

The Shelton School Parents' Association (SPA) raised money at the 2025 Stampede benefit auction on April 4, 2025, at the Frontiers of Flight Museum. Attendees enjoyed the evening with "Saved by the Stampede" as the theme, inspired by TV sitcoms. The event featured a cocktail reception, seated dinner, live and big board auctions and musical entertainment by Emerald City.

Funds raised from the auction support improvements in academics, curriculum programs, arts, athletics, technology, professional development for teachers, the wellness program, security enhancements and tuition assistance. Proceeds also support the Shelton Endowment Fund and the Shelton Scholarship Fund.

Among the auction highlights were the Ultimate Cowboys experience — including travel for two on the Cowboys' team-chartered plane and tickets to an away game — a poker party with former Cowboys running back **Emmitt Smith**, a U.S. Open trip, luxury getaways to Telluride, Nevis and 30A, naming rights to a Shelton mural and more.

2025 Stampede Auction co-chairs were **Lindsey Sherry** and **Carolyn Strickfaden. Kimberly Kahn** and **Leigh Erin Lundy** were co-presidents of the 2024-2025 Shelton Parents' Association, which sponsored the event. **Shelly Lloyd** is Shelton's Director of Volunteer Relations and Events.

Executive Director **Suzanne Stell** thanked the parents, including **Mandy Evans**, volunteers, sponsors and staff who helped make the Stampede a success. "Tonight, all money goes back to our school and to our students because of the sponsorships and underwriters," she said. "Not every school event or party can say that — but we can, because of their support. So thank you again for all of your support, and thank you to our sponsorships and underwriters."

The **Corrigan-Goddard Foundation** was the presenting sponsor, the **Paulos Foundation** sponsored the dinner and **Goody Goody**, owned by Shelton parents **Renee** and **Scott Jansen**, donated alcohol and beverages for the event for the last four years. **Garnett** and **Michael Holmes** were the





Stampede Auction Photography by Kate White

entertainment sponsors. **Lara** and **Stephen Shankle** sponsored Stampede Week, and **Marybeth** and **Kevin Conlon** sponsored the decor. Shelton parent **Kate White** was the photographer.

Shelton parent and board member **Stephanie Dean** introduced Stell, and Shelton parent and Board member **Chase Evans** spoke, saying, "With the funds we raise, we're looking forward to enhancing our fine arts program, continuing to pay our teachers competitive wages, strengthening campus security and investing in technology where it makes sense. All of these efforts ensure that Shelton students can learn in an environment created specifically for them — and that is huge."



Thank you to everyone who helped make the event a success — whether by attending, bidding, contributing funds or donating homes, experiences, gift cards and so many other generous items that support Shelton!





SAVE THE DATE!

2026 Shelton Stampede Auction

Join us to celebrate 50 years of the Shelton School & Evaluation Center at the Stampede Benefit Auction on **April 11, 2026**, at the Fairmont Hotel. The entertainment will be Little Big Town.



Shelton.org

Stay Connected

Visit the Alumni Page at Shelton.org

All former Shelton students are part of our Alumni Association, a network of thousands who once called Shelton home. Reconnect through events, programs and gatherings, and keep up with classmates on our website and social media.

Visit the alumni page at Shelton.org to learn more, or connect with us through the Shelton School of Dallas Alumni Facebook page, Instagram, LinkedIn or by emailing sheltonalumni@shelton.org.

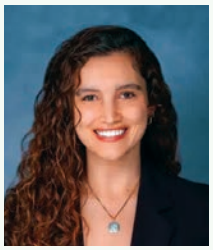


Sign Up for Shelton Pathfinders

The Shelton Pathfinders program pairs current seniors with alumni mentors who can share guidance, advice and real-world insights as students prepare for life after graduation. Created with input from **Katie Guerra** (Class of 2025), the program is designed to build lasting connections between students and alumni. Alumni can sign up now through the Pathfinders link on the alumni page at **Shelton.org.**

SHELTON PATHFINDERS

Samantha Bongiorno (Class of 2013): From Shelton to Surgery



Samantha Bongiorno earned a B.A. in Philosophy and Global Health from Macalester College and an M.D. from St. George's University. She is now a general surgery resident in upstate New York and plans to pursue a trauma fellowship to become a double board-certified general and trauma/critical care surgeon.

Bongiorno says she is most proud of finishing medical school, a milestone on her path to becoming a surgeon. "I think the biggest thing Shelton taught me was how to be an advocate for myself in education and in life."

Aidan Eefting (Class of 2016): First-Generation College Grad and Lawyer

Aidan Eefting earned a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of North Texas and a Juris Doctor from UNT Dallas College of Law in May. He passed the Bar Exam on his first attempt and is pursuing a career in law, with aspirations of working as a prosecutor or defense attorney for the State of Texas before eventually establishing his own practice or joining a firm as a partner.



"What inspires me most about my work is the opportunity to serve as a voice for clients, advocating for their rights and needs."

Lindsay Kaplan (Class of 2020): Assistant Company Manager on Broadway

Lindsay Kaplan graduated from The Theatre School at DePaul University in 2024 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theater Management. She now lives in New York City and works as the Assistant Company Manager of the Broadway production "Hadestown." In this role, she helps oversee payroll, union benefit reports, house seat requests, marketing meetings, financial discussions and nightly reporting to producers and investors. She also coordinates events and social media projects with budgets of $50,000 or more.



"Working on Broadway has always been a dream of mine because of my love for the arts. Company management combines theater with the running and maintaining of a business, which I find fascinating to learn about and understand."

Emily Anderson Mesa (Class of 2017): Sales Executive for The Utah Mammoth

Emily Anderson Mesa earned her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a focus in Sports Integrated Entertainment Management from the University of North Texas. She is now an Account Executive for the Utah Mammoth, where she sells season tickets, suites and group tickets.



"I am the first Account Executive and first female on the sales team in NHL history for the Utah Mammoth."

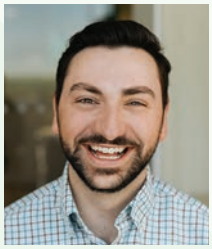


Evan Antich (Class of 2019): From Dartmouth to Berlin

Evan Antich earned a Bachelor's degree in History modified with German Studies from Dartmouth College and is now pursuing a Master's in Global History in Berlin through a joint program with the Free University and Humboldt University. Alongside his studies, Antich works as a tour guide at the State Parliament of Berlin, leading tours in German and English.

"The most important lesson Shelton taught me is self-advocacy. I didn't know how essential that would be until after I left Shelton."

Henry Gordon: Strategy Leader at PMG and MBA Student at SMU



Henry Gordon attended Shelton through eighth grade before graduating from Bishop Lynch High School in 2014. He earned a degree in Business Administration and Marketing from the University of Oklahoma in 2018 and is currently pursuing his MBA at Southern Methodist University. Gordon works in Dallas as a strategy leader at advertising agency PMG, where he guides major brands in connecting with customers through data-driven campaigns.

"One of the accomplishments I'm most proud of is learning how to turn my learning differences, like ADHD and dyslexia, into strengths. Those skills have become my superpower."



Sam Korman (Class of 2020): Wells Operations Superintendent At Exxon Mobil

Sam Korman earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Oklahoma State University and now works as a Wells Operations Superintendent with Exxon Mobil. "I am inspired by my work to provide energy to the United States and the world. The world needs oil and gas energy to provide the quality of life that we have become accustomed to."

Bill Collins: University Faculty Member in Europe



Bill Collins attended Shelton for his eighth-grade year in 1980–81, an experience he calls "critical" to his academic success. After Shelton, he graduated from Jesuit Dallas, earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Texas A&M and went on to receive both a Master's and Ph.D. in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from Georgia Tech.

Collins now lives in Rotterdam, The Netherlands and teaches at several universities across Europe, including Erasmus University, Antwerp Management School, Warsaw School of Economics, TU Delft and the University of Cologne Business School.

"If I think that back in the 1970s when I was struggling in grade school, it would have been ridiculous to predict that I would continue my education to the level of Ph.D.," Collins says. " I can say without hesitation that my time at Shelton was critical in my success at Jesuit and the springboard for the rest of my academic success."

Elizabeth Dzina (Class of 2019): Multimedia Reporter at Fox 44 News



Elizabeth Dzina is working as a multimedia reporter at KWKT Fox 44 in Waco. She graduated from Abilene Christian University in 2023 with a degree in Multimedia and a minor in Theater Production. Dzina says she pursued journalism because of her passion for storytelling and her desire to help people's voices be heard.



Luke Langlais (Class Of 2017): Commercial Airline Pilot

Luke Langlais earned a Professional Pilot Associate Degree and is now a Commercial Airline Pilot for American Eagle.

"I am inspired by getting my passengers and their cargo to their destination safely with every takeoff and landing."

Daniel Marks (Class of 2005): Founder Of Car Dorx



Daniel Marks earned a degree in Entrepreneurship and Finance from the University of North Texas and went on to found Car Dorx, a social advertising agency serving franchise automotive dealerships. He is also active in the decentralized finance and crypto space, advocating for blockchain-driven innovation.

"Shelton taught me that being different is not just OK — it's an advantage."

Harper McKenzie (Class of 2017): Program Coordinator at Syracuse University



Harper McKenzie earned a Bachelor's degree in Creative Writing and Disability Studies from Emerson College and a Master's in Higher Education at Syracuse University. She recently became program coordinator at the Syracuse University Disability Cultural Center.

The role builds on her practicum with the Office of Student Living and her capstone project in higher education. "I didn't always think my career in student affairs would be possible, but HED showed me it is when you and the people around you decide it will be," McKenzie says. "I was lucky to go through this program with people who believed in my worth and wanted me to belong, even if the existing ways weren't built for me."

Andrew Redd (Class of 2017): Venture Metals + Buyer/Account Manager

Andrew Redd graduated from Indiana University with a degree in Media Management, Industry and Policy and a minor in Business. He now works as a Buyer and Account Manager for Venture Metals +, a global scrap metal recycling company.



"We are making a direct impact on the environmental health of communities around the world, and that is something I am extremely passionate about."

Cole Reiser: UC Berkeley Graduate and Financial Adviser



Cole Reiser, who attended Shelton from third through eighth grade, earned a Bachelor of Science in Political Economics from University of California-Berkeley, where he was also a two-time National Champion rower. Today, he is a partner and financial adviser at RoundTable Associates, a wealth management group at Northwestern Mutual.

"I love being able to help people in a moment of need," Reiser says. "Being able to offer wise financial counsel during times like this is incredibly important to me."

Kaitlyn Waters (Class of 2019): Project Engineer Pursuing Her Master's



Kaitlyn Waters earned a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in 2023 and is now pursuing her Master's degree in Civil Engineering at Georgia Tech. She works full time as a Project Engineer at EM Structural in Atlanta, focusing on the structural design of mid-rise apartment buildings.

"One thing that inspires me about my work is the problem solving — figuring out the best solution for the building structurally while also trying to minimize cost for the owners."

Meili West (Class of 2014): Senior HR Operations Specialist at Whole Foods



Meili West earned a Bachelor of Business Administration with a minor in Communication from St. Edward's University and now works as a Senior HR Operations Specialist at Whole Foods Market Headquarters in Austin. She also holds certifications in HR management and digital communications.

"Providing resources, knowledge, tools — or even just pointing employees in the right direction to get answers to their HR questions — motivates me to do my best every day at work."

shelton.org

READ SHELTON ALUMNI PROFILES

Discover stories of Shelton alumni at shelton.org. If you're an alum who would like to be featured, email **sheltonalumni@shelton.org**.

Kenny DeCay Jr. (Class of 2022): Aerospace Engineering Student at Texas A&M



Kenny DeCay Jr. is majoring in Aerospace Engineering at Texas A&M University. He has held two internships at Los Alamos National Laboratory, contributing to research in computational fluid dynamics and simulation verification, and he also holds a patent for a sanitizing apparatus designed for grocery store conveyor belts.

"My experiences at Shelton prepared me to attend the largest college in Texas and thrive there."

Nathan England (Class of 2005): Commercial Real Estate Agent



Nathan England, a Shelton alumnus from the Class of 2005, is a commercial real estate agent with Wynmark Commercial Real Estate Group. He recently returned to Shelton as the "Charge for the Day" speaker at the 23rd Annual Shelton Ethics Symposium, Shaping Your Future with Integrity.

"Guard your reputation with your life," England told students. "Reflect on your values and what matters to you most. Do what you say, underpromise and overdeliver. Be true to your values even when it's inconvenient."

Paul Patterson (Class of 2010): Certified Arborist and Urban Forester



Paul Patterson spoke to Shelton teachers and staff at the Aug. 7, 2025, All-Staff In-Service meeting.

After graduating from Shelton, Patterson attended Stephen F. Austin State University, where he earned several scholarships in Urban Forestry and Arboriculture. In 2016, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Urban Forestry and a minor in Business. Patterson is now a certified arborist and urban forester with Bartlett Tree Experts in Dallas.

Patterson credited Shelton's teachers with giving him the tools and confidence to succeed: "Before my six years at Shelton, I truly didn't believe college was an opportunity for me. But by my senior year, I knew I could graduate from college."

Patterson closed with a heartfelt message to Shelton's faculty and staff: "You may not always see the impact of what you give, but I stand here today as living proof that what you pour into us lasts a lifetime. What you do truly can and does change lives."

Graciela C. Custer (Class of 2013) Built a Creative Career in Digital Marketing



Graciela C. Custer works in digital marketing, using creativity to write and pitch ideas that connect with audiences. A graduate of Abilene Christian University, she earned a degree in Global Studies.

Custer credits Shelton with teaching her valuable organizational skills that still serve her today. "Shelton helped prepare me by teaching me to stay organized — using binders was especially helpful."

Ethan Armour (Class of 2019) Is a Personal Trainer and Track Coach at Hendrix College



Ethan Armour has turned his love of athletics into a career as a personal trainer and track coach at Hendrix College in Arkansas. A former college athlete, Armour played football and competed in track and field at Hendrix, where he qualified for nationals in the decathlon. He earned a degree in Biology and continues to compete as a decathlete while helping others reach their athletic goals.

"Shelton prepared me for college and life after by helping me learn how I learn best. The teachers helped me discover study methods that work for me, which allowed me to continue succeeding after graduation."

Maggie Thomas (Class of 2013) Is Co-Founder of Parachute Studio



Maggie Thomas is the co-founder of Parachute Studio, where she transforms brand visions into compelling narratives through creative design. With expertise in creative direction across multiple industries, she has played a pivotal role in developing high-impact visual identities and strategic marketing campaigns for businesses of all sizes.

A graduate of Sewanee: The University of the South, Thomas earned a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy. She further honed her design expertise at Southern Methodist University.

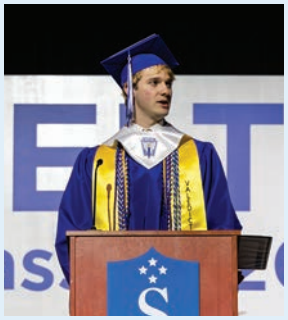
"Shelton gave me the tools to advocate for myself, lean into my strengths and approach challenges with resilience. Those skills have been invaluable in both higher education and entrepreneurship."

2025 GRADUATION

Shelton's Class of 2025 Is the Largest in School History

Shelton honored the Class of 2025 at graduation on Saturday, May 17, at 8 p.m. in the Browning Family Gym. Shelton Executive Director **Suzanne Stell** told the graduates, "The level of talent and the amount of dedication in this senior class are truly impressive. You took advantage of the opportunity your parents provided. Each of you overcame obstacles, and here you are. We know that many wonderful opportunities lie ahead for you."

Valedictorian **Ford Myers**, who started at Shelton School in Pre-Primary, spoke at the graduation about overcoming challenges. Ford majors in Business at the University of Texas in Austin. "I'm proud to say that as a class, we have yet to back down from any challenge," he said. He went on to say, "Those challenges make us fighters, so don't ever stop fighting."



Shelton was honored to welcome **William L. Holmes** as this year's graduation speaker. Holmes, a successful entrepreneur and co-founder of several ventures in the oil and gas industry, is also the father of beloved Shelton student **Will Holmes**, who passed away in 2021 during his ninth-grade year. Will, remembered for his bright mind and kind spirit, left a lasting impact on the Shelton community and will always be remembered as part of the Class of 2025.

Holmes organized his speech around fun facts, inspired by his son Will, who was known for sharing them. He concluded by saying, "Young men and women of Shelton, you have proven you are overcomers. I want you to move on to the next phase of your life, confident that you can overcome any obstacle that might come your way."

The Class of 2025 is Shelton's largest. It is made up of 101 graduating seniors who received 506 college acceptances, attend 54 colleges across 21 states and were awarded $12.6 million in merit scholarships. Acceptances spanned from Oklahoma State University, the University of Arkansas and Hofstra University to Southern Methodist University, Baylor University, the University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University, Wake Forest University, the Savannah College of Art and Design and more. One senior earned a composite ACT score of 35, and two seniors earned a 36 on the ACT Reading section. The highest ACT Math, Science and English scores in the class were 35.

Four Shelton seniors signed to play sports in college:

- **Jack Conger:** Sewanee, University of the South, Cross Country and Track
- **Grayson Henegar:** Lubbock Christian University, Golf
- **Grayson Metz:** Carnegie Mellon University, Football and Track
- **Peyton Yammarino:** Rhodes College, Football

In addition, the following students will pursue Fine Arts in college:

- **Liam Christensen:** the Dodge Film School at Chapman University in Orange, Calif., to study film and television production
- **Nate Milhizer:** Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn., for a degree in music performance
- **Kate Williams:** Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn., for a degree in visual art

Enzo Ampolini received the $253,808 Singer Scholarship at the University of Miami, and **Ethan Gulden** was accepted into The Hilltop Scholars Program at SMU.

Together, the Shelton Class of 2025 completed 10,052 community service hours to help others. Stell praised the graduates, saying, "Today we celebrate you — your commitment, your resilience and perseverance and the community you have built."

































First row, from left: Josh Prescott, Kathryn Guerra, Jen Jen Dayton, Ella Trevino, Jake Osborn and Ford Myers; **Back row from left:** Sean Sipes, Makena Bice, Enzo Ampolini and Ryan Kollinger

Shelton's Top 10 Graduates

Ford Myers, Valedictorian
College plans: University of Texas, majoring in Business

Kathryn Guerra, Salutatorian
College plans: Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, majoring in Biology or Biochemistry

Enzo Ampolini
College plans: University of Miami, majoring in Mechanical Engineering

Makena Bice
College plans: University of Texas, majoring in Psychology

Jen Jen Dayton
College plans: Hofstra University, majoring in Creative Writing and Publishing Studies

Ryan Kollinger
College plans: University of Maryland, majoring in Real Estate Development

Jake Osborn
College plans: Kansas State University, majoring in Personal Finance Planning

Josh Prescott
College plans: Baylor University, majoring in Mechanical Engineering

Sean Sipes
College plans: Texas A&M University, majoring in Engineering

Ella Trevino
College plans: Louisiana State University, majoring in Philosophy — Law, Ethics, and Social Justice

GRANDPARENTS' DAY 2024

Shelton hosted Grandparents' Day on Nov. 21 for Early Childhood through fifth grade and on Nov. 22 for sixth through 12th grade. Executive Director **Suzanne Stell** thanked grandparents and special friends for their support, and Student Council leaders **Ford Myers** and **Dylan Tompkins** welcomed guests. Shelton grandparent **Sabrina Polley** also spoke, and student performances made the program especially meaningful.

On Nov. 21, senior **Jack Bendalin**, who has dyslexia and attended Shelton for 10 years, shared his story. "The challenges of dyslexia will always affect me, but knowing that I worked through it all will stick with me even more," he said. Jack introduced Shelton's Hope Squad program with his mother to promote mental health awareness and served in Student Council, NHS and on the baseball team. He was accepted to the University of Kansas, University of Arizona and University of Missouri with scholarships, and applied to several other schools.

On Nov. 22, senior **Nala LeBeauf**, who has ADHD and auditory processing difficulties, reflected on her Shelton journey. "While shadowing a Shelton student, I saw how encouraging teachers were, and I loved the smaller class sizes," she said. A Student Council representative and member of NHS, Nala was also active in clubs and athletics, playing basketball and running track. She is majoring in Business Integrated Studies at the University of North Texas with the goal of becoming a sports agent.

Sixth Through 12th Grade Grandparents' Day



























Early Childhood Through Fifth Grade Grandparents' Day





























SAVE THE DATES!
2025 GRANDPARENTS' DAY

We look forward to welcoming grandparents and special friends to Shelton's Grandparents' Day celebrations.

Thursday, Nov. 20: Early Childhood through fifth grade will be honored

Friday, Nov. 21: Sixth through 12th grade will be honored.

The events will take place at 9:30-11:30 a.m.

SHELTON'S INNOVATIVE CLUBS

At Shelton, there's a club for just about every interest — and then some. From creative outlets like the Creative Writing Club and Podcasting Club to service and leadership groups such as National Honor Society, Student Council and Shelton Ambassadors, students have endless opportunities to get involved, connect with friends and explore what they love.

The following highlights three innovative clubs that capture the spirit of Shelton — where creativity, teamwork and forward thinking come together in new and exciting ways.

Shelton Junior Jenah Ramji Launched HOSA — Future Health Professionals Chapter

When **Jenah Ramji** was in middle school, she discovered HOSA–Future Health Professionals while preparing for the Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair. By the time she reached high school, she knew the international organization could help her pursue her dream of becoming a cardiothoracic anesthesiologist.

Since Shelton didn't have a HOSA chapter, Jenah decided to start one. As a freshman, she researched the process and asked her biology teacher, **Meredith Moody**, to be the faculty sponsor. "Ms. Moody is such a kind person," Jenah said. "We share a profound interest in science. She was enthusiastic about helping me meet my goal of starting a HOSA chapter at Shelton."

After Jenah's proposal was approved, she promoted the club with posters and word of mouth. About 15 students attended the first meeting in February 2024; today, membership has grown to 35.

HOSA, founded in 1975, is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services. Its mission is "to empower HOSA-Future Health Professionals to become leaders in the global health community, through education, collaboration and experience."

The Shelton chapter meets on Fridays. As president, Jenah plans meetings that include hands-on workshops — from taking vitals to suturing — and guest speakers such as doctors and medical students.

"When I was in middle school, I thought the high schoolers I observed preparing for HOSA competitions were so inspiring," Jenah said. "I wanted to share that with the community at my school and help immerse them into healthcare."

— Nicki Cooper





Shelton Middle School Students Pursue LEGO Robotics

During the 2024–2025 school year, Shelton Middle School students took their passion for LEGOs to the next level through the after-school LEGO Robotics Club. The hands-on program combined STEM, coding and teamwork as students designed, built and programmed robots using LEGO bricks, motors, sensors and controllers.

Coaches **Lexi Rix** and **Brittany Jones** led the club, which met Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the fall and on Mondays in the spring. The coaches guided students as they developed problem-solving, collaboration and what Coach Jones called an "innovation mindset" — a focus on improvement through testing and iteration.

The year's theme, **SUBMERGE**, challenged students to create underwater robots. Team Shelton designed a mini-submarine called The Foot-Long Submarine, featuring AI-assisted navigation, GPS and sonar. At their December competition, students demonstrated coding skills, mechanical design and teamwork.

Success in LEGO Robotics wasn't just about winning. "I love the leadership opportunity," said eighth-grader **Maren Price**, a four-year club member. "LEGO Robotics has taught me how to deal with pressure and make sure everyone works well together."

— Angelo Piersanti

Shelton Esports Players Compete, Connect and Collaborate

The Shelton Esports Club continues to grow as Middle and Upper School gamers compete in organized, fast-paced video game tournaments after school. Sponsored by **Corey Smith**, computer systems specialist, and **Kyle Belz**, digital communications manager, the club meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Students use state-of-the-art computers and Nintendo Switches to play Fortnite, League of Legends, Rocket League, Mario Kart and Super Smash Bros. They compete weekly as individuals or in teams, building communication, focus and teamwork skills along the way.

Several members hope to qualify for state competitions and earn college scholarships. Whatever their goals, the players share an enthusiasm that fills Shelton's esports space with energy — and lightning-fast reflexes — every match day.

— Angelo Piersanti



Class of 2025



ANNUAL REPORT OF GIFTS

Shelton School & Evaluation Center

June 1, 2024 - May 31, 2025

Annual Fund	Heritage Society	Designated Gifts
Endowment	Matching Gifts	In-Kind Gifts
Financial Aid	Parents' Association Gifts	Delphi Society

Since 1976, Shelton has been blessed with gifts that have helped us make a difference in a student's life. We are grateful to all who have given a gift of any type. No return on investment will ever be greater than that of a child's education. Your gifts make it possible for our amazing students to achieve greater goals.

This Annual Report reflects gifts received between June 1, 2024, and May 31, 2025. We have made every effort to give proper credit to all who have contributed to the Shelton School during the 2024-2025 fiscal year. We regret any errors or omissions and request that any such oversights be reported to the Development Office. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this report.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2024-2025



First row, from left: Rachel Rucker-Schmidt, Jennifer Dix, Ira Matsil, Dr. Joyce Pickering, Sandy Crosland, Suzanne Stell, John Newby, David Helffrich, Kelly Van Den Handel, Shanon Leonard, William Rapier, Diane Byrd, Terri West; **back row:** Jennie Cox, Holly Vitullo, Jim Mitchell, Renee Jansen, Paul Neubach, Chuck Dannis, Tim Harrigan, Ken Hughes, Cory Whitaker, Win Bell, Chase Miller, Heather Hunt Graham, Chase Evans, Gary Webb.

John Newby
Chair, Shelton Board of Trustees



John Newby is a leader in an organization that specializes in commercial insurance and surety bonds for contractors, with 35 years of experience in financial, risk and business consulting. A graduate of the University of Michigan, he also earned his MBA from Pepperdine University. As chair of Shelton's board, Newby draws on his professional experience and strong commitment to Shelton's mission to support strategic planning, financial stewardship, governance and community engagement. He is married and has two adult children, including a Shelton alumnus.

Shelton is grateful to its Board members for their exemplary leadership, strategic guidance and continued support of the school's mission.

Executive Committee

Chairman of the Board
John Newby

Vice Chairman
Teresa West

Chairman Emeritus
Gary Webb

Executive Director/CEO
Suzanne Stell

Executive Director Emerita
Dr. Joyce S. Pickering*

Secretary
Holly Vitullo

Treasurer
Kelly Van Den Handel*

Additional Members
Greg Delagi
Leon Kaplan
David Martineau
Paul Neubach, M.D.
James (Boots) Reeder

** Ex-officio member*

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Diane Byrd
Keith Conlon
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Jennifer Cox
Sandy Crosland
Charles G. Dannis
Stephanie Dean
Greg Delagi
Jennifer Dix, Ph.D.
Chase Evans
Holt Foster
Heather Hunt Graham
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David T. Helffrich, Jr.
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Ira Matsil
Chase Miller
Jim Mitchell
Paul Neubach, M.D.
John Newby
Sam Paulos
William F. Rapier
James (Boots) Reeder
Chuck Rubin
Rachel Rucker-Schmidt, M.D.
Janice C. Ryan
Suzanne Stell
Bharat Sundaram
Holly Vitullo
Gary L. Webb
Teresa L. West
Cory Whitaker
Keith Williams
Celeste Zuch



Former Shelton Board Chair Gary Webb Honored

Before Charger Football kickoff at Homecoming 2025, longtime Shelton leader **Gary Webb** was honored as honorary captain in celebration of the school's 50th anniversary. A board member since 1998 and chair from 2010 to 2024, Webb helped lead the way for Shelton's new campus. He was joined on the field by his family — son Adam (Class of 2000) with wife Tiffany and daughter Birdie; daughter Samantha (Class of 2004) with husband Beau and children Caden and Presley; and daughter Malley with husband TJ and children Ella and Amelia.

REPORTS OF GIFTS AND SOURCES 2024-2025

Shelton Alumni Achieve Academic Success

Sloan Chambers Barber (Shelton Class of 2021) graduated from Lynn University with a Bachelor's degree in Sports Management.



Trinity Byars (Shelton Class of 2021) received a Bachelor's degree in Health Promotion & Behavioral Science from the University of Texas–Austin. She currently plays as a forward for San Diego Wave FC of the National Women's Soccer League.

Anna Cramm (Shelton Class of 2018) earned a Master's degree in Special Education from Northwestern. She previously received a Bachelor's degree from the College of Human Sciences at Iowa State University.

Parker Crumrine (Shelton Class of 2021) received a Bachelor of Arts in Sports Media and Business Administration from High Point University.

Pierce Davis (Shelton Class of 2021) earned a Bachelor's in Supply Chain Management from the University of Oklahoma.

Avery Eckert (Shelton Class of 2021) received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Virginia Commonwealth University and is currently an illustrator at The Grace Loncar Foundation.

Ellie Fisher (Shelton Class of 2021) received a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Early Childhood Education from the University of Wisconsin. She also earned certificates in Special Education and Education Policy Studies.

Shae Galardi (Shelton Class of 2021) received a Bachelor's degree in Applied Physiology and Sports Management from Southern Methodist University.

Lindsey Galvan (Shelton Class of 2021) graduated from Auburn U niversity with a Bachelor's degree in Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies.

Ellie Goodwin (Shelton Class of 2020) received a Bachelor's degree in Nursing from Baylor University.

Josie Hostin (Shelton Class of 2020) received a dual degree from Brown University and the Rhode Island School of Design. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Studies–Sociology and Data Fluency. Josie has accepted a position as a Management Development Associate at McMaster-Carr.

Ryan Kassanoff (Shelton Class of 2021) earned a Bachelor's degree in International & Global Studies from American University. He accepted a position as a Revenue Management Analyst for American Airlines.



Kate Ladd (Shelton Class of 2019) received a Bachelor's degree in Marketing from the University of Colorado–Boulder.

Carli Michelsen (Shelton Class of 2020) received a Bachelor of Science in Health and Exercise Science from the University of Oklahoma.

Kennedy Moore (Shelton Class of 2021) received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in Sociology from Oklahoma State University.

Sophia Reynolds (Shelton Class of 2021) received a Bachelor of Science in Applied Physiology and Sports Management from Southern Methodist University.



Roman Rivera (Shelton Class of 2020) graduated from the University of Arkansas with a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering.

Reports of Gifts & Sources 2024-2025
June 1, 2024 - May 31, 2025

Type of Donation	Amount
Annual Fund	$ 1,501,778
Parents' Association	$ 930,000
Endowment	$ 208,806
Capital Contributions	$ 906,000

Sami Roberts (Shelton Class of 2020) received a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Texas A&M University and a Master of Science in Marketing.



Aliyah Schwarz (Shelton Class of 2021) earned a Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of North Texas.

Hannah Sedwick (Shelton Class of 2020) received a degree in Applied Sciences & Hospitality from the University of Mississippi.

Annie Skaggs (Shelton Class of 2021) earned a Bachelor of Science in Health Services/Allied Health/Health Science from Texas A&M University.

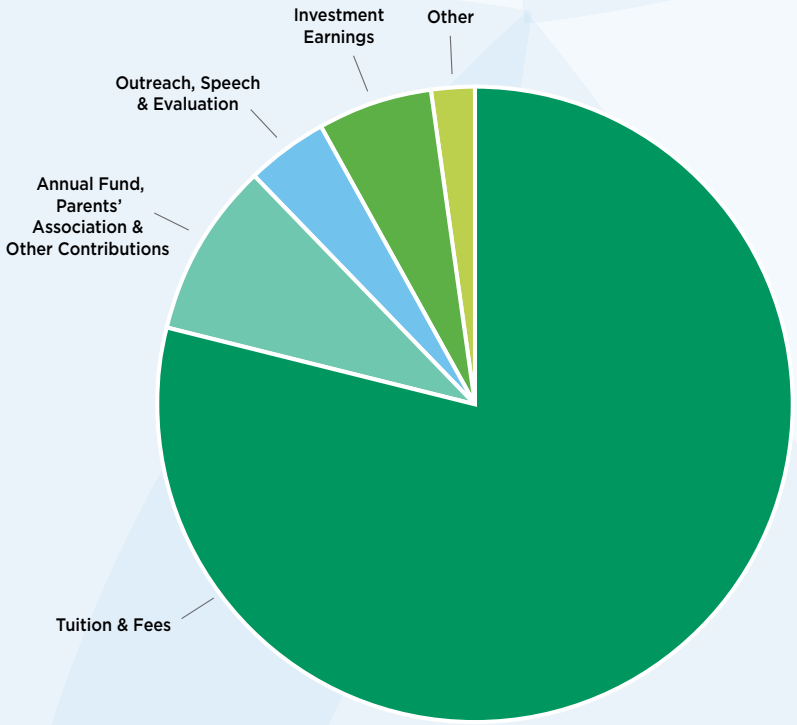


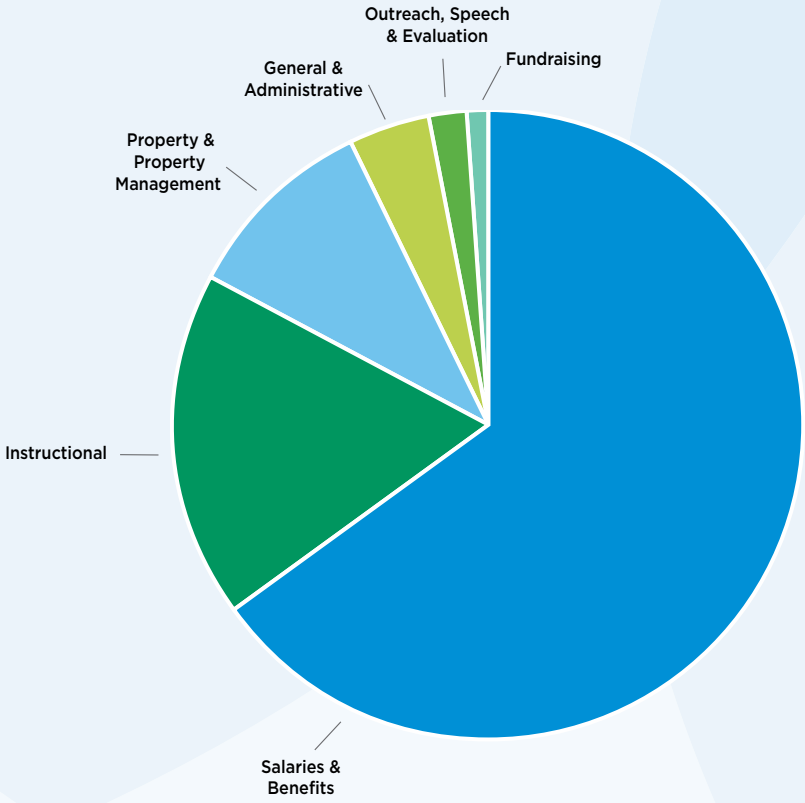
JD Zasa (Shelton Class of 2020) graduated from the University of Alabama with a Bachelor's degree in News Media and is now working on a Master's degree in Sports Management at the University of Alabama. He is a sports reporter for WVUA."

REVENUES AND EXPENSES 2024-2025

Revenues

Tuition & Fees	79%
Annual Fund, Parents' Association & Other Contributions	9%
Outreach, Speech & Evaluation	4%
Investment Earnings	6%
Other	2%





Expenses

Salaries & Benefits	65%
Instructional	18%
Property & Property Management	10%
General & Administrative	4%
Outreach, Speech & Evaluation	2%
Fundraising	1%

SHELTON PARENTS' ASSOCIATION BOARD 2024-2025

Co-Presidents
Kimberly Kahn
Leigh Erin Lundy

Past Co-Presidents
JoAnna Sudbeck
Gina Rangel Peña

Secretary
Latisha Leverette

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Brettne Hemley

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VP Upper School
Gina Rangel Peña

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Carolyn Strickfaden
Lindsey Sherry

Dads' Group Co-Chairs
Kyle DuPont
Brandon Weaver



Kimberly Kahn and Leigh Erin Lundy are Shelton Parents' Association co-presidents for the 2024-25 and 2025-2026 school years.



JoAnna Sudbeck and Mandy Evans

Grade Level Liaisons 2024-2025

Early Childhood/Pre-Primary
Nancy Dodson
Laurie Cordell

Primary-1st/2nd Grade
Molly Hayes
Michelle Friedman
Laurie Cordell

3rd/4th Grade
Marissa Solls
Alexis O'Connell
Erin Margow

5th Grade
Mary-Katherine Schroeder
Amber Guirguis
Joanna Grovenstein

6th Grade
Betsy Howard
Anna Patterson

7th Grade
Diane Hatfield
Erin Ragsdale
Jill Price

8th Grade
Corrie Shores
Lauren Belcher
Monica Dietrich

9th Grade
Renee Jansen
Anila Sundaram
Kelly Head

10th Grade
Erin Schendle
Carmen Yung

11th Grade
Kristin Elvebak
Kryle Hirschenberger
Eleise Weisberg

12th Grade
Cindy Slavin
Leigh Ann Dayton
Barbara Milhizer
Cheri Johnson
Debbie Myers

THE JUNE SHELTON HERITAGE SOCIETY DONORS

JUNE 1, 2024-MAY 31, 2025



The June Shelton Heritage Society honors benefactors who have contributed $50,000 or more to the needs of the school.

Anonymous
Edward & Wilhelmina Ackerman Foundation
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Mrs. Tracy Nix
Pacasac Fund

** Deceased*

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Jonathan Pace Foundation
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John Penson*
The Vernon Peppard Foundation
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Dr. Joyce Pickering Endowed Scholarship Fund
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Mr. & Mrs. William Power
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The Aileen & Jack Pratt Foundation
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The George & Fay Young Foundation
The William & Sylvia Zale Foundation
Celeste & Kurt Zuch
Celeste & Kurt Zuch Family Foundation, Inc.

DELPHI SOCIETY

DELPHI SOCIETY DONORS

JUNE 1, 2024-MAY 31, 2025

Delphi is a small town in the mountains of Greece where the famous oracle of Apollo supposedly was located, announcing the future. It is a symbol for seeking to know and shape the future.

To honor those individuals who seek to shape the future of Shelton School, the Delphi Society was established in 2003. The Society recognizes and thanks alumni and friends of Shelton who have created provisions in their wills or estate plans to benefit Shelton School.

Anonymous
Estate of Mrs. Mary Ashby*
Mrs. Kay Aylesworth
Lynn & Win Bell
Patti & Glen Brown
Mr. Jerry Chapman
Mr. & Mrs. David Farmer
Mr. Andrew Frankel & Ms. Janell Eilers
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Hughes
Mr. & Mrs. David Martineau, Sr.
Mr. Ric Middlekauf
John Newby & Maria "Kiki" Karos
Drs. Joyce & Bob* Pickering
Dr. William Ryan* & Mrs. Janice Ryan
Estate of Mr. Edward B. Summerhill*
Mr. William Ward* & Mrs. Cindy Ward

** Deceased*

ENDOWMENT GIFTS

JUNE 1, 2024-MAY 31, 2025



Betty Glasheen

Betty Glasheen Endowed Lower School Faculty Fund

Dr. James Brodsky &
Dr. Cynthia Schneidler
Mr. & Mrs. Clay Hunt
Mr. Raymond Pittet & Mrs. Harmony Glazebrook-Pittet
Ms. Stephanie Weatherford



Will Holmes

Will Holmes Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund

Mr. & Mrs. Rick Ansell
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Haar
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Johns
Mr. & Mrs. Frasher Murphy
Ms. Beverly B. Perri
Ms. D'Ann Riemer



Danny Cummiskey

Danny Cummiskey Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund

Ms. Marie Quintana &
Mr. James Siminiski



Stephen Warder Hipp

Stephen Warder Hipp Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund

The Rogers Hipp* Family



Kierstin Eaddy

Kierstin Eaddy Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund

Mr. & Mrs. Todd Eaddy
Ms. Erica Harris



Mikey Halperin

Mikey Halperin Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund

Mr. & Mrs. James L. Halperin
James & Gayle Halperin Foundation



Gary Stell

Gary Stell Memorial Endowed Fund

Amanda & Taylor Stell
Sarah & Brett Stell
Mrs. Suzanne Stell



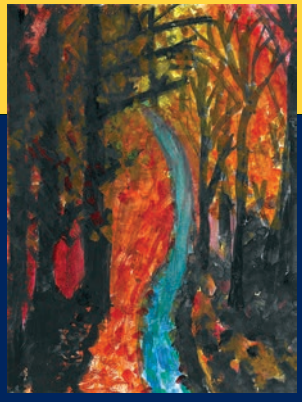
Rollen Family Endowment Scholarship

David, Amanda & Chance Rollen

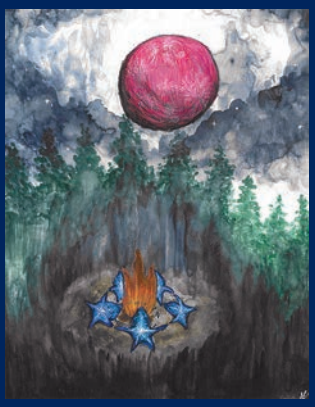
Shelton School Endowment

Mr. & Mrs. Greg Delagi
Mr. Peter Flynn
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Knapp

2024 GRANDPARENTS' DAY ART



Oliver O'Connor, 5th Grade



Ava Sudbeck, 10th Grade



Beckley Wilson, 10th Grade



Nessa Hsieh, 8th Grade



Paige Wood, 11th Grade



Lucy Howard, 6th Grade



Susie Rutledge, 6th Grade



Campbell Davis, 10th Grade



Rachel Shoup, 9th Grade



Alexandra Segal, 10th Grade



Betty Black, 10th Grade



Olivia Hefner, 11th Grade



Nessa Hsieh, 8th Grade



Maren Price, 8th Grade



Charlie Wolf, 11th Grade

ANNUAL FUND DONORS

JUNE 1, 2024-MAY 31, 2025

Annual Fund Leadership

Parent Co-Chairs
Chrissy Collins
Julie Mitchell

Alumni Chair
Keith Conlon

Faculty/Staff Chair
Eddie Moreno

Grandparent Chair
Dr. Joyce Pickering

Annual Fund Ambassadors
Sandy Crosland
Michelle M. Edmonds
Urshla Gordon
Garnett Holmes
Shelly Love
Christal Maguregui
Adrienne Outman
Gina Rangel Peña
Amanda Ramsey
Megan Schanbaum
Anila Sundaram
Jorie Wages
Amber Wallock
Cassie Zpevak
Celeste Zuch

SHELTON
BRIGHT MINDS, BRIGHT FUTURES
24-25 ANNUAL FUND

2024–2025 Annual Fund: A Message of Gratitude From Your Outgoing Annual Fund Co-Chairs

It has been a true privilege to serve as your Annual Fund Co-Chairs. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our community, we made great progress toward our 2024–2025 Annual Fund goals. Together, we raised over $1.1 million and achieved more than 40% family participation and 65% faculty/staff participation, marking the highest level of engagement ever.

We are thrilled to recognize more than 180 first-time donors. Each new voice in our donor community reinforces the strength of our shared mission.

Your contributions have had a powerful, immediate impact: enabling $3.5 million in tuition assistance, maintaining small class sizes and supporting professional development for our educators — all of which help ensure every student at Shelton receives the opportunity to thrive.


Chrissy Collins and Julie Mitchell

This high level of participation also strengthens Shelton's ability to secure foundation and corporate grants, multiplying the value of every donation.

As we look forward to Shelton's 2025–2026 Annual Fund and 50th anniversary, we do so with immense pride and gratitude. Shelton is stronger than ever because of you.

Thank you for an unforgettable year of support and community.

With appreciation,
Chrissy Collins *and* ***Julie Mitchell***
2024–2025 Annual Fund Co-Chairs

$20,000 & above

Anonymous
Castle Hills School Foundation, Inc.
Charles Schwab
Mrs. Emily Chu
Mr. Lawrence Chu
Communities Foundation of Texas
Robyn & Don Conlon
DAFgiving360 (Charles Schwab)
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CLASS OF 2025 PROFILES

Nora Twomey, Shelton Class of 2025



Started at Shelton: In ninth grade

Clubs and sports: Varsity Cheer, Varsity Soccer, Ambassadors, Girl Talk, National Honor Society and Hope Squad

Learning differences: Dyslexia and dysgraphia

What was your favorite experience at Shelton?
My favorite experience has been Friday football game days when I got to cheer. A lasting memory is my time with Cheer and Chargerettes, when we visited and performed at Disneyland.

What was your favorite class?
I have always enjoyed English and History, especially world history with **Mrs. Lubbers** during my sophomore year and Dual Credit English with **Mrs. Whitfield** during my senior year.

How has Shelton impacted your life?
I've learned to be proud of and advocate for my learning differences, which has benefited me in my classwork and school environment.

Would you recommend Shelton?
I will always recommend Shelton for its supportive environment, beneficial resources and meaningful experiences. I gained all of these while a student at Shelton.

What are your college and career aspirations?
I attend Wake Forest University in North Carolina, where I major in Environmental Studies. I hope to obtain a strong education and then begin work in the fields of sustainability and environmental policy.

Ford Myers, Shelton Class of 2025 Valedictorian



Started at Shelton: In preschool (2010–2011)

Clubs and sports: Tennis, Visual Arts, Film, Student Council president, National Honor Society vice president, founder of the Shelton Coffee House, co-founder of the Shelton Debate Club, founder of the Shelton Spirit Club

Learning differences: ADHD, mild dyslexia and a processing disorder

What was your favorite experience at Shelton?
One of the most impactful experiences was my second year at the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS) Arts Festival. During Shelton's coffee house performance, especially watching my friend **Charlie Raynaud**, I realized the sheer talent our school has to offer. The love and support at that performance inspired me to host multiple coffee houses this year, start the debate club and create the Shelton Spirit Club so that our students' talent and hard work are always recognized.

Who was your favorite teacher?
Mr. Mallick was an outstanding mentor and role model. His English class not only helped me grow as a writer but also advanced my critical thinking and analytic skills. His support as a sponsor for the debate club and as a co-adviser for student council has shown how deeply he cares for his students and the school.

How has Shelton impacted your life?
Shelton allowed me to succeed more than I ever thought possible. Its advanced methods of teaching kids with learning differences expanded my knowledge and gave me the self-confidence to achieve things I once thought were out of reach. My academic achievements, athletic honors, creativity in the arts and success in student government would not have been possible without Shelton's support.

Would you recommend Shelton?
Yes. Shelton teaches the same material as any other school in Texas but specializes in adapting the curriculum to the way you learn best. Building confidence in your academic abilities early is essential to developing self-belief when facing adversity. That's what Shelton does better than any other school.

What are your college and career aspirations?
I major in Business at the University of Texas at Austin. Being student body president has sparked my interest in entrepreneurship, and I love the idea of managing and funding projects, events and businesses that inspire me.

Liam Christensen, Shelton Class of 2025



Started at Shelton: In elementary school

Activities: Film and Theatre

Learning difference: ADHD and hearing problems as a child

What was your favorite experience at Shelton?
My favorite experience is going to Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS) Arts Festival because I love seeing how incredible our school's art is.

Who was your favorite teacher?
Mr. Duesing and his film class because he inspired and supported all of my film projects.

How has Shelton impacted your life?
I've been a part of Shelton for my whole life and it has helped me overcome challenges.

What advice do you have for incoming students?
Go out of your way to socialize with your peers and make lifelong friendships.

What are your college plans?
I attend Chapman University to study Film.

Jen Jen Dayton, Shelton Class of 2025



Started at Shelton: In third grade

Clubs and sports: Theatre, Performing Arts Club, National Honor Society, Creative Writing Club, Student Council, Tennis, Choir, Fiber Arts Club, History Club, Chess Club

Learning differences: ADHD, working memory, expressive language disorder, dyscalculia and anxiety

What was your favorite experience at Shelton?
Theatre, because I met most of my friends there.

What was your favorite class?
My English classes were my favorite. I also had several favorite teachers, especially **Kate Kelley**, who was so helpful in my Honors Algebra II class.

How has Shelton impacted your life?
Shelton increased my confidence in math, and I was able to take honors math courses I never thought I would.

Would you recommend Shelton?
Yes, definitely. I would encourage students to start in the lower grades rather than waiting until high school.

What advice do you have for new students?
Join clubs because everyone is welcoming. Get to know your teachers because they want to build personal connections and help you succeed. Advocate for yourself.

What are your college and career aspirations?
I attend Hofstra University, where I study creative writing and publishing. I hope to work in a publishing company and eventually write my own books.

Kathryn Guerra, Shelton Class of 2025 Salutatorian



Started at Shelton: In fifth grade

Clubs and sports: Cross Country, Soccer, Track and Field, Theatre Arts, National Honor Society, Girl Scouts

Learning differences: Dyslexia, ADHD, dysgraphia and anxiety

What was your favorite experience at Shelton?
My favorite experience was the summer trips. I've been lucky enough to explore Pennsylvania, Gettysburg and Washington, D.C., and to travel abroad to Southern England and Italy. I enjoyed learning about each place's unique history and admiring the artwork and architecture.

What were your favorite classes?
While I enjoyed all of my classes, I especially looked forward to History and Science. **Mr. Paxton**, **Mrs. Lubbers** and **Mr. Crabtree** made history come alive and fun. **Ms. Moody, Ms. Connolly** and **Dr. Cason** made science endlessly fascinating.

How has Shelton impacted your life?
I am forever grateful to Shelton. Before Shelton, I struggled to read and often became frustrated trying to keep up with my peers. My teachers at Shelton were patient and supportive and guided me through reading therapy. They also helped me navigate my anxiety. Shelton gave me a safe place to breathe, get organized and learn from teachers who understand learning differences.

Would you recommend Shelton?
Yes. I would definitely recommend Shelton to students with learning differences. The small classes allow me to focus more and learn better in an encouraging environment. Shelton has wonderful, supportive teachers and friendly students.

What are your college plans?
I attend Trinity University, where I major in Biology or Biochemistry to become a physician or veterinarian.

Grayson Metz, Shelton Class of 2025



Started at Shelton: In ninth grade

Clubs and sports: Football, Track (State champion in Shot Put in 2024 and 2025), Investment Club, Sports Club

Learning differences: ADHD and dyslexia

What was your favorite experience at Shelton?
My favorite experience was away track meets.

Who was your favorite teacher?
Ms. Kelley, my Algebra II teacher, was my favorite because of the impact she made on me in class.

How has Shelton impacted your life?
Shelton has impacted my life in many ways, especially by helping me develop better organizational skills.

Would you recommend Shelton?
Yes. Shelton has amazing staff who not only care about teaching you now but also give you the skills to keep learning in the future.

What advice do you have for new students?
Socialize. Switching schools is hard, but if you go out and make the best of it instead of shying away from people, things will be much easier.

What are your college plans?
I attend Carnegie Mellon University, where I compete in football and track and field and major in Ethics, History and Public Policy.

Beatrix Peterson, Shelton Class of 2025



Started at Shelton: In seventh grade

Clubs and sports: Track and Field, Soccer, Girl Talk

Learning differences: ADHD, anxiety, nonverbal learning disorder, sensory processing disorder

What was your favorite experience at Shelton?
Being on the soccer team and playing for **Coach Peterson**.

What's the best advice you've received?
Don't be afraid to ask for help. Your teachers are there to help you and want the best for you.

How has Shelton impacted your life?
I have learned how to advocate for myself and have grown as a student.

Would you recommend Shelton?
Yes. Shelton gives students with learning differences an environment to reach their full potential.

What are your college and career aspirations?
I attend Stephen F. Austin State University, where I major

in Elementary Education with a double minor in Special Education and Deaf Studies.

James David Marlett-Vasilas, Shelton Class of 2025



Started at Shelton: Pre-Primary in August 2012

Clubs: Vocal Charge, Drumline, Theatre (cast member for four plays and four musicals), Band, History Club, Film Club

Learning difference: Dyslexia

What was your favorite experience at Shelton?
Working with other students on projects in Theatre, Drumline and Engineering Design. When everyone is working as a team toward a common goal, the result is always better than one person doing it alone.

What was your favorite class?
English exposed me to great literature such as "Animal Farm," "The Great Gatsby," "Frankenstein" and works by Shakespeare. **Mrs. Whitfield** is always available for her students and has a way of interacting with them that is welcoming.

What's the best advice you've received?
If you don't ask, if you don't raise your hand, if you don't step forward, the answer is always no.

How has Shelton impacted your life?
When you arrive at school, it's a good feeling. You feel welcome. I enjoy my time at school — it's not a burden or a chore.

What are your college and career aspirations?
I attend Belmont University in Nashville to study History. After college, I may pursue law school.

Zachary Cole, Shelton Class of 2025



Started at Shelton: In Early Childhood

Clubs and activities: Saxophone and clarinet in high school band and Honor Band, Drumline, Props Crew and Orchestra Pit for "Footloose," keyboard in the student-run rock band Codicil, Chess Club

Learning differences: ADHD and slow processing

What was your favorite experience at Shelton?
Some of my favorites were with drumline at football games. A particularly memorable experience was performing at AT&T Stadium for the YTexas Summit with the drumline and band.

How has Shelton impacted your life?
Shelton has taught me how to be a good self-advocate. It has helped me become who I am today

What advice do you have for incoming students?
Don't be afraid to ask for help and to communicate with your teachers. And consider joining Band and Drumline — they are a blast.

What are your college and career aspirations?
I will attend Texas Tech or the University of North Texas. I'm considering majoring in Psychology and possibly pursuing a career in Music Therapy.

Kate Williams, Shelton Class of 2025



Started at Shelton: In fifth grade

Clubs and activities: National Honor Society, Teen Leadership Council member at the Dallas Arboretum, Crafters Club, Crochet Club, ASL Club, Performing Arts Club, Theatre

Learning differences: Dyslexia, dysgraphia and dyscalculia

What was your favorite experience at Shelton?
Attending the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS) Arts Festival was my favorite experience at Shelton. Getting to surround myself with artists and showcase our work with other students is something I will never forget.

Who were your favorite teachers?
My favorite class was Art I with **Ms. Hampton** my freshman year. Through this class I discovered that I want to pursue art as a career. **Ms. Dockweiler** and **Ms. Hampton** reignited my love for art and I am grateful for the chance to learn from them and develop my skills.

What's the best advice you've received?
My history teacher junior year, **Mr. Clark**, told me to trust myself. His encouragement to do so is something I will always appreciate.

How has Shelton impacted your life?
Shelton has made me more comfortable advocating for myself as someone with a learning difference.

Would you recommend Shelton?
Yes. I would recommend Shelton to creative, imaginative and hardworking students with learning differences.

What are your college and career aspirations?
I attend Belmont University in Nashville and major in both Studio Art and Technical Theater.

Ethan Gulden, Shelton Class of 2025



Started at Shelton: In ninth grade

Clubs: Student Council, National Honor Society, Performing Arts Club, Coffee House, Investment Club, American Sign Language Club, Creative Writing

Learning difference: Auditory and sensory processing disorder

What was your favorite class/teacher?
It feels impossible to choose a favorite class and teacher because I have really loved all of my teachers. **Ms. Van Den Handel** holds a special place for me because she pushed me and helped me grow in English and writing.

What's the best advice you've received?
The best advice I received at Shelton was from **Mr. Ladd**.

He taught me the power of inclusion. He said always be kind and include others. He was right. We may be different from others or not agree in some ways, but people want to be included and treated with kindness, no matter who they are or what they are going through. Inclusion lifts others up.

How has Shelton impacted your life?
Shelton has impacted my life in so many ways. I have grown in confidence in understanding my learning difference and that nothing is wrong with me. I simply learn differently, and Shelton has taught me how to thrive in environments that work best for me. I've also learned how to advocate for myself, which is the greatest gift.

What are your college plans?
I attend Southern Methodist University, where I'm considering majoring in Civil Engineering.

Austin Bertino, Shelton Class of 2025



Started at Shelton: In first grade

Clubs and activities: Lead Trumpet in Band, Bass Captain in Drumline, Film, Broadcast News, Theatre (assistant stage manager)

Learning differences: ADD, dyslexia, auditory processing and language expression

What was your favorite experience at Shelton?
My favorite experience was attending the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS) Arts Festival junior year. It was a great opportunity to spend time with friends.

Who was your favorite teacher?
Although I've loved all of my teachers, my favorite has been **Mr. Crabtree**. He truly knows what he is teaching to his core and is incredibly informative on historical events.

What's the best advice you've received?
The best advice I have received is to be more involved at Shelton.

How has Shelton impacted your life?
Shelton made it possible for me to learn and believe in school after my first school had all but given up on me. I don't think I would be where I am today without Shelton.

What are your college and career aspirations?
I received an $84,000 scholarship to Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Ind.. I plan to pursue a career in electrical or mechanical engineering.

Ella Trevino, Shelton Class of 2025



Started at Shelton: In sixth grade

Clubs and sports: Student Council, National Honor Society, Charger Guide, Track and Field, Soccer, Sports Medicine, Dallas Arboretum Teen Leadership Council, Girl Talk Club, Photography, Debate Club

Learning differences: Dyslexia, ADHD and dysgraphia

What was your favorite experience at Shelton?
My favorite experience at Shelton was being able to get involved in so much while still managing my schoolwork. I loved having the opportunity to create new clubs and try anything I wanted, even if I had never done it before.

What was your favorite classes?
A few of my favorite classes were Physics 1 Honors, Forensic Science, Sociology and all of my Honors English classes. I love seeing the calculations come to life in Physics. Forensic Science interests me because I want to be a criminal defense lawyer. Sociology is fun because I enjoy learning about human behavior. In English, I enjoy reading and learning about the deeper concepts in literature.

How has Shelton impacted your life?
Shelton has impacted my life by helping me learn how to use my learning differences to my benefit.

Would you recommend Shelton?
Yes. I would recommend Shelton because the teachers are passionate about helping students learn and grow in every subject so they can excel. Shelton tailors learning to each student's needs and helps everyone achieve their goals.

What are your college and career aspirations?
I attend Louisiana State University, where I major in Philosophy — Law, Ethics and Social Justice. I plan to become a criminal defense lawyer.

Kelly Rodriguez, Shelton Class of 2025



Started at Shelton: In fourth grade

Clubs and activities: Writing Club, National Honor Society, History Club, Student Council, Theatre, Investment Club, Girl Scouts, HOSA (Health Club)

Learning differences: ADHD, dyslexia, autism spectrum

What were your favorite experiences at Shelton?
My favorite experiences were traveling abroad with my peers to London and Italy, and sharing my published stories with the Writing Club.

What were your favorite classes?
Definitely English, science, anatomy and history. **Ms. Van Den Handel** and **Ms. Mullins** were always the highlight of my day in English. In science, **Ms. Hall** taught me that assignments that seem daunting are just on paper and can always be solved. Learning anatomy with **Ms. Gerhenson** was humbling and inspiring. I've also had the honor of being taught history by **Mr. Paxton, Mr. Clark** and **Ms. Lubbers**, who made the subject come alive.

How has Shelton impacted your life?
Before Shelton, I struggled to make friends because my family moved often for my dad's job. I felt left out, which affected my confidence and trust in people. At Shelton, teachers were reliable and supportive, and my classmates have helped my confidence and friendships grow into what they are today.

What are your college and career aspirations?
I hope to become a nurse practitioner, specifically in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), or work as a traveling nurse.



SHELTON SCHOOL 2025-2026 CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

NOVEMBER 2025
20-21 Grandparents' Day
24-28 Thanksgiving Holidays

DECEMBER 2025
22 Winter Break Begins

JANUARY 2026
5 In-Service for Staff
6 School Resumes
19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: No School

FEBRUARY
11-13 Parent Conferences
13-15 Winter Musical
16 Presidents' Day: No School

MARCH
16-20 Spring Break

APRIL
3 No School
11 Stampede Auction

MAY
16 Graduation
22 Last Day of Classes
25 Memorial Day: No School
26-27 Parent Conferences

JUNE
8 Summer School Starts
19 Juneteenth: No School
26 Last Day of Summer School

JULY
27-31 Back-to-School Prep Week

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