

Newsletter Connecting Home, School, and Community

March 2025

School District of Shiocton N5650 Broad Street P.O. Box 68 Shiocton, WI 54170-0068

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BRANDED! Shiocton "S" formally approved

At their meeting on Monday, February 3, the Board of Education took action to formally approve the official logo for the School District of Shiocton. The wide, block 'S' with a white boarder and black outline colored in Shiocton Green will formally serve as the District's logo.



Logos are symbols that entities employ for immediate recognition and association. Symbols that invoke a readily a sense of pride and confidence in the product or service. When you see the red flying W, you immediately think of UW-Madison and Badger athletics. The tall, thin serif 'W' on the red crest is immediately associated with a high level of academic excellence available at UW-Madison. In the Valley, when you see the big, red 'K', you think of Kimberly. And when you see the bold 'N' with the rocket out the top, you think of Neenah. Now, when people see the wide, block 'S' in Shiocton Green, they will immediately think: Shiocton.

Why that symbol?

The wide, block 'S' was chosen as it symbolizes strength and dependability. The wide top and bottom generate a feeling of stability and support. These are the same characteristics that we embrace within our school programs, be those academic, fine-arts, or athletic. These characteristics are tantamount to building the excellence that we expect in the School District of Shiocton.

What is 'Shiocton Green'?

Not only did we want the symbol to be synonymous with Shiocton, but we wanted to be sure the green

would always be the same regardless of printing house or desk printer. Mr. Gorske, IT Assistant, created the color – *Shiocton Green* – with its own recipe of red, green, and blue, which combine for a color as rich as the "hidden gem" that is our school and community. Too, the color was crafted to be bold so as to draw in the viewer's attention and cause them to take notice.

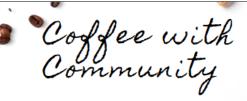
Are there other logos?

Much like UW has the athletic and the academic logos, the Board also adopted several other logos as official symbols for the District letterhead, as well as athletics, SCCC, and even this publication, The Link. Visit the District website at www.shiocton.k12.wi.us to view the logos.

Why now?

The district has seen great growth in the past decade and more. Growth in enrollment. Growth in academic partnerships and student performance. Growth in programs offered and student participation. Shiocton is truly a gem – rich with educational excellence and community pride. Now, there is a logo that will symbolize both to every viewer: the wide, block 'S' in **Shiocton Green**.





Members of the community are invited to gather for coffee, conversation, and collaboration about our community and school.

Thursday, March 6, 2025 8:30 - 9:30AM School Cafeteria



Information Sessions

Attend to learn more about the Building Referendum on the April 1 Ballot.

Thursday, March 6 – 6:00PM
Town of Bovina

Tuesday, March 11 – 6:00PM
Town of Ellington

Thursday, March 20 – 6:00PM Town of Maine

Saturday, March 22– 9:00AM Shiocton School LMC

Tuesday, March 25 – 6:00PM Shiocton School LMC



School District of Shiocton

N5650 Broad Street P.O. Box 68 Shiocton, WI 54170 (920) 986-3351 FAX (920) 986-3291 www.shiocton.k12.wi.us

NICHOLE SCHWEITZER Superintendent

NICK ORTLIEB Principal Grades 7-12

KIM GRIESBACH Principal Grades PK-6

KELLY THIEL
Special Education Director

MICHAEL SIPPERT Business Manager

School Board

President: Bradley Ritchie
Town of Ellington
Vice President: Jeremie Birch
Town of Bovina
Clerk: David Gomm
Village of Shiocton
Treasurer: Aaron Pluger
Town of Bovina
Member: Stacey Warning
Town of Ellington
Member: Nancy Schmidt
Town of Bovina
Member: Melinda Hofacker
Town of Maine

All residents of the school district are welcome to attend board meetings to keep informed on school issues or to voice any concerns they may have.

The Link is published monthly, from September through June and can be viewed at www.shiocton.k12.wi.us.

If you do not have Internet access, you may request a copy by mail by calling (920) 986-3351 ext. 700. Submit any articles for publication by mail to the school address or by e-mail to: thelink@shiocton.k12.wi.us.

The Shiocton School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability.

News from the 7th - 12th Grade Office

Greetings from the Shiocton 7th-12th Grade office. This is Mr. Ortlieb reaching out to let you know about some things that have been going on in the MS/HS Office and some dates to look forward to in the month of March.

We appreciate all of the support our community has given us throughout the year and we are hoping to finish the year on a positive note. The 2024-2025 school year has been packed full of learning opportunities for our students, and I am personally looking forward to celebrating our students' successes over the last few months of school.

With the end of third quarter approaching, we are gearing up for "testing season". Our juniors will be taking the ACT on March 11, 2025 here at school. We have implemented a comprehensive preparatory program to help our juniors succeed and want to celebrate that hard work alongside them. If you have a student that is a Junior, please talk to them about the importance of a healthy diet and maintaining a good

sleep schedule as the test day approaches.

Our freshman and sophomore students will be taking the Pre-ACT later this Spring while our seventh and eight grade students will participate in the Forward Exam. On the same day as the juniors take the ACT, our freshman and sophomore students will participate in Career Day field trips to give them a taste of what life looks like after graduation.

On March 11, 2025 our seniors will participate in a Senior Adult Experience Day to give them some knowledge of the day-to-day life of an adult. Additionally, we have our Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences coming up on March 4, 2025. The end of the third quarter is March 28, and Spring Break runs April 14-28, 2025.

Please feel free to reach out to the MS/HS Office if you have any questions or concerns.

In February 2024, an anonymous letter was sent to all Shiocton residents via the United States Postal Service containing a personalized viewpoint of several referendum topics. The author included data that was incomplete and misleading. As the School District of Shiocton continues to explore options to improve the school district programs, instruction, and facilities, it is important to provide our community with accurate information to encourage productive conversations concerning our future.



Many, many other public schools successfully operate their schools without receiving additional funds from taxpayers, and are able to manage just fine. Why can't Shiocton?



All Wisconsin school districts are bound by state law to live within their means, including Shiocton, by Wisconsin Act 16 implemented in 1993. The only option a school district has to raise operational or facility improvement spending is through community support of a referendum. The formula established by the State for funding of schools often does not keep up with the economic needs of a community and school district as evidenced by Shiocton's continued need to pass the operational referendums. This November 2024 election, these same needs for a referendum are also shared by almost 1/4 of the school districts in Wisconsin.



The district is not considering the interest on the borrowing for the bonds.



Just like every homeowner who pays interest on their home mortgage, the school district will have to pay interest on the bonds for our projects. Because the school district and school board have been good stewards of your tax dollars, we have been able to secure an interest rate which would not exceed 4.5%. All calculations and tax impact projections presented to the community included all costs of the project and all costs of the borrowing including the interest.



Sandee Cornell scornell@shiocton.k12.wi.us 7-12 School Counselor-ext. 711

Dannielle Kern dkern@shiocton.k12.wi.us K-6 School Counselor—ext. 762

Welcome to the Counselor's Corner. We felt that providing a single location for our information would be more useful and convenient to all of our students and their families. Our counseling program offers services of individual counseling, group counseling, or outside referrals. Please feel free to contact us at any time regarding academic, emotional, or social needs of your child.

K4-6 Students

This month, we are continuing to learn about Emotion Management. We are discussing strong feelings, how our bodies feel when we have a strong feeling, and what we can do to calm those strong feelings down:

- 1. Stop
- 2. Name Your Feeling
- 3. Calm Down

Students will continue to practice calming down with belly breathing, positive self-talk, and counting. We will use these strategies to help us solve problems.

Grade 5 parents/guardians, please watch for "Chief Chat" information coming home soon!

In **Grade 6**, we are discussing ways to problem solve. We will also be starting our Academic Career plans in Xello.

Grade 8 students: Eighth grade Chief Chats will take place in May. Please watch for more information to come. Eighth grade students will attend a career fair in Clintonville in April. More information will be coming home in regards to this event.

Sophomores: Watch for upcoming information on Summer School Health Class registration.

Sophomores and Juniors: Applications for the 2025-26 Youth Apprenticeship Program will be due March 1, 2025. For more information, contact Ben Krull, Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator, at krullben@bonduel.k12.wi.us

Juniors: The State required ACT test will take place on March 11. Watch for more information. Many colleges have changed their requirements for standardized testing admission criteria. Please view the college website or contact your college for specific information on the ACT requirement.

On March 12 the juniors will be attending a Post-Secondary Fair at New London High School.

Seniors: Scholarship deadlines are fast approaching. Please check the school website to verify application instructions and deadlines.

Shiocton Child Care Center News:

At the Shiocton Child Care Center we know the importance of brain development in young children. From infants having tummy time, toddlers using their hands to explore and investigate their surroundings, to



preschooler's using their imagination to build and share with friends.

Our teachers find so many ways to help children grow, develop, and explore each day. What a way to give our children a great foundation before start-

ing school.

If you have an interest in our program, please give Mrs. Peters, SCCC Director a call at 920-986-3351 ext. 790.







our new

logo!



MOVING SHIOCTON FORWARD

Explaining the Building Referendum

Recently, the District released a video explaining the reasons behind the Building Referendum. Complete with illustrative graphics, this narrated video explains the sources of school funding, the critical areas of need, and why the annual budget is not sufficient to cover the ever-increasing amount of needed investment.

Watch this short but thorough video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-VkGQ0Gkb8&feature=youtu.be. Become an informed voter - learn more at https:// www.shiocton.k12.wi.us/district/referendum-2025.cfm.

The "WHY" behind the Building Referendum

The Building Referendum seeks to address four (4) areas of critical need that cannot be sufficiently funding through the annual budget: safe and secure entrances, career and technical education, access to facilities, and infrastructure.

While preventative maintenance and minor repairs are completed in house each day, the needs of the facilities are much more all-encompassing and in need of additional investment. As we look to upgrade and replace, we will look to capitalize financing discounts, grant opportunities, and energy efficiency.

Watch the 'why' video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWUe4TPZzgA. Become an informed voter - learn more at https://www.shiocton.k12.wi.us/district/referendum-2025.cfm.

MOVING SHIOCTON FORWARD



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SHIOCTON

2025

Four Critical Areas of Need

The School District of Shiocton Board of Education has approved a Building Referendum to go before the voters on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, to meet the facility needs of the district. The projects are divided into two questions: Question #1 addresses critical and immediate maintenance, facility, and program needs; Question #2 addresses the need for improved access to school facilities for students and community groups. A successful referendum will support the following vital areas of need:



The elementary and middle/high school offices will be relocated to provide optimal supervision and secured school entrances.



Update our Tech Ed spaces which are the oldest and most over-utilized areas of our school.



Repairs, replacements, and improvements to the existing outdated and failing building components and equipment, the cost of which is beyond our limited annual budget.



Address the need for required, equitable, and improved access to high-use learning environments.



Question 1

\$23,500,000 for infrastructure updates, replacements, and site improvements: construction of new elementary and high school offices for secured entry: construction of an addition and renovations for a new technical education center: construction of an addition and renovations for a fine arts wing; and remodeling the middle/ high school locker rooms.



Question 2

\$9,100,000 for the construction of a new gymnasium addition including storage space.

Find Out More About the Referendum - www.shiocton.k12.wi.us/district/referendum-2025



The elementary and middle / high school offices will be relocated to provide optimal supervision and secured school entrances.

- New 2,638 square foot addition for elementary office and secure entry adjacent to existing kindergarten classrooms
- New 1,319 square foot addition for middle / high school office space with secure entry adjacent to existing chorus room
- Remodel 1,282 square feet of existing chorus room for office and remodel 2,190 square feet of existing tech rooms to relocate chorus







- Replace boilers, piping, and variable frequency drives from 1996
- Replace roof top heating and ventilation units and existing avmnasium heating and ventilation units
- Replace main electrical service equipment and panel boards that were installed prior to 1996
- Replace chillers and install on existing building
- Relocate underground utilities













Address the need for required, equitable, and improved access to high-use learning environments.

- Larger band and chorus spaces for growing
- Build a new 6,313 square foot band room addition with practice rooms and storage spaces.
- Remodel 2,190 square feet of space to relocate
- Currently, there is not equal access to boys and girls for locker room facilities. Hosting visiting teams is also difficult due to limited locker room space.
- Remodel 7,103 square feet of existing space for two girls and two boys locker rooms.

- Participation in programs at our school overutilize critical gymnasium facilities. Scheduling issues impact timely availability of spaces exists creating late nights and long days for our children.
- New gymnasium with interior size of 126 feet by 112 feet for 14,112 square feet
 - 1 main full-size court with 2 cross full-size courts
 - Home seating for 500 and visitor seating for 300 spectators
 - Space for 312 spectators on cross courts







What are the project budgets?

Remodel 3,951 square foot for

outdoor construction yard.

existing woods shop to become construction trades shop with a new

- Budgets are based on contractor experience and current construction market.
- Budgets are reasonable with contingency for unforeseeable circumstances.
- Consideration is made for cost increases of future construction.
- All construction work will be competitively bid.
- Emphasis placed on helping the local economy by hiring local contractors.

Question 1	\$23,500,000
Maintenance and Infrastructure Repairs	\$5,860,000
Elementary Office Addition	\$1,090,000
New Middle/High School Office	\$1,240,000
Tech Ed	\$10,150,000
New Fine Arts Addition	\$2,700,000
Remodel Locker Rooms	\$2,460,000

Question 2	\$9,100,000
New Gymnasium, Storage, Concessions, and Lobby	\$9,100,000







www.shiocton.k12.wi.us/district/referendum-2025

Registered Wisconsin voters may vote in-person or request an absentee ballot and vote absentee by mail. Learn about your options and polling locations, get step-by-step instructions, and track your ballot. www.myvote.wi.gov





Please come and walk the halls of the Shiocton schools and enjoy the beautiful artwork created by our students. The elementary, middle, and high school students artwork is being displayed for all to view on March 4, 2025 for the Annual Art Show from 4:00PM-7:00PM.

Be sure to take a walk through the second floor in the Elementary school to see the third grade clay coil pots, second grade pinch pots with covers, the fourth grade weavings & clay frames with self portraits, and the fifth grade aquariums in perspective, Works of art by our GT art from various artists will also be on display.

We also have Kindergarten spectrum houses, tigers and Claude Monet Japanese footbridge pieces displayed on the first floor. If you continue your walk through the halls, you will find the K5 glazed pinch pots are located in the Elementary lobby display cases, as well as the first grade Georgia O'Keeffe watercolor flowers.

Don't forget to continue to walk down the halls by the Middle School/High School to view more beautiful creations!







Fourth graders History lessons preparing them for the State Capital Field Trip

and fourth grade has been keeping busy! Students are in the midst of our American Revolution unit in reading and

We

writing.



our background knowledge on important causes of the Revolutionary War such as the Boston Tea Party and King George III's taxes, along with important leaders, battles, and the impacts on our nation.

Another school year is halfway complete

Students are writing their own informational books about the Revolution to teach others all they have learned. You can also find our students working hard in math lessons. Students are now long division experts, can solve



multi-step word problems involving all operations, and can convert between measurements in both the metric and customary systems.

In social studies, stu-

dents have been learning all about Wisconsin's journey to statehood, including the writing of our constitution and immigration from European countries in the 1800s. Students have learned about the culture of these past immigrants that is still present today. We can't wait to celebrate and use all this learning at our end of year field trip to the Madison State Capitol building.

Fourth graders have also made lots of time for fun. Students have participated in many school dress up days, Global Day of Play, and sang at their upper elementary concert. They have enjoyed many recesses playing on the new playground. We look forward to finishing the school year strong with even more fun and learning!





Grade 5 staying productive and preparing to learn about the Real World

February and March have been productive times in fifth grade. In ELA, students finished non-fiction reports about the 1800s. During the report sharing time, they got the chance to try an 1800's cracker called hardtack. Our young mathematicians have been sharpening their division skills while putting all they have learned toward working with equations. In science, students have been learning about mixtures, solutions and chemical reac-Students have created mixtures, learned about their properties, and then dissected the meaning of "dissolve." Science is continuing with our new Mystery Science curriculum leading up to the always anticipated Science/Fine Arts Fair. Students have also been developing their observation, teamwork, and communication skills during their experiments.

Mid-March we will be switching to Junior Achievement lessons to learn about how the Real World works as we prepare for JA BizTown in early May. Lastly, it wouldn't be 5th grade without some fun. The grade had a fantastic winter snowshoe hike at the Navarino Nature Center. First time wearing snowshoes for many kids. Getting the chance to combine an outdoor

exercise activity with lessons about forest ecology was awesome! The kids learned a lot and had a blast!



Vision and Hearing Screening Day

Beginning in March, students in K4, K5, first, and third grade will participate in both vision and hearing screenings. Students in Grades 5 and



7 will have a vision screen performed. The Shiocton Lion's Club will be bringing in a special screening tool called the Spot Screener to provide some additional vision testing for students in K4, K5 and grade 1. If you have a child that you feel may have a vision or hearing deficit, and they are not in these grades, please contact the health office at 920-986-3351 ext. 714. We can add them to our vision and hearing screen list.



Second graders are hard at work exploring two digit addition and subtraction word problems.



Students present at monthly Coffee with Community Meeting

In February we were excited to bring back the monthly Coffee With Community meetings. During that meeting, community members were able to enjoy a performance by Mrs. Ritchie and



high school band student Brandon T. Attendees also enjoyed a Q&A session from the winter sport team captains and Tyler P, a senior who spke about his expertise in FBLA and CTE classes @ SHS. Those in at-



tendance were provided update on the upcoming Building Referendum that goes before the voters on April 1, 2025. We would love for you to join us at upcoming meetings on the first Thursday of every month.

Shiocton Partners In Children's Education

Learn about upcoming events! Support our school! Get involved! Scan me



PLAYGROUND

FUND

PHASE 01 Main Playground

Structure



PHASE 02 Swings, Climber, Spinner, Picnic

Tables, etc.



PHASE 03 Poured-in-place



It's time to think **Spring!** We have a lot of fun activities coming up as the weather heats up.

If you haven't done so yet, you can still purchase tickets for the Quilt and Basket Raffle on the night of the Science and Fine Arts Fair (March 4); the drawing will take place at 7:15PM. Tickets are \$5/each or 3/\$12 with proceeds going to our Playground fundraising

We were ecstatic to find out that the current total for Playground fundraising efforts has surpassed the goal to achieve Phase Two of construction. THANK YOU to all who have helped in these efforts. It has been amazing to see our town rally together to ensure our students have a safe place to play.

New this month, students will be competing in a Penny War. The



earnings from this will go towards purchasing new Playground Recess equipment, such as balls, jump ropes, chalk, etc. The competition will run from March 17-28.

UPCOMING SPICE EVENTS:

"Celebrate Your Senior" Yards Signs (sign up by April 7)

May 8 - Funset Boulevard Family Night (payment due March 28) **Book Swap**

(collecting books May 12-22) **Staff Appreciation Week: May 5-9**

If you'd like to help with putting on any of these events, please reach out or consider attending an upcoming meeting to learn more!

Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 6:30pm in the LMC. We hope to see you there!



March

** Menu subject to change without notice ** Breakfast prices: 4K-12—\$1.40 per day Lunch prices: 4K-8—\$2.60 per day **9-12**—\$2.85 per day

	<u> </u>			
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast Choice of Strawberry Cream Cheese Bagel or Cinni Mini Roll, Breakfast Sandwich, French Toast Sticks, Pan- cake Wraps or Fruit, Juice, Milk	Yogurt Parfaits, Waffles, French Toast Sticks, Breakfast Pizza, Fruit, Juice, Milk	Choice of Chocolate Chip or Blue- berry Muffin, String Cheese, Break- fast Sandwich, French Toast Sticks, Pancake Wraps, Fruit, Juice, Milk	Choice of Cereal and Granola Bar, French Toast Sticks, Waffle, Break- fast Pizza, Fruit, Juice, Milk	Long John Donut, Pancake Wrap, French Toast Sticks, Fruit, Juice, Milk
Spaghetti and Meatballs, Garden Salad, Garlic Bread, Pears, Milk	Pizza Slice, Green Beans, Mandarin Oranges, Milk	Popcorn Chicken, Rice, Green Peas, Fresh Local Apples, Milk	Cheeseburger on a Bun, Baked Beans, Pineapple Chunks, Sunchips, Milk	NO SCHOOL
Tater Tot Casserole, Green Beans, Peaches, Milk	Chicken and Gravy over Mashed Potatoes, Green Peas, Mandarin Oranges, Dinner Roll, Milk	French Toast, Hash Brown, Sausage, Orange Juice, Fresh Kiwi, Milk	Hotdog on a Bun, Baked Beans, Potato Smiles, Pineapple, Milk	Chicken Smackers, Cheesy Broccoli, Rice Krispie Treat, Fruit Mix, Milk
Chili and Homemade Buns, Peas and Carrots, Strawberry Cup, Milk	18 Chicken Patty on a Bun, Baked Beans, Pears, Milk	Mini Corn Dogs, Peas, Fresh Oranges, Craisins, Pud- ding, Milk	Grab & Go Salad Pizza Dippers w/Marinara, Cheesy Broccoli, Peaches, Milk	Grab & Go Salad, Meatballs over Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Mandarin Oranges, Dinner Roll, Milk
Grab & Go Salad, Pizzaroni, Fruit Mix, Garlic Bread Stick, Corn, Milk	Super Nachos, Green Beans, Apple Juice Box, Oatmeal Chocolate Bar, Milk	Chicken Nuggets, Rice, Baked Beans, Strawberry/ Blueberry/Apple Mix, Milk	Grab & Go Salad, Chicken Alfredo with a Twist, Mixed Vegetables, Garlic Toast, Bananas, Milk	28 EARLY RELEASE 12:10PM Deli Board Walk Turkey Ham and Cheese Sub on a Bun, Fruitable Juice, Applesauce Cup, Ice Cream, Milk
Grab and Go Salad, Grilled Cheese, Tomato Soup, Peas and Carrots, Fresh Vegetables, Grapes, Milk				

3/3 BOARD MEETING 6:00 PM

3/4 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:30PM

3/4 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING 6:00PM

3/6 Coffee with Community 8:30AM

3/6 Referendum Meeting @ Bovina Town Hall 6:00PM

3/7 NO SCHOOL

3/8 Shiocton Alumni Tournaments 8:00AM

3/11 Referendum Meeting @ Ellington Town Hall 6:00PM

3/15 MS Wrestling @ Wrightstown 9:00AM

3/17 BOARD MEETING 6:00PM

3/20 Varsity Boys Track @ UWO 4:45PM

3/20 Referendum Meeting @ Town of Maine 6:00PM

3/22 Referendum Meeting @ School 9:00AM

3/25 Varsity Boys Track @ Ripon College 3:40PM

3/25 Varsity Softball @ Omro 4:30PM

3/25 Referendum Community Meeting LMC 5:00PM

3/28 EARLY RELEASE 12:10PM; End of Q3

3/29 MS Wrestling State @ Madison 9AM

3/29 Varsity Softball Tournament @ Rhinelander 3:00PM

3/31 Varsity Softball @ Menominee

Join us for Pickleball

3/31 Varsity Boys Track @ UWO 4:45PM

Free open gym style pickleball in Shiocton's MPF gym (fitness center)



Wednesday's 6:30 -8:00PM

Adults (18+) No Children

Come alone or bring a friend. Equipment is available to use.

Questions? Contact- Sarah

svervoort@shiocton.k12.wi.us

Summer Food Programs Available



Learn more about the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer through USDA. Summer EBT is an income-based program that provided financial

assistance for eligible families for food during the summer months. Learn more at: https:// dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/programs

Learn about this new grocery beneavailable



across most of the US, for families with eligible school-age children.

