

September 2021—Back to School Issue

Staying Connected

WWW.SHARONSRPINGS.ORG

Once again this year, Sharon Springs Central School will be able to communicate with you via text message, email, and call notifications, making sure you get real-time updates about your child's attendance, participation, school events, reminders, and more.

About KiNVO

SSCS uses KiNVO by <u>Kinvolved</u> to enable school–home communications. You do not need to sign up or log into a website to receive these text messages, emails, or call notifications.

About text messaging

KiNVO supports two-way text messaging, which means you can text SSCS back if you have questions or feedback.

If your cell phone plan does not include unlimited texting, **y**ou may be charged for receiving these texts from the school district. If you are unsure whether your cell phone plan includes unlimited texting, we suggest you contact your service provider for more information.

Opting out

While we encourage you to try out this program, we also want you to know that you may opt out of the messages any time. Should you prefer not to receive messages, please follow the following steps:

- Via SMS: Write back "STOP" or "wrong number" to a message. Your phone number will be removed from the system.
- Via call notification: Enter # 1 at the conclusion of the call notification.
- Via email: Please reply to an email that you receive, and let your school know that you do not wish to receive emails.
- Other options: Email <u>support@kinvolved.com</u>.

Who do I contact about.....?

	DEPT PERSONNEL	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL
Athletics	Mr. Chris Smith	518-284-2266 ext. 113	csmith@sharonsprings.org
Bus Schedule	Mr. Chris Gray	518-284-9047	cgray@sharonsprings.org
Cafeteria/Lunch Program	Mrs. Melissa Šimpson	518-284-2266 ext. 123	msimpson@Sharonsprings.org
Course Curriculum	Mrs. Elizabeth Rosenberger	518-284-2266 ext. 109	erosenberger@sharonsprings.org
Health Concerns	Mrs. Betsy Jones	518-284-2266 ext. 107	ejones@sharonsprings.org
Use of Building	Mr. Anthony DiPace	518-284-2266 ext. 101	adipace@sharonsprings.org
Personal Issues	Mr. Russell Scimeca	518-284-2266 ext. 116	rscimeca@sharonsprings.org
Disciplinary Issues	Contact Teacher Involved	518-284-2266	
-		(firstinitiallastna	me@sharonsrpings.org)
Unresolved			
Disciplinary Issues	Mr. Thomas Yorke	518-284-2266 ext. 105	tyorke@sharonsprings.org



SHARON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PO Box 218 Sharon Springs, New York 13459 Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Permit #2 Sharon Springs, NY 13459

BOARD OF EDUCATION

James MacFadden, President Helen Roberts, Vice President Laura Jackson Christine Cornwell Sofia Issa

BOXHOLDER

Sharon Springs Central School District Sharon Springs, New York 13459

Superintendent/Principal

Thomas Yorke

Business Manager

Anthony DiPace

Sharon Springs Central School District EDUCATION MATTERS

September 2021

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Principal/Superintendent Message

Sharon Springs Central School Mission/Vision Statement

The mission of Sharon Springs Central School, a community oriented district, is to educate all students to become healthy, hardworking, honest and respectable citizens, who will value lifelong learning and contribute to a global society.

The vision of the Sharon Springs Central School is to provide a supportive and creative learning environment, which challenges our students to achieve excellence as a way of life.

DISTRICT OFFICE 518-284-2266

Superintendent, Thomas Yorke Business Manager, Anthony DiPace FAX NUMBER 518-284-9033

MAIN OFFICE 518-284-2267

Principal, Thomas Yorke Guidance Counselor, Elizabeth Rosenberger FAX NUMBER 518-284-9075

BUS GARAGE 518- 284-9047

Transportation Supervisor, Chris

SHARON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL PO BOX 218 SHARON SPRINGS, NY 13459 WEBSITE:

www.sharonsprings.org

Dear SSCS Family.

Welcome back! While we can relate to your frustration and fatigue regarding all things COVID, we appreciate your support of each other and SSCS. Unfortunately, we cannot yet say that the pandemic is behind us. As I write this article, COVID cases are rising across New York and here in Schoharie County as the more contagious "Delta Variant" of the coronavirus circulates. We will need to take some steps to mitigate the spread of this illness at school. I am, however, fully confident that with your support we will take logical steps to do this, while ensuring our students are engaged and comfortable. In working toward this goal we are implementing a "Reopening Plan" that aims to: maximize in-person teaching and learning, be responsive to student needs, and keep students and staff healthy and safe. (The full plan can be found on the district website: www.sharonsprings.org).

With that said, SSCS will be reopening for full in-person instruction beginning on Tuesday, September 7th. To ensure our students and families are prepared for what school will be like for the 2021 - 22 school year, we will be hosting an on-line orientation night:

Reopening SSCS for 2021-22 Virtual Orientation:

Thursday, September 2nd

- Where:
 - Virtual (Link will be posted at www.sharonsprings.org)
- When:
 - 5:00pm to 5:30pm
 - A Recording Will Be Made Available on the District Website
- Who
 - All Parents/Guardians
 - o 6 12 Students

Topics to Be Covered:

- Safety
- Expectations
- Routines
- Communication
- Student Handbook



EDUCATION MATTERS

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Superintendent/Principal Message Continued...

We will continue working within our region, other districts and our local Department of Health to carry out our vision of providing a safe, engaging and welcoming learning environment. At this time, we anticipate protocols similar to last year. In accordance with New York State Education Department's "Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021 - 2022 School Year," we will have a policy of universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Masks breaks, provided by school personnel, will be encouraged when students are physically distant. These breaks will not exceed 10 minutes in duration. Additionally, the Department of Health will issue guarantines; however, the conditions for quarantines are much more precise: even if a student is exposed to an infected person, as long as the student exposed remains asymptomatic and both parties were wearing masks correctly (or the student is vaccinated) then the exposed student will not be required to quarantine.

While SSCS still encourages all parents to check their child's temperature and general wellness prior to sending them to school, <u>daily wellness attestations will not be required</u>. Additionally, SSCS will not be conducting daily temperature checks of our students. With the ever changing status of this pandemic and the associated guidelines offered by health experts, we will update our mitigation plan regularly. We ask that you use the district website to stay updated. If significant changes occur, you will be notified via email or text as well as in the weekly bulletin.

Again, thank you for your patience and understanding. Please continue to communicate with us your questions and/or concerns, so we can work together to ensure a successful school year!



Thomas Yorke
Principal/Superintendent

Frequently Asked Questions?

What will parent "drop-off" look like in the morning?

Parents will continue to drop off at the new visitor entrance utilizing the traffic circle. Students must wait in their parent's car until 7:40 a.m. At that time, students may unload and proceed to the front entrance. Students in grades K - 5 will proceed to the large, "new" gym, while students in grades 6 - 12 will muster in the small, "old" gym. Students will maintain social distance and wear a mask while in the halls and gymnasiums. No basketball or tag or other running around will be permitted during this time. At 8:00 a.m., younger students will be escorted up to the elementary classrooms and older students dismissed, with the expectation that separation be maintained while progressing to first period class. Any students that are unable to listen to and cooperate with staff during this time will not be permitted to participate in this early building entry courtesy.

Visiting the building?

Again, until further notice, visitations that require entry into the building will not be permitted unless for extenuating circumstances.

Will Morning Program still take place?

Morning Program will take place this year in-person for students. Parents will be invited to the Morning Program that takes place on the **final Friday of each month**.

Will the After School Program be running this year?

The afterschool program will return to SSCS. The program will be up and running by the first week of October. More details about the program will be communicated in the coming weeks.

What is the status of after school activities & sports?

We will offer our full range of co-curricular and extracurricular activities in-person. This includes athletics. We encourage all students to get as involved as they can. Schedules for soccer are posted on the district website, while individual club advisors are in communication with students regarding club activities.

Bus information?

By mid-August, it is expected that parents have already indicated if their child will require school bus transportation, and reserved their spot. Due to COVID precautions, each student will have an assigned bus seat and <u>no bus changes will be allowed until further notice</u> (other than notification that you are picking your child up at school). Again, children are required to wear their masks at all points on the school bus.

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EDUCATION MATTERS September 2021

Please join us for the Annual SSCS Booster Club Golf Tournament

Saturday, September 18, 2021 1:00 Tee Time

Cobleskill Golf & Country Club 2322 State Route 7, Cobleskill, NY 12043

1st place team gets championship polos <u>and</u> free play in 2022 tournament!

The Red Barn Clubhouse will be open during tournament for food and drinks.

A beverage cart will travel the course as well.

\$70 per person includes 18 holes with cart (\$35 for students grades K-12)

Player #1	Polo size:	O Student
Player #2	Polo size:	O Student
Player #3	Polo size:	O Student
Player #4	Polo size:	O Student
Contact phone / e-mail		
Please return this form with your deposit of \$70 per team be (Balance due the day of the tournament.)	PO	OOSTER CLUB Box 218 aron Springs, NY 13459
This is our main fundraiser for the year, so your participation is		aron springs, 141 to 165
For additional registration forms and information visit <u>www.sh</u>	naronsprings.org or	
SHARON SPRINGS BOOSTER CLUB Facebook Page or cal	l/text Kristy Reynolds at (5	18) 320-0336.

"Doin' it For Dodi" Liz Handy Fund Spaghetti Dinner & Basket Raffle

When: Saturday, October 23, 2021
Time: 5:00pm-6:45pm– Raffle drawings start at 7:00pm
Where: SSCS Al Doig Gymnasium (old gym)

Currently we are seeking donations for basket raffle items. New items, gift certificates or theme baskets are greatly appreciated. Also, individuals wishing to help out the day of the event are always welcome and needed. Please contact Barb Handy at bhandy@sharonsprings.org if you have a donation item or would like to volunteer to help.

BOE Approved 04/19/2021

Sharon Springs Central School 2021-22 School Calendar

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EDUCATION MATTERS September 2021

TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES FOR SHARON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL FOR THE 2021 – 2022 SCHOOL YEAR

The Transportation Department at Sharon Springs Central School operates under guidelines approved by the Board of Education. The school district will provide transportation to and from a student's legal residence (located outside of designated walk zones) and/or alternate locations along regularly scheduled district bus routes.

On a day that you need to pick up your child from school, a written request needs to be received in the Main Office by 9:00 a.m. on the days the child(ren) will be picked up. The **notes must include** the student's full name, individual picking up the child(ren), parent/guardian phone number and signature.

In the event of a **School District declared emergency dismissal**, the school district will follow the parent/guardians instructions on the early closing/emergency dismissal notification forms on file.

PM DROP OFF GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS 3RD GRADE AND YOUNGER:

The school district requires a Parent/Guardian, older sibling or other responsible party to be at the bus stop in the afternoon to receive students 3rd grade and under. Due to safety concerns, no child 3rd grade and under will be dropped off unless a responsible party is available. If there is no responsible party at the bus stop the student will be taken back to the school (or the bus garage) where they will need to be picked up by 3:30 p.m. The school will attempt to contact parents/guardians in the event that no one is home. (In the event that this occurs repeatedly, parents/guardians will be required to meet with school officials to implement alternative plans).

If you have any questions, please contact: SSCS Transportation Department at (518)-284-9047 or Sharon Springs Central School at (518)-284-2266.



Access to Student Records Notification

Dear Parent or Eligible Student:

This is to advise you of your rights with respect to student records pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). FERPA is a federal law designed to protect the privacy of student records. The law gives parents and students over 18 years of age (referred to in the law as "eligible students") the following rights:

- 1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request to access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the Building Principal a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The Principal will arrange for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- 2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible student may ask the District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading by writing the Principal clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed and specifying why it is inaccurate or misleading.

If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement personnel), a person serving on the school board, a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist), or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school District in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

4. The right to file a complaint with the US Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirement of FERPA. The Office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office

US Department of Education 600 Independence Avenue SW Washington, DC 20202-4605 EDUCATION MATTERS Back to School Issue

NOTIFICATIONS

Emergency Information Sheets

Emergency information sheets will be sent home with your child on the first week of school. Please update the health, address, phone and emergency contact information and return the sheet to school with your child the next day. Also, if information should change during the school year, please be sure to let the school know as soon as possible. <u>Up-to-date phone numbers and emergency contacts are essential for the safety of your child.</u>

Emergency Management Plan

The Sharon Springs Central School District has developed an Emergency Disaster Preparedness Plan as required by the State Education Law 155.13. It is required that each public school district has emergency plans in place and that the information of emergency procedures be provided to all students and staff. The District will provide training drills throughout the school year and conduct at least 12 fire drills, in addition to a "go home drill" to test the transportation and communication systems. Emergency evacuation route information is posted in each classroom.

If you would like more information regarding the school's Emergency Management Plan, please contact Mr. Thomas Yorke, Superintendent.

Drug Free/Tobacco Free School Zone

Sharon Springs Central School is considered a Drug Free/Tobacco Free School Zone. Anyone arrested and convicted of selling or using illegal drugs within 1,000 feet of school property will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law by civil authorities. Penalties are harsher in this Zone than in the community at large.

Signs have been posted at the entrances to our building and on the grounds to serve as a warning that our District has no tolerance toward illegal drugs.

Fire Inspection Completed

The annual fire inspection has been conducted and the required reports have been submitted to the New York State Education Department. For questions, please contact Mr. Anthony DiPace at 518-284-2266.

School Supplies

Students are expected to have the necessary supplies for school each day. These supplies should be clearly labeled unless the teacher has asked that they not be marked individually. A supply list is available on the schools website or by visiting the main office. Please check your child's supplies periodically and replenish when needed. If assistance is needed with acquiring school supplies, the parent should notify the school at 518-284-2267.

Non-Discrimination Notice

The Sharon Springs Central School District does not discriminate in employment or in the education programs and activities which it operates on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, religion, race, or handicap in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972, or \$504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the NYS Human Rights Law. Inquiries regarding this non-discrimination notice may be directed to Section 504/Title IX Coordinator, Mr. Anthony DiPace, Business Manager at 518-284-2266.

Firearms Prohibited

As stated in the Sharon Springs Central School Board of Education Policy, no person shall bring a firearm or any portion of a firearm on the premises of a school or any area controlled by the School District. School premises means all school owned, leased, or otherwise controlled buildings, grounds and transportation vehicles.

In accordance with Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code, (Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994), and Education Law #3214 and #205, any student possessing a firearm on school premises will be subject to a penalty of at least one year's suspension from school, though the Superintendent of Schools may modify this policy based on circumstances and the student's previous record. A suspended student will be provided with alternative instruction during the suspension period.

Anti-Idling Law

The Anti-Idling Law prohibits the idling of a diesel or non-diesel fueled engine for more than five consecutive minutes except to maintain temperatures inside the vehicles during the cold or hot weather when it is required by certain regulations and the operation of equipment.

Sharon Springs Central Schools Transportation Department monitors compliance with the Anti-Idling Laws. When loading or unloading our buses at school, buses are shut off during those times. The school is also responsible to ensure visitors at our school follow the same rules and regulations regarding the idling of buses.

Pesticide Use Notification

The Sharon Springs Central School District may use pesticide products periodically throughout the year. The Pesticide Neighbor Notification Law requires school districts to maintain a list of staff and persons in a parental relation who wish to receive 48-hour written notice prior to the application of pesticides. Written notifications will include the date, locations and product used for each application. For further information or to be placed on the school-specific 48-hour notification list, please contact Mr. Anthony DiPace, Business Manager at 518-284-2266.

EDUCATION MATTERS September 2021

Summer Literacy Program Was a Success

Over a six week period this summer, Ms. Cecelia Sanchirico operated the Summer Reading Program at the Sharon Springs Public Library (along with Ms. Angela Simone) and the Book Mobile. The Summer Reading Program took place four days a week from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Ms. Sanchirico instructed Kindergarten and first grade students on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Kindergarteners met from 9:00 am-10:00 am and first graders met from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Ms. Simone instructed second and third grade students on Wednesdays and Fridays. Second graders met from 9:00-10:00 a.m. and third graders met from 10:00-11:00 a.m. During this time all students engaged in phonics, read aloud, writing, and instruction in reading skills and strategies.

The Book Mobile ran every Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Families had the option to pick books up from the school between 9:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. or have books delivered to their homes from 9:30 a.m. and noon. If students were present at pickup or delivery, they were able to choose a few books from the book mobile that were appropriate for their age and reading level and of interest to them. If students were not present at the time of pick up or delivery, Ms. Sanchirico pre-selected a few books for them. Overall, both programs were successful in that they encouraged reading over the summer and gave students access to books to help prevent the summer slide.

A survey was sent out to families who participated to collect feedback on the program. We hope to improve this program and encourage more to participate in the joy of reading each year!

Upgraded Classroom Technology

Thanks to the tireless work of our IT and Custodial Departments, each classroom has been upgraded with new large-screen-monitors. Each elementary classroom was outfitted with an interactive SMART board, while in each secondary classroom Smart TV monitors were installed. Both monitors will allow teachers to display materials from their computer or iPad as well as allow students to present from their iPads (all wirelessly). This new equipment replaces the older technology.

We have always believed that the right technology in well-trained, passionate teachers' hands deepens and broadens their impact. While the technology does not "make" the teacher, it certainly is a tool that helps them engage their students. Our teachers are excited to leverage their new tools this fall and into the future!









2021-2022 BELL SCHEDULE

8:00-8:05
8:05-8:48
8:51-9:31
9:34-10:14
10:17-10:57
11:00-11:40
11:43-12:23
12:26-1:06
1:09-1:49
1:52-2:32
a Help
2:35-2:55

Regular Daily Dismissal Times

Grades K-5 Dismiss at 2:47 p.m.

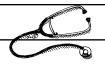
Grades 6-12 Dismiss at 2:55 p.m.

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Important Notices From the School Health Office



Physical & Dental Certificate Requirements

It is mandated by New York State that new entrants, students in Grades Kindergarten, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 have an updated physical (done less than 12 months prior to entrance date) on file in the Health Office. You may choose to have this exam done by the student's own medical provider and a copy of the physical MUST then be forwarded to the school nurse for the student's health record. A Medical Provider also comes to the Health Office throughout the year to perform physicals. A date will be scheduled in the fall of 2020 for a Bassett Medical Provider to come to the School Health Office to perform physicals. If your student has not had a physical in the last 12 months and is in the above grades they will need to have one. Male students are routinely screened for possible hernias during these physical exams. BMI information is also collected at time of the physical.

It is also mandated by NYS that public schools request dental health certificates for new entrants, students in Grades Kindergarten, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11.

If you would like your student to receive a physical with our medical provider or have any questions please call the Health Office at (518)284-2266 Ext. 107.

BMI SURVEY

As part of a required school health examination, a student is weighed and his/her height is measured. These numbers are used to figure out the student's body mass index or 'BMI'. The BMI helps the doctor or nurse know if the student's weight is in a healthy range or is too high or too low. Recent changes to the New York State Education Law require that BMI and weight status group be included as part of the student's school health examination. A sample of school districts will be selected to take part in a survey by the New York State Department of Health. If our school is selected to be part of the survey, we will be reporting to New York State Department of Health information about our students' weight status groups. Only summary information is sent. No names and no information about individual students are sent. However, you may choose to have your child's information excluded from this survey report. The information sent to the New York State Department of Health will help health officials develop programs that make it easier for children to be healthier. If you do not wish to have your child's weight status group information included as part of the Health Department's survey this year, please call the Health Office at 518-284-2266 Ext.107 and inform the school of your choice to opt your child or children out.

Medication In School

New York State Education Law prohibits the giving of internal medication in school unless a written doctor's order for that medication and a written parental request to give that medication is brought to the school nurse. This law also includes over-the-counter medication such as aspirin, acetaminophen, cold preparations, and cough drops. A parent must personally bring to the nurse all medications in the original package with the original prescription on the label. This also includes over-the-counter medication, which needs to be in the original manufacturer's container/package, with the student's name affixed to the container. A pharmacy label on a prescription DOES NOT constitute a written order and CANNOT be used instead of a written order from a licensed prescriber.

If your child needs medication at school, please fill out the appropriate form for medication administration in school. This form can be accessed on our website under the health section or by contacting the Health Office 518-284-2266 Ext. 107. The form must be filled out and signed by a parent/guardian and then taken to the physician's office for completion. It then must be returned to the school health office by leaving with front desk attendant. This also applies for students who are approved by MD and parent for **SELF-CARRY** which also requires an additional form. Medication CANNOT be administered at school unless all of these procedures are followed and they need to be **updated annually**.

Immunization Reminders

Grade 6

Tdap: Boostrix® & Adacel®

Age 10: Not required to receive the Tdap until they turn 11 years old. At that time they must provide documentation of a booster dose of Tdap or provide proof of an appointment for the booster dose within 14 days.

Age 11: Must receive an immunization containing tetanus toxoids, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (Tdap).

Grades 7 and 12

Beginning September 1, 2016, all 7th and 12th grade students MUST HAVE proof of having been given Meningococcal vaccine (shot) in order to attend school.

Students entering **Grade 7 in 2021 must have 1 dose** of meningococcal vaccine. They will be required to get a booster at age 16.

Students entering **Grade 12 in 2021 must have either:**-2 doses of meningococcal vaccine with **the booster dose given on or after age 16.**

-1 dose if your child's first dose was given on or after age 16.

Required Screenings

Vision: Distance acuity for all newly entering students and students in Kindergarten, Grades 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 and 10.

Near vision acuity, hyperopia and color perception screening for all newly entering students, including Kindergarten.

Hearing: Hearing screening for all newly entering students and students in Kindergarten, Grades 1, 3, 5, 7 and 10.

Scoliosis: Scoliosis (spinal curvature) screening for all students in Grades 5 – 9.

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NOTIFICATIONS

ANNUAL NOTIFICATION OF THE DISTRICT-WIDE SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN

The Sharon Springs Central School District has developed a District-wide School Safety Plan and confidential building-level School Safety Plans for each building as required by New York State Safe School Against Violence in Education (S.A.V.E.) Law. This law requires the district to annually provide written information to all students and staff about emergency procedures. As required, the District-wide School Safety Plan was originally submitted to the New York State Education Department in June 2001. Each confidential building-level Emergency Response Plan was originally submitted to the local police and New York State Police in June 2001.

The District-wide School Safety Team annually reviews the District-wide School Safety Plan. The building-level School Safety Teams annually review the confidential building-level Emergency Response Plans. All updates are approved by the Board of Education prior to re-submitting them to the New York State Education Department and the local police and New York State Police respectively.

The district will provide training throughout the year and will conduct at least twelve fire drills as well as conduct a district-wide drill to test sheltering plans and/or early dismissal. Emergency evacuation information is posted in each classroom and Emergency School Closing information can be found in the district calendar. For more information concerning the District-wide School Safety Plan, please contact Mr. Thomas Yorke, Superintendent at 518-284-2266.

Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)

Do You Suspect Abuse or Maltreatment?

Report it Now!

Call our Statewide Toll Free Telephone Center Number:

1-800-342-3720

If you are deaf or hard of hearing, call TDD/TTY at

1-800-638-5163

or have your Video Relay System provider call

1-800-342-3720

If you believe that a child is in **immediate danger**, call **911** or your local police department.

For more information about reporting child abuse visit the Office of Children and Family Services website at:

http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/cps/.

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For information on child abuse prevention visit www.preventchildabuseny.org.

Universal Pre-K and Head Start Programs

Sharon Springs Central School hosts a Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program, a Head Start program for 3 year olds and an Early Head Start program for expectant mothers and children o-3 years old. Programs are operated by Schoharie County Child Development Council. For more information or to sign your child up call 518-284-3800.

ANNUAL NOTIFICATION OF THE ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN

In accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) of 1987 (40 CFR Part 763), the Sharon Springs Central School District is required to give annual notification stating that the Asbestos Management Plan for each building is available and kept in the main office. These records are available for review during normal business hours.

Six-month periodic asbestos surveillances as well as a triennial inspection are required pursuant of AHERA. The sixmonth surveillance was completed in December 2015 and June 2016. The triennial inspection was completed in June 2015. To date, no asbestos projects are scheduled. If any are scheduled in the future, all work shall be conducted according to all applicable local, state and federal regulations. For more information, please contact the LEA Asbestos Designee, Mr. Anthony DiPace, Business Manager at 518-284-2266.

Release of Student Information Under No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

Pursuant to the federal education legislation also known as No Child Left Behind Act, Sharon Springs Central School must disclose to military recruiters, upon request, the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of high school students. The District must also notify parents of their rights and the right of the child to request that the District not release such information without prior written parental consent. Parents (or students if they are 18 or older) wishing to exercise their option to withhold their consent to the release of the above information to military recruiters are asked to sign and return the form below to the Guidance Office.

Sharon Springs Central School Reservation of consent for the release of certain student
information under the No Child Left Behind Act
Please <u>DO NOT</u> release the name, address, and telephone number of
(Student name)
to military recruiters.
(Parent Signature and Date)

EDUCATION MATTERS Back to School Issue

Important Reminders

- Doors for students will open on <u>Tuesday</u>, <u>September 7th</u> at 8:00 a.m.
- Each year, schools are required to provide information in written form or electronically to parents. To comply with these regulations you will find various notices in this newsletter. New York State S.A.V.E. Legislation (Schools Against Violence in Education) requires school districts to annually review their Code of Conduct. The Code outlines the rights and responsibilities of students, outlines the policy against discrimination and harassment, spells out expected behaviors, and outlines prohibited student conduct as well as the penalties for deviating from these expecta-
- As in the past, parents and students are reminded that the Code prohibits inappropriate clothing including suggestive language on clothing, bare midriff and strapless tops as well as any exposed undergarments. Shorts and skirts should extend at least past the students' outstretched hands.
- Students are advised that the locker remains the property of the Sharon Springs Central School District and the District retains the right to search any locker that it believes may contain illegal or dangerous items.
- Students are reminded that their lockers will not be accessible after school. When a student leaves for the day, be it for sports or home, they should have all their necessary materials with them.
- It is essential for parents to play an active role in their child's education. Teachers can be reached by phone through their school extension numbers and their school based e-mail accounts (firstinitiallastname@sharonsprings.org).

Cell Phone/Electronic Device Usage

When used responsibly, cell phones can be a positive means to increase family communication. However, during the school day from 8:00 a.m. until dismissal at 2:55 p.m., students are expected to concentrate on learning and preparing for classes. Cell phones and other electronic devices such as iPods and MP3 players should be turned off. School issued iPads are the only electronic device authorized to be used in the classroom with teacher approval.

The District will allow cell phones to be checked for messages within the old gym during a student's scheduled lunch (grades 6-12). During this time, no pictures or other recording should be taken. The phone should not be displayed while in passage from the locker to the old gym and back to the locker. Cell phones/ cameras are prohibited in the Gymnasium Locker Room Areas and Classrooms at all times.

As always, in an emergency situation, you can get a message to your child by contacting the front desk. Misuse and/or display of electronic devices at other points during the day will result in disciplinary action and confiscation. Parents may be asked to retrieve the device from the school as well. Exceptions to carry cellular phones and pagers may be granted to teachers, administration and other school staff in emergency situation.

Morning Arrival and Afternoon Dismissal

School buses will drop students off on the front loop facing Route 20 in the morning. Parents will drop their children off by entering the Visitor Traffic Loop. Students should exit from the passenger side of the vehicle and enter the building through the new Visitor Entrance.

*Please be aware of crosswalk right of way areas and newly placed STOP signs in the driveway/parking area.

There is no student drop off/parent parking in the eastern lot near France Street/Route 10. School staff will be on hand at both the bus unloading and front desk entrance to assist the younger elementary students.

Dismissal time for student in K-5 is 2:47 p.m. Dismissal time for students in grades 6-12 is 2:55 p.m.

Afternoon buses will load in the front loop facing Route 20.

Afternoon parent pick up will be in the Visitor Traffic Circle. Parents should enter the traffic circle and wait in the vehicle for their elementary child to exit from the double doors (old Front Desk Entrance). If a parent is also picking up a middle or high school child we ask that the continue to slowly loop the traffic circle or park in one of the available visitor parking spaces. Middle school and high school students will exit from the Event Entrance. For safety we ask that you remain in your vehicle when picking up vour children.

It is important to note that the on-campus speed limit will remain 5 miles per hour. Please be vigilant when driving, parking and moving about in the parking lot/ driveway areas.

Morning Supervision

Our school building officially opens at 8:00 a.m. as students arrive on District buses. As a courtesy to parents, the Board of Education has elected to have limited supervision in the gymnasiums beginning at 7:40 a.m. to assist with early work schedules.

Please be advised that prior to 7:40 a.m. there is no adult supervision. Therefore, students are not permitted to be in the school building prior to 7:40 a.m.

Any student entering the building prior to 8:00 a.m. will be required to wait in one of the gymnasiums with a mask and social distance. Students will not be allowed to wait in the hallways under any circumstances.

EDUCATION MATTERS

September 2021

Student Privacy Notification

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Board of Education recognizes that student privacy is an important concern of parents and the Board wishes to ensure that student privacy is protected pursuant to the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, as revised by the No Child Left Behind Act. To that end, the Board has adopted/ revised a policy of student privacy.

Pursuant to the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, as revised by the No Child Left Behind Act, and the Sharon Springs Central School District policy on student privacy, you have the right to opt your child out of the following activities:

The collection, disclosure and use of personal information gathered from the students for the purpose of marketing or selling that information.

- 1. This does not apply to the collection, disclosure, or use of providing educational products or services for, or to students, such as:
 - a. College or other postsecondary education recruitment;
 - b. Book clubs, magazines and program providing access to low-cost literary products;
 - c. Curriculum and instructional materials used in schools;
 - d. Tests and assessments used to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information for students or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests and assessments, and the subsequent analysis and public re lease of the aggregate data from such tests and assessments;
 - e. Student recognition program; and
 - f. The sale by students of products or services to raise funds for school-related activities.
- 2. The administration of any survey revealing information concerning one or more of the following:
 - a. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
 - b. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
 - c. Sex behavior or attitudes;
 - d. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
 - e. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
 - f. Legally recognized privileged or analogous, relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians and ministers;
 - g. Religious practices, affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent; or
 - h. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).
- 3. The administration of any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school, not necessary to protect the immediate health or safety of the student or other students and not otherwise permitted or required by state law. The term "invasive physical examination" means any medical examination that involves the exposure of private body parts, or any act during such examination that includes incision, insertion or injecting into the body, but does include a hearing, vision or scoliosis screening. It does not apply to any physical examination or screening required or permitted under state law, including those permitted without parental notification.

At this time, we expect that activities related to the above-mentioned items will take place on or close to the following dates:

School Physician performed by the School Physician

October, November, December/January, May

Please review this list, if there are any activities you wish to "opt out" of on behalf of your child, please notify the school in writing within 10 days. If you have any questions about the District's student privacy policy and your rights to opt your child out of certain activities, please contact Thomas Yorke, Superintendent/Building Principal

Sincerely SHARON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL Thomas Yorke Superintendent/Building Principal

Request

Teacher Qualification In accordance with the Federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, parents/guardians have the right to request specific information about the professional qualifications of their children's classroom teachers. As a parent/guardian of a student in the Sharon Springs Central School District, you have the right to request the following information:

- If the teacher has met New York State qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas he or she
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which the State qualification or licensing has been waived;
- The teacher's college major, whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees;
- If your child is provided services by any instructional aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

Requests for information about the qualifications of your child's teacher(s) can be directed to Thomas Yorke, Superintendent at (518)284-2267. All requests will be honored in a timely manner.

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SHARON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2021 BREAKFAST/LUNCH MENU (Subject to Change)

AVAILABLE DAILY: Grilled Chicken Salad, Fruit & Yogurt Parfaits, PB&J. Assorted Fruit, Low Fat Milk and Water

WELCOME BACK!!!	7.	8.	9.	10.
EVERYONE WHO GETS A COMPLETE MEAL EATS FOR FREE! Choose no less than 3 of the 5 Food Components and REMEMBER one of these HAS to be fruit or veggie!!	Spartan Chicken Bowl Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potatoes LS Gravy LF Cheddar Cheese Golden Crisp Corn	Chicken Patty/WW Bun Oven Baked Fries Jolly Green Giant Green Beans Welcome We	Build your own Burger/WW Bun Herb Enhanced Rice Flavored Carrots	Homemade Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza OR Chicken Patty/WW Bun Romaine Spinach Garden Salad LF Dressing Locally Grown Apples
13.	14.	15.	16.	17.
WG Buffalo Chicken Ziti Or WG Spaghetti & Meatballs Garlic Bread Romaine Spinach Garden Salad LF Dressing	Beef or Chicken Taco Lettuce Cheese Tomato Black Bean Salsa Mac Salad with a Rainbow of colored veggies	Chicken Nuggets Baked Fires Jolly Green Giant Green Beans	Open Face Hot Tur- key Sandwich OR Hot dog/Bun Mashed Potatoes Cranberry Sauce Flavored Carrots	Homemade Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza OR Chicken Patty/WW Bun Romaine Spinach Garden Salad LF Dressing Locally Grown Apples
20.	21.	22.	23.	24.
Golden Grilled Cheese Sandwich OR Egg Salad Sandwich Tomato Soup Carrot Peppers & Celery Sticks	Spartan Chicken Bowl Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potatoes LS Gravy LF Cheddar Cheese Golden Crisp Corn	Chicken Patty/WW Bun Oven Baked Fries Jolly Green Giant Green Beans	Hot dog/WW Bun OR Sloppy Joe/WW Bun Baked Beans Scalloped Potatoes	Homemade Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza OR Chicken Patty/WW Bun Romaine Spinach Garden Salad LF Dressing Locally Grown Apples
27.	28.	29.	30.	2021-2022 Pricing
WG French Toast Sticks OR WG Flavored Pancakes Sausage Patty Carrot and Celery Sticks	Beef or Chicken Taco Lettuce Cheese Tomato Black Bean Salsa Mac Salad with a Rainbow of colored veggies	Chicken Nuggets Baked Fires Jolly Green Giant Green Beans	Build your own Burger/WW Bun Herb Enhanced Rice Flavored Carrots	K-12 Ala Carte: \$1.50 Milk/Snack Milk: \$.55 Smart Snacks:\$.50 &Up ************************************
K-5 Breakfast in Classroom Every Monday Cereal Fruit, Juice & Milk 6-12 Grab & Go WG Cereal OR Breakfast Sandwich Or Bagel/CC Fruit, Juice & Milk	K-5 Breakfast in Classroom Every Tuesday Chocolate Chip Muffin Fruit, Juice & Milk 6-12 Grab & Go WG Cereal OR Chocolate Chip Muffin Or Bagel/CC Fruit, Juice & Milk	K-5 Breakfast in Classroom Every Wednesday Flavored Pancakes Fruit, Juice & Milk 6-12 Grab & Go WG Cereal OR Breakfast Sandwich Or Bagel/CC Fruit, Juice & Milk	K-5 Breakfast in Classroom Every Thursday WG Bagel, Cream Cheese Fruit, Juice & Milk 6-12 Grab & Go WG Cereal OR Chocolate Chip Muffin Or Bagel/CC Fruit, Juice & Milk	K-5 Breakfast in Classroom Every Friday WW Cinnamon bun Fruit, Juice & Milk 6-12 Grab & Go WG Cereal OR WW Cinnamon Bun OR Bagel/CC Fruit, Juice & Milk

EDUCATION MATTERS

September 2021

Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)

The Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) was effective July 1st, 2012. The purpose of the act is to address discrimination and harassment in the public schools, charter schools and BOCES, including amendments to code of conduct policies.

The goal of the DASA is to provide <u>ALL</u> New York State public school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment and bullying on school property or at a school function. The DASA states that no student shall be subject to harassment by employees or students; nor be subject to discrimination based on their actual or perceived: race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (including identified or expressed), or sex.

The Dignity for All Students Act defines harassment as "the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by verbal threats, intimidation or abuse that has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's educational

performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional or physical well-being; or conduct, verbal threats, intimidation or abuse that reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety."

In a continued effort to promote tolerance and respect for others, students and faculty will be provided educational and awareness opportunities that address these areas as part of the curriculum at SSCS as well as various other activities. More details can be found in the Student Code of Conduct Handbook which is available on the school's website at www.sharonsprings.org.

Should students or parents have questions or concerns regarding the Dignity For All Students Act, they should contact Elizabeth Rosenberger, the Dignity Act Coordinator for the District, (518) 284-2267.

CEP/Provision 2 Non-Base Year Household Income Form INSTRUCTIONS

PART 1 ALL HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE STUDENT INFORMATION. DO NOT FILL OUT MORE THAN ONE FORM FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD.

- 1. Print the names of the children, including foster children, for whom you are applying on one form.
- 2. List their grade and school.
- 3. Check the box to indicate a foster child living in your household, and check the box for each child with no income.

PART 2 HOUSEHOLDS GETTING SNAP. TANF OR FDPIR SHOULD COMPLETE PART 2 AND SIGN PART 4.

- 1. List a current SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations) case number of anyone living in your household. Do not use the 16-digit number on your benefit card. The case number is provided on your benefit letter.
- 2. An adult household member must sign the form in PART 4. **SKIP PART 3** Do not list names of household members or income if you list a SNAP, TANF or FDPIR number.

PARTS 3 & 4 ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE ALL OF PARTS 3 AND 4.

- 1. Write the names of everyone in your household, whether or not they get income. Include yourself, the children you are completing the form for, all other children, your spouse, grandparents, and other related and unrelated people living in your household. Use another piece of paper if you need more space.
- 2. Write the amount of current income each household member receives, before taxes or anything else is taken out, and indicate where it came from, such as earnings, welfare, pensions and other income. If the current income was more or less than usual, write that person's usual income. Specify how often this income amount is received: weekly, every other week (bi-weekly), 2 x per month, monthly. If no income, check the box. The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs Incurred for such care under the Child Care and Development Block Grant, TANF and At Risk Child Care Programs should not be considered as income for this program.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT: This explains how we will use the information you give us.

The Sharon Springs Central School district requires the information on the application in order to determine District-wide eligibility for the free lunch program.

The district may also use the income information to determine eligibility for other income based programs such as Caring & Sharing, Karker Fund use and College in the High School tuition exemption. Information provided will be kept confidential and only be used for the purposes as stated above or where required by State and Federal Reporting.

Pag

ALL HOUSEHOLDS- PLEASE COMPLETE & RETURN THIS FORM TO THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA BY 9/30/21

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)/Provision 2 non-base year **Household Income Eligibility Form**

The Sharon Springs CSD is participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or Provision 2 in a non-base year. All children in the school will receive meals/milk at no charge regardless of household income or complete on this form. This form is to determine eligibility for additional State and federal program benefits that your child(ren) may qualify for. Read the instructions on the back, complete only one form for your household, sign your name and return it to the school named above. Call Melissa Simpson, 518-284-2266 ext. 123 if you need help.

1 List all shildren in your household who attend school:

Student Name		School	Grade/Teacher	Foster Child	No Income
				0	0
				0	0
				0	0
				0	0
				0	0
				0	0
SNAP/TANF/FDPIR Benefits: anyone in your household receive	es either SNAP, TANF or FI	OPIR benefits, list their name	and CASE # here. Skip to Page 1	art 5, and sign the applic	ation.
me:		CASE #			
Household Gross Income: List Do not leave income	all people living in your hound the blank. If no income, check	usehold, how much and how only by box. If you have listed a fos	often they are paid (weekly, ester child above, you must re	every other week, twice port their personal incon	ne.
Name of household member	Earnings from work before deductions Amount / How Often	Child Support, Alimony Amount / How Often	Pensions, Retirement Payments Amount / How Often	Other Income, Social Security Amount / How Often	Income
	\$/	\$/	\$/	\$/	0
	\$/	\$/	\$/ /	\$/	о
	\$/	\$/	\$/ /	\$/	о
	\$/	\$/	\$/ /	\$/	о
	\$/	\$/	\$/ /	\$/	
	\$/	\$/	\$/ /	\$/	
	\$/	\$/	\$/ /	\$ /	
	\$/	\$/	\$/	\$/	o
Signature: An adult household ertify (promise) that all the inforceive federal funds. The school claws, and my children may lose to gnature: mail Address:	mation on this application is officials may verify the informeal benefits.	true and that all income is rep mation and if I purposely give	e false information, I may be	prosecuted under applic	able State and fo
ome Phone :		Wark Phane			

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE - FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY

Annual Income Conversion (Only convert when multiple income frequencies are reported on application) Weekly X 52; Every Two Weeks (bi-weekly) X 26; Twice Per Month X 24; Monthly X 12

SNAP/TANF/Foster Income

Total Household Income/How Often: Free Eligibility Reduced Eligibility

Signature of Reviewing Official

Denied Eligibility

Household Size:

EDUCATION MATTERS

September 2021

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Door	Daront	/(Luar	dian
Deal	Parent	/Guai	ulall.

As you are aware, SSCS qualified for a community grant that enabled our students to receive free lunches and breakfast. However, in order for this program to continue we are required to have current free and reduced lunch applications on file each year.

While this information will remain confidential, it may also be used to determine eligibility for other programs such as College in the High School, Caring and Sharing and the Karker Fund.

Please fill out the application on the previous page and return it to the cafeteria as soon as possible. This will enable the district to keep the many programs that we are fortunate to currently participate in and pursue many others that could help our district and families. Most importantly completing this form will help the district to maintain the grant that allows your child(ren) to have free breakfast and lunch at school.

Thank you for your continued support of our students.

Sincerely,

Anthony M. DiPace **Business Manager**

Letter to Parents for School Meal Programs Special Provision Options (Provision 2 Non-Base Year & Community Eligibility Provision)

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We are pleased to inform you that the Sharon Springs Central School will be implementing a meal certification option available to schools participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs for 2021-2022 school year.

What does this mean for your child(ren) attending the school(s) identified above?

All students enrolled at the Sharon Springs Central School are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at school at no charge to your household each day of the 2021-2022 school year. No further action is required of you. Your child(ren) will be able to participate in these meal programs without having to pay a fee or submit an application.

If your children attend schools that are not participating in CEP, your household may still need to fill out a confidential meal application or pay for meals.

If you have any further questions, please contact us at 518-284-2266 ext 123 or email msimpson@sharonsprings.org.

Sincerely,

Melissa Simpson

