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Sharon Springs Central School District Tools For Schools Code: **16850**

Home of the Spartans

SHARON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PO Box 218
Sharon Springs, New York 13459

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Sharon Springs, New York 13459

Superintendent/Principal

Thomas Yorke

Business Manager

Anthony DiPace



Sharon Springs Central School District EDUCATION MATTERS

September 2024
Back to School Issue

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 life-long 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, Lindsay Blowers

FAX NUMBER 518-284-9075

BUS GARAGE 518-284-9047

Transportation Supervisor, Chris Gray

SHARON SPRINGS
CENTRAL SCHOOL
PO BOX 218
SHARON SPRINGS, NY 13459
WEBSITE:
www.sharonsprings.org

Dear SSCS Family,

As we approach the threshold of a new school year, it is with great enthusiasm that I extend a warm and enthusiastic welcome back to all of our students, families, staff, and community members. This time of year brings with it a sense of renewal and the promise of new opportunities. It is a time to set goals, embrace challenges, and look forward to the many successes that lie ahead. Starting on our **first day of classes on Thursday, September 5th**, we will begin the 2024-2025 school year focused on a successful school year.

At Sharon Springs, our commitment to each and every student is unwavering. Our mission is to create an environment where every student has the opportunity to experience authentic success. We believe that success is not just measured by grades or test scores, but by the growth, resilience, and character that our students develop along the way. Our goal is to nurture the whole child, helping each student to find their path and realize their full potential. Central to our approach this year is a focus on four key principles: respect, relationships, relevance, and resilience.

Respect: Respect is the cornerstone of our school community. It is essential that we all—students, staff, and families alike—treat each other with kindness and consideration. By fostering an atmosphere of mutual respect, we create a safe and supportive environment where all students can thrive. Respect for oneself, respect for others, and respect for our school and community will be guiding values as we move through the school year.

Relationships: We know that positive relationships are critical to student success. Whether it is the bond between a teacher and a student, the friendships formed between peers, or the partnership between school and home, strong relationships

provide the foundation for learning and personal growth. This year, we are committed to building and strengthening these connections, ensuring that every student feels valued, supported, and understood.

Relevance: Learning becomes truly meaningful when students see the relevance in what they are being taught. We are dedicated to providing a curriculum that connects with our students' lives, interests, and future aspirations. By making learning relevant, we engage our students more deeply and empower them to take ownership of their education. This year, we will continue to seek out and implement innovative practices that make learning both engaging and purposeful.

Resilience: The ability to overcome challenges is a critical life skill, and one that we will focus on cultivating in our students. Life is full of ups and downs, and resilience is what allows us to persevere in the face of adversity. We will encourage our students to embrace challenges, learn from failures, and develop the grit necessary to keep moving forward. Through this, they will gain the confidence and strength needed to navigate the complexities of life.

As we embark on this new school year, I invite each of you to join us in this journey. Together, we can create a school community where respect, relationships, relevance, and resilience are not just words, but lived experiences. Let us work hand-in-hand to ensure that every student has the opportunity to achieve authentic success, both at SSCS and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Here's to a wonderful school year ahead!



Thomas Yorke

K-12 Principal/Superintendent
Sharon Springs CSD

Welcome New Educators to SSCS

This year, we are also excited to introduce new educators to our school-community. After recruiting and conducting several rounds of interviews, the district is pleased to introduce the following new staff members:



Ms. Jamie Wilber
K-12 Art Teacher



Ms. Rachel Ferreira
Animal Science/ F & CS



Mrs. Isabella Warner
K-6 Music & Chorus



Mr. Andrew Harrington
Teachers Aide



Ms. Tracy Willoughby
Teachers Aide



Ms. Keri Maldonado
1:1 Medical Aide

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. 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 be encouraged to remain calm and mindful, while they connect with each other. No basketball or tag or other running around will be permitted during this time. At 8am, younger students will be escorted up to the elementary classrooms and older students dismissed, with the expectation that students move through the hallways in an orderly fashion. Any students who 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?

While visitations are encouraged, to ensure the safety of our school we ask that you call ahead and make arrangements with our main office.

Will Morning Program still take place?

Morning Program will take place. Parents will be invited to the MP that takes place on the **final school-day 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.

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.

During the school year, on a day that you need to pick up your child from school, a written request or phone call needs to be received in the Main Office by 9:00 am on the day 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.



SSCS is excited to better connect with you.
The official school FaceBook page is:
<https://www.facebook.com/SharonSpringsCSD>

Even if you don’t have a Facebook account, you can still view our posts using the shared link above. If you have a Facebook feel free to follow us so that you see our posts in your newsfeed!

Welcome!

Sharon Springs 2024-2025 School Calendar

July 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 19 – 20 Regents Exams Days

 | September 2024 | | | | | | | |----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----| | Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | S | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | | 29 | 30 | | | | | | Sept 2 Labor Day Sept 3 - 4 K-12 Superintendent's Conference Day Sept 5 First Day of Classes K-12 | | October 2024 | | | | | | | |--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----| | Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | S | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | Oct 11 Emergency Release Dismiss 15 min early Oct 14 Columbus Day Holiday || School Day Tally = 20 | | | | School Day Tally = 22 | | |

November 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Nov 11 Veterans' Day Holiday
Nov 15 K-12 Superintendent's Conference Day
Nov. 25 1st Quarter Report Cards & K - 12 Parent Teacher Conferences (5:30pm to 7:30pm)
Nov. 26 Student Dismissal at 11:30am & Parent Teacher Conferences (1pm to 3pm)
Nov 27 - 29 Thanksgiving Holiday

 | December 2024 | | | | | | | |---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----| | Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | S | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | Dec 23 - Jan 1 Winter Recess | | January 2025 | | | | | | | |--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----| | Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | S | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | Jan 1 New Year's Day Observed Jan 2 Classes Resume Jan 20 Martin Luther King Day Observed Jan 21 - 24 Regents Exam Days Jan 29 Lunar New Year || School Day Tally = 17 | | | | School Day Tally = 20 | | |

February 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

Feb 17 Presidents Day
Feb 17 - 21 February Recess

 | March 2025 | | | | | | | |------------|----|----|----|----|----|----| | Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | S | | | | | | | | 1 | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | 30 | 31 | | | | | | March 19 K-12 Superintendent's Conference Day | | April 2025 | | | | | | | |------------|----|----|----|----|----|----| | Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | S | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | Apr 7 - May 16 3-8 English Language Arts & Math Administration and 5-8 Science Administration Apr 14 - 18 Spring Recess || School Day Tally = 15 | | | | School Day Tally = 21 | | |
| School Day Tally = 17 | | | | | | |

May 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Apr 7 – May 16 3-8 English Language Arts & Math Administration and 5-8 Science Administration Window
May 26 Memorial Day Observed

 | June 2025 | | | | | | | |-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----| | Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | S | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | | 29 | 30 | | | | | | June 10 Geometry June 17 - 25 Regents Exams June 19 Juneteenth June 26 ½ day students & last day for CRB Special Ed programs June 24 – 26 ½ Day Elementary (11:30 dismissal) June 26 - 27 Regents Rating Day | | Legend | | | | | | | |-----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------| | Opening Day of School | Superintendent's Conference Day | Regents Testing | Observed Holidays/Recess/School not in Session | Emergency Early Release | Half-day, Early Dismissal | Rating Day | || School Day Tally = 21 | | | | School Day Tally = 19 | | |

Total Calendar Days: 187
Superintendent Conference Days: 4
Emergency Closing Days: 5

If emergency closings exceed planned make-up days, school may be in session on vacation days (excluding legal holidays).

Approved by the Sharon Springs CSD Board of Education on April 22, 2024

Updated Bully & Harassment Policy

The following updates were brought about through the collaboration of students, Principal Yorke teachers, several concerned parents, and our Board of Education. In short, all stakeholders are invested in ensuring SSCS is a safe and welcoming place for each student; therefore, bullying and harassment are not tolerated.

- 1. The first DASA violation will result in the following: a suspension of all participation in extracurricular activities for up to 5 weeks (no less than 1 week), lunch detention for one week, homeroom restriction for one week and pass-restriction for one week. During lunch detention, the student will need to complete an online sensitivity training and during homeroom restriction, they will meet with a counselor.

*Parents will be contacted and a letter will be put in the student's file.

- 2. A second DASA violation will double the aforementioned consequences.
- 3. A third DASA violation will result in a Superintendent's hearing and the student will be offered online schooling through BOCES for the remainder of the year, and will not be allowed on school grounds for a calendar year (ineligible for all extracurricular activities for a full year).

*In the event physical harm is part of the bullying (i.e. an unprovoked attack), law enforcement will be involved and the situation will be treated as a 3rd violation.

For More details: www.sharonsprings.org > Student Handbook > Bullying Policy

SSCS Athletics Earns Second Sportsman-ship Award for 2023-24

SSCS has been named a winner of the Sportsmanship Promotion Banner Award for the 2023-2024 school year by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Inc. (NYSPHSAA).

This is the first time SSCS has earned the award and the 28th year NYSPHSAA has honored deserving school districts through its Sportsmanship Promotion program. The Sportsman-ship Banner will be presented to Sharon Springs in the fall.

This marks the second sportsmanship award honoring SSCS student-athletes during 2023-24. In May, the SSCS girls athletic teams were awarded the Pat Grasso Sportsmanship Banner by the Tri-Valley League.

Go Spartans!

"These awards mean a great deal to all of us at Sharon Springs Central School," said SSCS Athletic Director Chris Smith. "It has been a team effort to build the culture of sportsmanship in our school and community. It begins with the efforts of our parents, faculty, staff, coaches and unwavering support of our administration. We are very proud of our student-athletes and give them enormous credit when they continue to demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviors whether winning or losing."

Each year, NYSPHSAA presents the Sportsmanship Promotion Banner Award to schools that have developed proactive approaches in keeping sportsmanship in the forefront with their students, coaches, spectators, and communities.

Sportsmanship award winners are decided based off their Sportsmanship Promotion survey, a tool built to assist athletic departments in examining their policies and procedures used to promote positive sportsman-ship within their athletic community.

For the 2023-2024 school year, 312 schools submitted the Sportsmanship Promotion survey to NYSPHSAA with 49 schools selected by their Sections as plaque winners. The award winners for this year were selected based off not only being recognized by their sections as plaque recipients, but also neither school having a single athlete or coach disqualification from any of their athletic events in the 2023-2024 school year.

"I am thrilled to congratulate Sharon Springs for winning the Sportsmanship Promotion Banner Award," said Dr. Robert Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director. "The dedication to fostering an environment of respect, integrity, and fair play both on and off the athletic arena exemplifies the highest ideals of high school athletics. Your commitment to sportsmanship not only enhances the experience for all participants but also sets a shining example for future generations."



The New York State Public High School Athletic Association requires officials to enforce all sportsmanship rules for athletes and coaches. We will not tolerate negative statements or actions between opposing players, especially trash- talking, taunting or baiting of opponents, including racial or discriminatory comments or slurs. If such comments are heard or actions seen, a penalty will be assessed immediately. We have been instructed not to issue warnings. Let today's contest reflect mutual respect.

WHO DO I CONTACT?		
Dept. Personnel	Phone Extension	Email
Athletics		
Chris Smith	113	csmith@sharonsprings.org
Bus Schedule		
Chris Gray	(518)284-9047	cgray@sharonsprings.org
Cafeteria		
Melissa Simpson	123	msimpson@sharonsprings.org
Course Curriculum		
Lindsay Blowers	109	lblowers@sharonsprings.org
Health/Nursing		
Elizabeth Jones	107	ejones@sharonsprings.org
Use of Building		
Anthony DiPace	101	adipace@sharonsprings.org
Mental Health		
Russell Scimeca	116	rscimeca@sharonsprings.org
Unresolved Disciplinary Issues		
Thomas Yorke	105	tyorke@sharonsprings.org

TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES FOR SHARON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL FOR THE 2024 – 2025 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).**

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

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. **Up-to-date phone numbers and emergency contacts are essential for the safety of your child.**

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.

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.

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.

Regular Daily Dismissal Times

Grades K-5 Dismiss at 2:52 p.m.

Grades 6-12 Dismiss at 3:00 p.m.

Student Dress Code Policy

The administration, faculty, and staff at Sharon Springs CSD are dedicated to providing a safe and positive learning environment for each K - 12 student in our school. Our efforts are made more meaningful when we have a school climate that focuses on high academic engagement as well as respectful conduct for self and others. The SSCS Dress Code helps to promote this climate. In order to promote a positive school culture, all student apparel should be neat, clean, and appropriate for all school activities, and follow standards of safety. Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for dressing appropriately to ensure a *professional learning environment at SSCS, where students are learning to be future ready.* Generally, a student's dress, grooming and appearance must be: safe, appropriate and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process.

Appropriate clothing guidelines include the following:

- Apparel **DOES NOT** disparage or marginalize any group (culture, religion, ethnicity, gender, etc.)
- Apparel **DOES NOT** promote any mention of violence, drugs, alcohol, vaping, profanity, sexual references, or gangs.
- Tops **MUST** cover chest, abdomen, and back at **ALL** times.
- Tops **MUST** cover undergarments at **ALL** times.
- Tube-Tops, even with a jacket, are **NOT** permitted as they are not secure.
- Shorts/bottoms **MUST** COMPLETELY cover the back side/buttocks.
- Undergarments are **NOT** to be visible.
- Hoodies, hats and beanies are permitted at the **TEACHER’S DISCRETION** and as long as eyes and ears can be seen. All religious coverings are permitted.
- Secured footwear is worn at **ALL TIMES**.

If a student violates the above dress guidelines, the following actions will be taken and documented.

- **Privately, away from other students, the student will be told by SSCS personnel in a hushed, respectful tone:**
 - ◇ “Your clothing does not meet the standards at SSCS and needs to be changed. If you have any questions or need appropriate clothing, please see our school nurse.”
 - ◇ No additional comments will be made by school personnel, as comments have the potential of shaming, sexualizing, and/or disrupting the educational process. “Shaming” includes, but is not limited to:
 - ◆ Asking the student to kneel or bend over to check attire fit;
 - ◆ Measuring the length of any part of the attire;
 - ◆ Asking students to account for their attire in the classroom, gym, cafeteria or hallways *in front of others*
 - ◆ Calling out students in spaces where others are present about perceived dress code violations; and
 - ◆ Accusing students of “distracting” other students with their clothing.

- ◇ **If an adult talks with you about being out of dress code, do what they request**
- **1st Offense:** Students will need to change his/her clothing, or will be given a change of clothes to wear for the remainder of the school day. A parent will be contacted by the principal.
- **2nd Offense:** Students will need to change his/her clothing, or will be given a change of clothes to wear for the remainder of the school day. Parents will be contacted by the principal, and lunch detention will be assigned.
- **3rd Offense:** Students will need to change his/her clothing, or will be given a change of clothes to wear for the remainder of the school day. Students will receive an after-school detention. Parents will be called by the principal.

Any student who refuses to comply with the above requests will be subject to further disciplinary actions.

Please feel free to contact Principal Yorke regarding any questions on specific attire.

SSCS Spartan Pride Fan Gear

Available online:

https://sideline.bsnsports.com/schools/new_york/sharonsprings/sharon-springs-central-school



•**Enhanced Learning Opportunities:** iPads provide access to a wide range of educational apps, interactive textbooks, and online resources that can cater to different learning styles and needs, making learning more engaging and effective.

•**Consistent Access to Technology:** Ensures all students have equal access to the same technology, reducing the digital divide and ensuring a level playing field for all students regardless of their socio-economic background.

•**Customized Learning Experience:** Our educators can select specific apps and resources tailored to their curriculum, allowing for personalized learning experiences that can better meet individual student needs.

•**Improved Organization and Efficiency:** iPads can help students stay organized with digital planners, note-taking apps, and cloud storage. This can streamline the learning process and reduce the burden of carrying multiple textbooks and notebooks.

•**Immediate Access to Information:** Students can quickly look up information, conduct research, and collaborate with peers in real-time, fostering a more dynamic and interactive learning environment.

•**Enhanced Engagement and Motivation:** Interactive and multimedia content can make learning more engaging and enjoyable for students, potentially increasing their motivation and interest in subjects.

•**Facilitation of Remote Learning:** iPads enable students to participate in remote learning more effectively, ensuring continuity of education during situations like inclement weather, health crises, or other disruptions.

•**Teacher Control and Monitoring:** With school-managed iPads, educators can control which apps and content are accessible, ensuring students are focused on educational activities and preventing distractions from non-educational content.

•**Data Collection and Assessment:** Digital platforms can track student progress, providing valuable data that educators can use to assess understanding, identify areas for improvement, and tailor instruction accordingly.

•**Economic-friendly Solution:** Reducing the need for printed materials can lead to significant savings on paper and printing costs.

•**Skill Development:** Familiarity with technology and digital tools prepares students for future academic pursuits and careers, helping them develop essential digital literacy and technical skills.

•**Parental Involvement:** Parents can be more involved in their children's education by using iPads to access assignments, grades, and school communications.

By leveraging these benefits, at SSCS we aim to create a more effective, inclusive, and future-ready educational environment.

The filtering system on the school-managed iPads does not allow access to social media, direct messaging apps, and games; additionally, teachers direct how to use the iPad within students' learning environments.

Q: What if my student gets sick?

A: Your student will be sent to the nurse, who will contact you if necessary. We will work with first period teachers and homeroom teachers to ensure if your child is sent home early that they leave with their personal device(s).

Q: What happens if my student does not follow the new policy?

A: In short, the device(s) will be confiscated, brought to the main office, and returned at the end of the school day from the main office to the student; additionally, parent/guardian(s) will be contacted. There will be, however, [progressive disciplinary action](#) if necessary.

Q: Will the educators at SSCS be banned from using their personal devices?

A: No, however, *educators will not use personal devices while teaching or supervising students unless it is for a preapproved reason (i.e., our athletic director scheduling/rescheduling events, photography, or a personal, pre-approved reason).*

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/>.

For information on child abuse prevention visit www.preventchildabuse.ny.org.

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 six-month surveillance was completed. 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 **DO NOT** release the name, address, and telephone
number of

(Student name)

to military recruiters.

(Parent Signature and Date)

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 0-3 years old. Programs are operated by Schoharie County Child Development Council. For more information or to sign your child up call 518-284-3800.

Important Reminders

- Doors for students will open **Thursday, September 5th** at **7:40 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 expectations.
- 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).

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 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 2:52 p.m. Dismissal time for students in grades 6-12 is 3:00 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 your 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. For the safety of all, no running or basketball play is allowed during this time. Students are expected to behave in accordance of the Student Code of Conduct. Students will not be allowed to wait in the hallways under any circumstances.

Students who are not able to comply with these rules will not be permitted in the school building prior to 8:00am.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Open communication is strongly encouraged throughout the school year to better assist with student success. Parents and teachers can communicate with each other in a variety of ways (Schoology, email, Kinvo, phone).

Formal Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place at the conclusion of the first marking period. To accommodate parent's work schedules we will be offering two dates and times:

- Thursday, November 25th from 6:30pm-8:30pm
- Friday, November 26th from 1:00pm-3:00pm.

Please note, Tuesday, November 26th students will be dismissed at 11:30am from school.

If you have concerns about your child's academics, this is a great opportunity to discuss those concerns with their teacher. It's also a great time to discuss your child's accomplishments and goals moving forward in the school year.

2024-2025 BELL SCHEDULE	
Building Opens at 7:40AM for Students	
Arrival	8:00-8:05
Period 1	8:05-8:45
Period 2	8:48-9:26
Period 3	9:29-10:07
Period 4	10:10-10:48
Period 5	10:51-11:29
Period 6	11:32-12:02
Period 7	12:05-12:43
Period 8	12:46-1:24
Period 9	1:27-2:05
Period 10	2:08-2:46
Homeroom	2:49-3:00

- **Encouragement of Healthy Habits:** We can use the opportunity to educate students about the importance of balancing screen time with other activities, such as physical exercise, hobbies, and face-to-face social interactions, which are crucial for mental health.
- **Stronger Social Connections:** Encouraging face-to-face interactions over digital ones can help students build stronger, more meaningful relationships, which are essential for emotional support and mental well-being.

Q: What if I want to reach my child during the school day?

A: We want our students to be engaged with each other and in their learning. If you need to contact your child during the school day, contact the Main Office at (518) 284-2266. Additionally, you are able to email your child using their school-issued email address.

Q: What if there is a school emergency?

A: In case of a school emergency, we direct our students to safety first, following our school emergency preparedness protocol. The district will continuously provide updates to all families throughout the emergency.

Q: My student is a student-athlete, how will they get their device prior to leaving for a game?

A: They will simply follow a protocol for retrieving their device(s) from their first period teacher's classroom, the main office or their homeroom teacher (depending when your child will be leaving).

Q: My student participates in after school activities, how will I be notified in a timely fashion if there is a scheduling change?

A: When there are changes for afterschool activities, the coach, advisor, or administration will send a notification (i.e., text and/or email). Additionally, your child can use their school issued iPad to email you. Finally, we encourage you to download and use the Schedule Galaxy app.

Q: Will my student's devices be safe?

A: Students will leave their devices in a designated, locked container in their first period classroom. The locked container will be carried on a cart by school personnel to the main office, where it will be locked in a room until the end-of-the school day. The devices will then be delivered to homerooms, where students will retrieve their devices.

The daily process is simple, as students in grades 6 - 10 enter their first period classroom, they will:

1. Turn their device off.
2. Place their personal electronic devices (i.e. smart device, smartwatch, earbuds, etc) inside a designated, labeled shelf inside of a container that is locked in the classroom.
3. Be responsible for picking up their device(s) during homeroom.

*Students arriving late or leaving early will put their personal electronic devices (i.e. device, smartwatch, earbuds, etc) inside a designated container in the Main Office.

Q: If personal devices are "bad for kids," why are 11th and 12th graders allowed to carry their devices?

A: First off, we are not claiming that personal devices are inherently "bad for kids"; instead, research and experience at SSCS shows us that our younger students are better positioned to be successful academically, socially and emotionally when they are not in possession of a personal device at school.

In collaboration with several parents and our educators, this compromise is being tested to provide our older students the opportunity to exercise more independence (inline with our practice of gradual release of responsibility). If, however, they violate the expectation that devices are to be stored in a designated area while in class then their devices will be confiscated and subject to the progressive disciplinary plan

Q: Why does SSCS issue iPads to students if devices are thought to have a negative impact on students?

A: Issuing school-owned and managed iPads (our iPads are managed with LightSpeed filtering technology) with access to a variety of learning apps and the ability to block educator-determined content offers several benefits:

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding a Personal Device Ban

(i.e., cell phones, smartwatches, and earbuds - as well as all non-school-issued, internet-enabled devices)

Q: Why is banning personal electronic devices necessary? What makes this a good idea at SSCS?
A: Simply, we want to support students’ mental health and physical health, while providing a learning environment that is safe, welcoming and inclusive, and thus conducive to developing the interpersonal skills, personal habits and academic discipline to maximize students’ opportunities for success. The research is clear - students are much more likely to be successful (socially, emotionally, and academically) without access to their devices at school.

At SSCS, our faculty and staff pride ourselves on developing positive, close relationships that serve as a cornerstone for all learning. What we have noticed is that personal electronic devices distances students from interpersonal relationships both with our faculty and staff as well as with their peers. We hope with parental support, this policy will move us in a positive direction.

By removing personal electronic devices we hope to:

- **Minimize Distractions:** Personal electronic devices can be a significant source of distraction for students, disrupting their focus and engagement during lessons.
- **Prevent Cheating:** Personal electronic devices can facilitate cheating during exams and assessments, making it easier for students to access information or communicate with others.
- **Reduce Cyberbullying:** Limiting personal electronic device use can help reduce instances of cyberbullying, which carry over from out-of-school hours to during school hours through social media and messaging apps.
- **Promote Social Interaction:** By restricting personal electronic device use, we encourage students to engage in face-to-face interactions and build stronger interpersonal relationships.
- **Enhance Classroom Management:** Our educators often find it easier to manage classrooms without the interference of personal electronic devices, leading to a more orderly, efficient and effective learning environment.
- **Protect Privacy:** Banning personal electronic devices can help protect the privacy of students and staff, as phones can be used to take unauthorized photos or videos.
- **Encourage Responsible Use:** Schools aim to teach students responsible use of technology by setting boundaries and encouraging them to prioritize their education during school hours.
- **Reduce Dependence:** Limiting Personal electronic device use helps students develop skills in managing without constant access to technology, fostering independence and self-reliance.
- **Reduced Anxiety and Stress:** Constant notifications, social media pressure, and the fear of missing out (FOMO) can contribute to anxiety and stress. By limiting phone use, students may experience lower levels of these mental health issues.
- **Improved Sleep Quality:** Students who use their phones less during the day may be less likely to use them late at night, which can lead to better sleep patterns and overall mental well-being.
- **Increased Presence and Mindfulness:** Without the distraction of cell phones, students can be more present and mindful in their activities, which can help improve their mental health and emotional regulation.
- **Reduced Social Comparison:** Social media platforms often encourage comparison with peers, which can lead to feelings of inadequacy and low self-esteem. By reducing exposure to these platforms during school hours, students may feel better about themselves and their achievements.
- **Enhanced Focus and Academic Performance:** Improved focus and engagement in schoolwork can lead to better academic performance, which can positively impact a student's self-esteem and overall mental health.

Contd.→

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 ALL 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 Lindsay Blowers, 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.

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 completion of 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 children in your household who attend school:

Student Name	School	Grade/Teacher	Foster Child	No Income
			o	o
			o	o
			o	o
			o	o
			o	o
			o	o
			o	o

2. SNAP/TANF/FDPIR Benefits:

If anyone in your household receives either SNAP, TANF or FDPIR benefits, list their name and CASE # here. Skip to Part 5, and sign the application.

Name: _____ CASE # _____

3. Household Gross Income: List all people living in your household, how much and how often they are paid (weekly, every other week, twice per month, monthly). Do not leave income blank. If no income, check box. If you have listed a foster child above, you must report their personal income.

Name of household member	Earnings from work before deductions <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Child Support, Alimony <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Pensions, Retirement Payments <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Other Income, Social Security <i>Amount / How Often</i>	No Income
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	o
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	o
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	o
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	o
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	o
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	o
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	o
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	o

4. Signature: An adult household member must sign this application.

I certify (promise) that all the information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the information is being given so the school may receive federal funds. The school officials may verify the information and if I purposely give false information, I may be prosecuted under applicable State and federal laws, and my children may lose meal benefits.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone : _____ Work Phone : _____

Home Address: _____

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:	Household Size:
Free Eligibility	Reduced Eligibility	Denied Eligibility
Signature of Reviewing Official		

UPDATED STUDENT CELL PHONE AND DRESS CODE POLICIES

The following updates were brought about through the collaboration of Student Council, Principal Yorke and a teacher committee.

General Cell Phone Policy

Students are expected to be cooperative with all school personnel regarding their cell phones, since cell phones are a distraction to the educational environment.

Cell phones may be used before school, during lunch (in the small, “old” gym), between classes (so long as it’s not a hazard) and after school.

Cell phone use and display is prohibited in classrooms, restrooms, and school offices.

During class and study hall, cell phones must be stored away from students and their desks. Cell phones must be stored in the off position in the student’s backpack or locker, or placed in the area the teacher designates for cell phones.

If there is evidence that a student uses a cell phone during the school day (outside of the designated times/areas), the student will be subject to the consequences outlined in the section entitled "Specific responses to Cell Phone Infractions." **(This includes students calling or texting parents without the explicit permission of the school nurse or the principal/principal’s designee).**

*If students need to place an emergency phone call during the day, they should request to go to the main office to use an office phone.

**If there is a medical reason a student requires a cell phone, that will be allowed only per an IEP, 504 or health plan

***The school and its staff are **not** responsible for any damage to or theft of a student’s cell phone. Students must properly secure and take care of their own phones.

****Students will be subject to further disciplinary action if their use of their cell phone disrupts the school’s educational environment. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: bullying, harassment, cheating, unlawful recording, or photographing, and/or violating other school rules.

Specific responses to Cell Phone Infractions.

If a student violates the school’s cell phone policy, the following may occur:

- **First Offense:** A reminder of the rules and warning that the phone will be confiscated if it is seen again. This will be reported to the main office by the staff member.

- **Second offense:** The student’s cell phone will be confiscated by a staff member and held in the main office until the end of the school day. Before being allowed to pick up their phone at the end of the day, students must discuss and review the cell phone policy with the staff member who reported the incident and the principal. The student’s parents will be contacted.

- **Third offense:** The student’s cell phone will be confiscated and held in the main office. The student’s parents will be contacted. Students may pick up their phone at the end of the school day following lunch detention. (If the offense

occurred after lunch, the phone will be returned at the end of the school day; however, the following day, the student will serve a lunch detention).

- **Fourth offense:** The student’s cell phone will be confiscated and held in the main office until the student’s parents are able to come to pick it up. The student will receive after-school detention and will be prohibited from bringing their cell phone back on school grounds for two weeks.

*Refusal to hand over a cell phone to a staff member will result in a full day of in-school-suspension and the student will be prohibited from bringing their cell phone back on school grounds for the remainder of the school year.

**The administration reserves the right to adjust these consequences on a case-by-case basis if needed. For example, extreme behaviors that break the law or engaging in bullying/harassment of other students may result in suspension.

New Device Policy for Students At SSCS

Beginning in the 2024-25 school year, for students in grades K - 10, Sharon Springs Central School will be making our school a personal-device (cell phones, smart-watches, earbuds, ect.) free space to improve the overall well-being of our students so that the focus is on teaching and learning. (Our upperclassmen, as we work to transition them toward independence, will be allowed to carry their devices throughout the day; albeit with the expectation that they are off and placed in the designated area in the classroom and used appropriately out of classrooms).

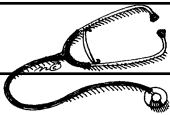
Sharon Springs Central School will prohibit personal electronic devices from the time students in grades K - 10 enter their first period class until the end of the regular school day at 2:50pm. Such devices must be turned off and stored in a secure container (with devices locked away and labeled).

For all students, K-12, any misuse of electronic devices will result in its confiscation until the end of the school day and parents/guardians will be notified. After the first infraction, we have a progressive disciplinary policy in place that includes requiring parents/guardians picking up the device from our school’s main office, after school detention, in-school suspension, and/or out-of-school suspension.

We believe that personal devices have many uses. We have, however, also found that learning and social behavior improve drastically when students are device free and therefore more likely to be fully engaged with their teachers and classmates.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly at (518) 284-2266

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 2024 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.

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.

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 2024 must have 1 dose** of meningococcal vaccine. They will be required to get a booster at age 16.

Students entering **Grade 12 in 2024 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.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

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 2024-2025 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 2024 –2025 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 you have any further questions, please contact us at 518-284-2266 ext 123 or email msimpson@sharonsprings.org.

Sincerely,

Melissa Simpson
SSCS Food Services

SHARON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER 2024 BREAKFAST/LUNCH MENU
(Subject to Change)

AVAILABLE DAILY: Grilled Chicken Salad, Fruit & Yogurt Parfaits, PB&J. Assorted Fruit, Milk and Water				
WELCOME BACK!!! EVERYONE WHO TAKES A COMPLETE MEAL EATS FOR FREE!!! Choose no less than 3 of the 5 Food Components and REMEMBER.... one of those HAS to be a fruit or veggie!!			5. SSCS Spartan Bowl! WG Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potatoes LS Gravy Golden Corn	6. Homemade Pizza OR WG Stuffed Crust Pizza Cheese or Pepperoni OR WG Pretzel Yogurt & Cheese Garden Salad Lite Ranch
9. WG Chicken Patty WW Bun Tatar Tots Green Beans	10. WW Soft Shell Tacos OR WG Taco Salad (Beef or Hot Wing Dip) Lettuce, Cheese Refried & Black Beans, Salsa, Sour Cream Golden Corn	11. Hotdog/ WW Bun OR WG Corn Dog Baked Chips Baked Beans Broccoli & WG Macaroni Salad	12. WG French Toast Sticks OR WG Pancake Breakfast Sandwich Sausage Juice Cup Fresh Veggie Sticks	13. Homemade Pizza OR WG Stuffed Crust Pizza Cheese or Pepperoni OR WG Pretzel Yogurt & Cheese Garden Salad Lite Ranch
16. WG Chicken Tenders Smiley Fries Steamed Broccoli	17. Seasoned Meat for Totcho's or WG Nachos Lettuce, Cheese, Refried & Black Beans, Salsa, Sour Cream & Golden Corn	18. WG Chicken Patty WW Bun Herbed Rice Green Beans	19. WW Grilled Cheese OR WW BLT Tomato Soup Baked Chips Fresh Veggie Sticks & Flavored Carrots	20. Homemade Pizza OR WG Stuffed Crust Pizza Cheese or Pepperoni OR WG Pretzel Yogurt & Cheese Garden Salad Lite Ranch
23. Hamburger/ WW Bun OR Riblet/WW Bun Tatar Tots Cheese Slice Pickles, Baked Beans & Green Beans	24. WW Soft Shell Tacos OR WG Taco Salad (Beef or Hot Wing Dip) Lettuce, Cheese Refried & Black Beans, Salsa, Sour Cream Golden Corn	25. WG Oriental Popcorn Chicken OR WG Plain Popcorn Chicken Herbed Rice Steamed Broccoli	26. WG Chicken Nuggets Scalloped Potatoes Favored Carrots WW Dinner Roll	27. Homemade Pizza OR WG Stuffed Crust Pizza Cheese or Pepperoni OR WG Pretzel Yogurt & Cheese Garden Salad Lite Ranch
30. WG Mac & Cheese OR WG Buffalo Mac & Cheese WW Dinner Roll Green Beans				

<u>K-5 Breakfast in Classroom Every Monday</u> WG Bagel w/Cream Cheese Fruit, Juice & Milk <u>6-12 Grab & Go</u> WG Cereal OR WW Breakfast Sandwich OR WW Bagel/CC Fruit, Juice & Milk	<u>K-5 Breakfast in Classroom Every Tuesday</u> WW Chocolate Chip Muffin Fruit, Juice & Milk <u>6-12 Grab & Go</u> WG Cereal OR WW Chocolate Chip Muffin OR WW Bagel/CC Fruit, Juice & Milk	<u>K-5 Breakfast in Classroom Every Wednesday</u> WG Flavored Waffles Fruit, Juice & Milk <u>6-12 Grab & Go</u> WG Cereal OR WW Breakfast Sandwich OR WW Bagel/CC OR Flavored Waffles Fruit, Juice & Milk	<u>K-5 Breakfast in Classroom Every Thursday</u> Cinnamon or Straw- berry Pull Aparts Fruit, Juice & Milk <u>6-12 Grab & Go</u> WG Cereal OR Cinna- mon or Strawberry Pull Aparts OR WW Bagel/CC Fruit, Juice & Milk	<u>K-5 Breakfast in Classroom Every Friday</u> WW Chocolate Chip Muffin Fruit, Juice & Milk <u>6-12 Grab & Go</u> WG Cereal OR WW Chocolate Chip Muffin OR WG Bagel/CC Fruit, Juice & Milk
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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.

- This does not apply to the collection, disclosure, or use of providing educational products or services for, or to students, such as:
 - College or other postsecondary education recruitment;
 - Book clubs, magazines and program providing access to low-cost literary products;
 - Curriculum and instructional materials used in schools;
 - 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;
 - Student recognition program; and
 - The sale by students of products or services to raise funds for school-related activities.
- The administration of any survey revealing information concerning one or more of the following:
 - Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
 - Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
 - Sex behavior or attitudes;
 - Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
 - Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
 - Legally recognized privileged or analogous, relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians and ministers;
 - Religious practices, affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent; or
 - Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).
- 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:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Date</u>
School Physicals 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

Teacher Qualification Request

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 class-room 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 teaches;
- 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.