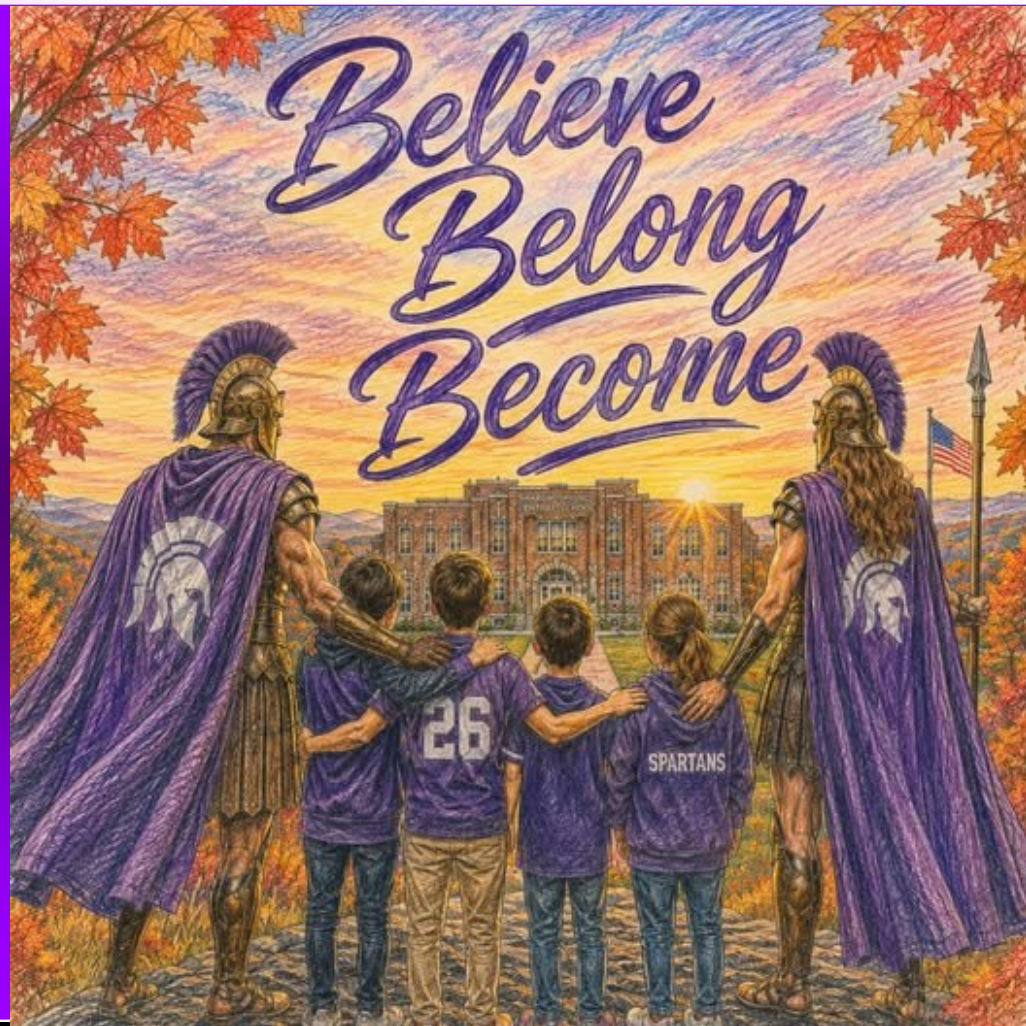




Home of the Spartans

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

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Sharon Springs,
NY 13459

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Superintendent/Principal

Thomas Yorke
Stephanie Fuller

Business Manager

Anthony DiPace

BOXHOLDER

Sharon Springs Central School District
Sharon Springs, New York 13459

Sharon Springs Central School District EDUCATION MATTERS

September 2026
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 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, Stephanie Fuller
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 Students, Families, Staff, and Community Members,

As we begin the 2026–2027 school year, SSCS is moving forward with a new administrative structure designed to provide students, families, and educators with visible, responsive, and hands-on support. In my role as Superintendent, I will continue to greet students each morning at drop-off, make regular classroom visits, remain visible in our hallways throughout the day, and help students (primarily in grades 6–12) navigate the process and challenges of being a student at SSCS. This includes consistently enforcing the Student Code of Conduct and using it as a tool to reinforce accountability while communicating our belief in every student and in the high standards we know they can meet.

Mrs. Stephanie Fuller will serve as our K–12 Principal, with her primary focus on supporting our K–5 students and educators. She brings more than two-and-a-half decades of experience at SSCS as a fourth-grade teacher. Her straightforward, growth-based, and goal-oriented approach will ensure that all students are supported by a fair, caring, and empathetic principal who will enforce our rules and policies with conviction and integrity.

When a student needs support or is sent to the office, the student will continue to report to the Main Office. There, our incredibly talented and organized communicator, Mrs. Michelle Keaney, will help determine which member of our student-support team can best meet the student's needs: Mrs. Fuller in the Principal's Office, Mr. Yorke in the Superintendent's Office, Mr. Scimeca in the Social Worker's Office, or Ms. Blower in the School Counseling Office.

This structure reflects our 2026–2027 theme: Believe. Belong. Become. We will communicate our belief in each student's ability to meet high expectations, ensure

every child knows they belong within a caring school community, and provide the guidance, accountability, and encouragement each student needs to become the very best version of themselves.

Important Back-to-School Information

- ★First Day of School: Monday, September 8th
- Bus and parent drop-off begin at 7:40am
- School begins at 8:00am
- Elementary dismissal: 2:52pm
- Secondary dismissal: 3:00pm

★First Annual K - 12 Open House: Thursday September 17th Stop in anytime 5pm to 7:30pm

★Breakfast: K - 5 students will eat breakfast in the classroom, while 6 - 12 students will be served breakfast in the Doig Gym.

★Attendance & Tardiness: Please review the attendance policy on our website. Three unexcused tardies (without a doctor's note) will result in lunch detention and a meeting with the school social worker for time management support. Continued tardiness may involve parent meetings.

★NYS Personal Device Ban: In compliance with New York State law, students in grades 6–12 will be prohibited from having their internet-enabled devices out during the school day. **If a device is used during the school day, a parent must retrieve it from the office.**

Community Kick-Off Event: Believe. Belong. Become.

Our Believe. Belong. Become. theme will come to life at this year's Community Kick-Off Event on Friday, September 11th, from noon to 3:00 p.m. in the fields behind the Auditorium. This celebration will bring students, families, staff, community members, local businesses, and partner organizations together for an afternoon of connection and fun. With a BBQ, bounce house, dunk tank,

and more, the event will remind every student that our community believes in them, that they belong at SSCS, and that we are united in helping them become their very best.

At SSCS, Believe. Belong. Become. is more than a theme, it is the experience we want every student, staff member, and family to have. We believe in ourselves and one another. We create a school where everyone knows they belong. From that strong foundation, we challenge and support one another to grow, contribute, and become our very best.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Together, let's make the 2026-2027 school year one filled with belief, belonging, growth, and extraordinary possibilities.

With gratitude,
Thomas Yorke
Superintendent

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:



Corinne Brown
School Nurse



Madison Davis
First Grade Teacher



Josh Bivins
Computer Support Specialist



Samantha Ferris
Music/Chorus Instructor



Mary Douglas
Spanish Teacher



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?

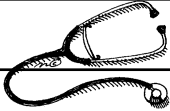
The afterschool program will return to SSCS. More details about the program will be communicated in the coming weeks.

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.

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 2023 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 2026 must have 1 dose** of meningococcal vaccine. They will be required to get a booster at age 16.

Students entering **Grade 12 in 2026 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.

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 release 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:

Activity	Date
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 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 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.

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:

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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

TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES FOR SHARON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL FOR THE 2026 – 2027 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).**



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

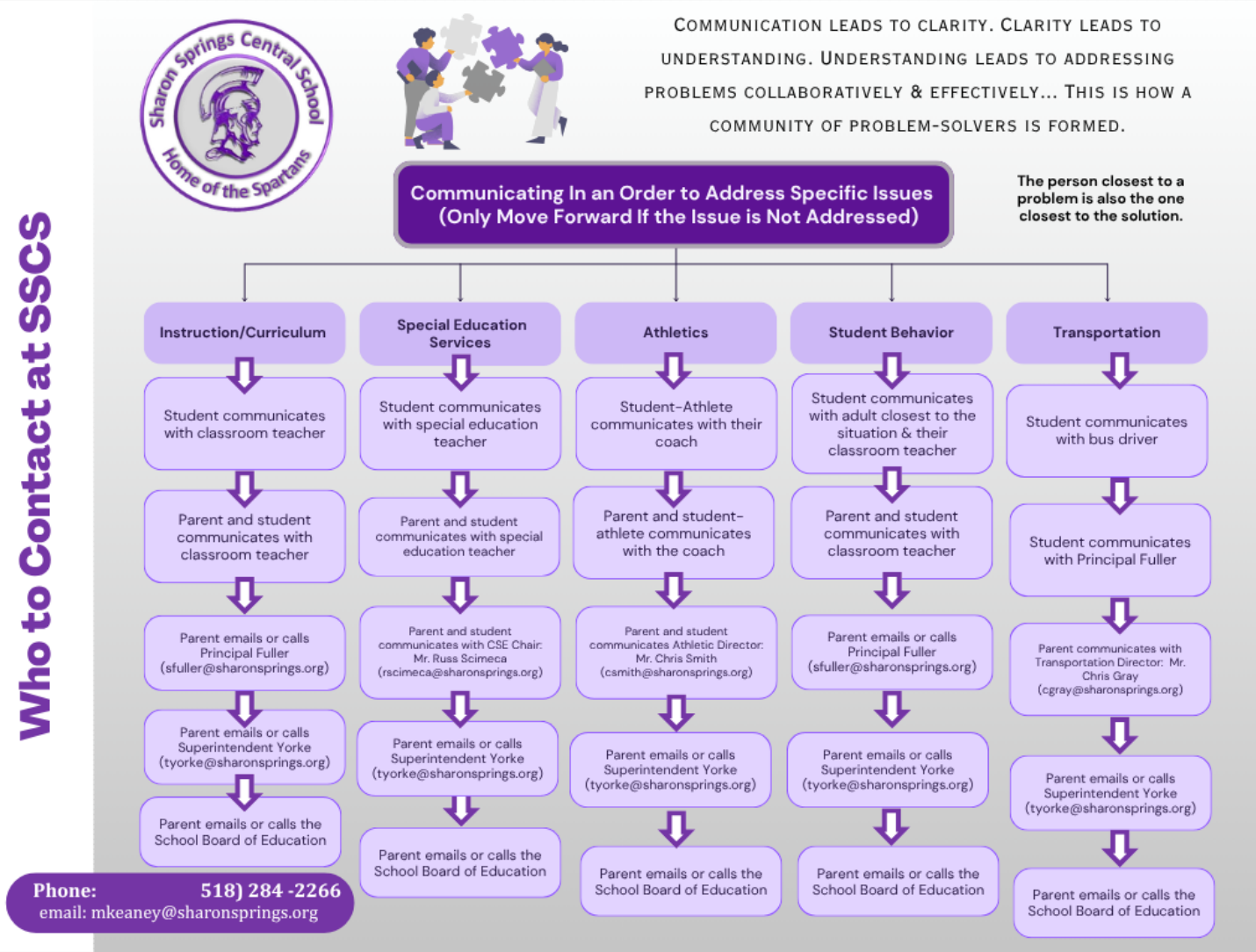
Grades K-5 Dismiss at 2:52 p.m.

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



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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	112	lblowers@sharonsprings.org
Health/Nursing Corinne Brown	107	cbrown@sharonsprings.org
Use of Building Tony DiPace	101	tyorke@sharonsprings.org
Mental Health Russell Scimeca	116	rscimeca@sharonsprings.org
Unresolved Disciplinary Issues Thomas Yorke / Stephanie Fuller	105 / 127	tyorke@sharonsprings.org sfuller@sharonsprings.org





Sharon Springs CSD 2026-2027 School Calendar



July 2026

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 2026

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					

Sept 2 K-12 Superintendent's Conference Day
Sept 3 K-12 Superintendent's Conference Day
Sept 7 Labor Day
Sept 8 First Day of Classes K-12
Sept 17 Open House K - 12, 4:30pm to 7pm

School Day Tally = 19

September 2026

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			

Oct 2 Emergency Release Dismiss 15 min early
Oct 9 Regional Conference Day
Oct 12 Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day
Oct 13 Start of SSCS's After School Program

School Day Tally = 21

October 2026

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

November 2026

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
Nov 25 ½ Day (11:30am Release of Students)
Nov 26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday

School Day Tally = 18

December 2026

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 21 K-12 Superintendent's Conference Day
Dec 23-Jan 1 Winter Recess

School Day Tally = 16

January 2027

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
Jan 4 Classes Resume
Jan 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan 26-29 Regents Exam Days

School Day Tally = 19

February 2027

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 15 Presidents' Day
Feb 15-19 February Recess

School Day Tally = 15

March 2027

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			

Mar 29-Apr 2 Spring Recess

School Day Tally = 20

April 2027

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 5 Classes Resume
Apr 5-May 14 Grades 3-8 ELA Assessment
Apr 5-May 14 Grades 3-8 Mathematics Assessment
Apr 5-May 14 Grades 5 & 8 Science Assessment

School Day Tally = 20

May 2027

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					

Apr 5-May 14 Grades 3-8 ELA Assessment
Apr 5-May 14 Grades 3-8 Mathematics Assessment
Apr 5-May 14 Grades 5 & 8 Science Assessment
May 31 Memorial Day

School Day Tally = 20

June 2027

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			

Jun 15-Jun 24 Regents Exams
Jun 18 & 25 Regents Rating Days

School Day Tally = 19

Legend

Opening of School

Superintendent's Conference Day

Regents Testing

Gr. 3-8 NYS Assessment Days

Holidays/Recess/School not in Session

Emergency Early Release

Rating Days

Total Calendar Days: 187

(5 Emergency Closures)

Last updated 2/17/26

EDUCATION MATTERS

September 2026

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.

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)

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.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 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.

If emergency closings exceed planned make-up days, school may be in session on vacation days (excluding legal holidays).
Approved by the Board of Education on April 13, 2026

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Important Reminders

- Doors for students will open **Tuesday, September 8th** 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:

- Tuesday November 24th from 6:30pm-8:30pm
- Wednesday, November 25th from 1:00pm-3:00pm.

Please note, Wednesday, November 25th 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.

2026-2027 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



SEPTEMBER 2026 WEEKLY BREAKFAST MENU

MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS
K-5 Breakfast in the classroom				
WG Mini Pancakes Fruit, Juice & Milk	WW Chocolate Chip Muffins Fruit, Juice & Milk	WG Pancake Wrapped Sausage (Week 1) & Flavored Breads (Week 2) (meaning: every other week rotation) Fruit, Juice & Milk	WW Chocolate Chip Muffin Fruit, Juice & Milk	WG French Toast Sticks (WW Cinnamon Bun on the last Friday of every month) Fruit, Juice & Milk
6-12 Grab & Go from the cafeteria				
WG Bagel/Cream Cheese OR WW Breakfast Sand- wich OR WG Mini Pancakes Fruit, Juice & Milk	WG Bagel/Cream Cheese OR WW Chocolate Chip Muf- fin Fruit, Juice & Milk	WG Bagel/Cream Cheese OR WW Breakfast Sand- wich OR WG Pancake Wrapped Sausage Fruit, Juice & Milk	WG Bagel/Cream Cheese OR WW Chocolate Chip Muffin Fruit, Juice & Milk	WG Bagel/Cream Cheese OR WG French Toast Sticks (WG Cinnamon Rolls Every other week) Fruit, Juice & Milk

SHARON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER 2026 LUNCH MENU
(Subject to Change)

WELCOME BACK!	 Don't PAC a lunch MAN, Everyone eats for free	 Choose no less than 3 out of the 5 food components and REMEM- BER... one of those HAS to be a fruit and or vegetable to eat for FREE	DAILY CHOICES *Grilled Chicken Salad *Fruit & Yogurt Parfait *PB&J ***NEW*** <i>Spartan Grab & Go Lunch- able, Assorted Fruit, Milk & *Water</i>	
7. SCHOOL CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY	8. WW Soft Shell Beef Taco's OR Buffalo Chicken WG Nacho's OR WG Chicken Quesadilla Lettuce, Cheese, Salsa, Refried Beans and Corn	9. WG Breaded Chicken Tenders, Crispy Tatar Tots and Steamed Broccoli	10. WW Grilled Cheese OR WW BLT LS Tomato Soup Green Beans	11. Hamburger/WW Bun OR Hotdog/WW Bun WG Pasta Salad Baked Chips Watermelon
14. WG Chicken Patty/WW Bun Mashed Potato Seasoned Carrots	15. WW Soft Shell Beef Taco's or Sloppy Taco's (Sloppy Joe on WG Chips) Lettuce, Cheese, Salsa, Refried Beans and Corn	16. WG Popcorn Chicken OR *NEW ITEM... <i>Orange Glazed Popcorn Chicken</i> Herbed Rice Steamed Broccoli	17. WG Mac & Cheese w/ Hotdog/WW Bun Green Beans	18. WG Homemade or WG Personal Pan Pizzas, Topped with your choice of Cheese or Pepperoni Crispy Garden Salad
21. WG Chicken Nuggets Herbed Rice Seasoned Carrots	22. WW Soft Shell Beef Taco's OR Buffalo Chicken WG Nacho's OR WG Chicken Quesadilla Lettuce, Cheese, Salsa, Refried Beans and Corn	23. WG Spaghetti & Meat- balls OR Meatball Sub WW Garlic Bread Stick Green Beans	24. WW Grilled Cheese OR WW BLT LS Tomato Soup Fresh Veggie Sticks	25. WG Homemade or WG Personal Pan Pizzas, Topped with your choice of Cheese or Pepperoni Crispy Garden Salad
28. Sweet n Sour Popcorn Chicken OR Plain Pop- corn Chicken Herbed Rice Steamed Broccoli	29. WW Soft Shell Beef Taco's or Sloppy Taco's (Sloppy Joe on WG Chips) Lettuce, Cheese, Salsa, Refried Beans and Corn	30. <i>BRUNCH FOR LUNCH</i> WG French Toast Sticks w/ Sausage OR WW Breakfast Sandwich Crispy Tatar Tots Fresh Veggie Sticks		

EDUCATION MATTERS

September 2026

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 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.

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
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐

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
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	☐
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	☐
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	☐
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	☐
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	☐
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	☐
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	☐

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		

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 Sharon Springs Central School District will be implementing a meal certification option available to schools participating in the National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Programs for 2026-2027 School Year.

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

All students enrolled at Sharon Springs Central School District are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and/or lunch at school at no charge to your household each day of the 2026-2027 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