



SHERMAN SCOOP

*Interim Principals – Michael Fenchel & Thomas Tobe
Assistant Principal - Linda Skrzynski*

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Phone: 248-328-3400

Attendance: 248-328-3426

Fax: 248-328-3404

Put Power in Your Study Time

Over the past thirty-seven years, as a teacher and administrator, one of the most common areas I have seen that impact a child's grade is missing or incomplete assignments. As we wrap up this year and begin to prepare for next year please take some time to review these tips to help your child become better organized and get those missing or incomplete assignments completed.

My recommendation to you is to make homework a part of your family routine by establishing a ***Power Hour*** – one hour every day for homework and study. By following a few simple guidelines your family can make homework a positive, productive experience.

1. Insist your child use the Sherman Student Organizer to record assignments . If your child is not accurate in recording assignments, require your child get teacher signatures each hour, verifying the exact work to be completed.
2. Establish a set time for homework. Involve your child in deciding what time will be best. Having a set time will reduce complaints and disagreements.
3. Require your child to make use of the entire ***Power Hour***. By requiring your child to work for an entire hour, there is less reason to rush through assignments or to be dishonest about the work that needs to be done. Once all daily work has been completed, your child can study for upcoming tests, organize materials and supplies, read a book or practice basic skills with flashcards.
4. Encourage your child to work independently. Your goal should be to support and encourage your child in completing homework – without creating dependence on you. Offer suggestions, but insist the child do the work.

Putting in one hour a day may help eliminate one of the most common areas for lower grades, the missing or incomplete assignments. The dog ate my assignment may still be a problem, but by working together we can begin to make the homework experience a little less stressful for you and your child.

Tom Tobe
Interim Principal

CALENDAR

April

25 No School for students – Inservice Day

May

9 Progress Reports – Home with students
26 Memorial Day Recess – No School
29 8th Grade Award Ceremony – HHS – 7:00 pm
30 Jamfest 2:40 – 4:00 – Yearbook Sponsor

June

5 7th & 8th Grade Band Concert – HHS 7:00 pm
10 Cedar Point
11 Last Day – Students dismissed at 10:50 am

Jamfests

Our last Jamfest of the year is May 30th. Yearbooks will be distributed to students who attend. Students who are unable to attend will receive their yearbooks on Monday, June 2nd before school. Please remind your child to write their name in their yearbook so that if they should lose it, it can be returned. In addition, we remind students that their comments need to be appropriate; these are heirlooms. Because this is a closed campus event, we ask that parents only allow their son/daughter to purchase a ticket for Jamfest if they are able to remain until 4:00 pm. To assure students' safety, parents are asked to please wait outside for their student to be released. Since there is no supervision once school activities end, it is important that students are picked up promptly at 4:00 pm. Tickets for Jamfest are \$2.00, and students may need a little extra cash to buy refreshments. All proceeds from Jamfest go to the sponsoring activity fund.

Note: As stated in the student handbook, a student who has been suspended from school since the previous Jamfest or deemed ineligible by an Administrator will not be eligible to attend.

7th & 8th Grade Class Council News!

The 7th and 8th grade class councils are sponsoring the staff vs. student basketball game once again this year. The 8th grade girl's basketball team will play the female staff and the 8th boys team will play the male staff. This fun-filled game is scheduled for 6th hour on Thursday, April 24th.

May the best team win!!!

ART NEWS

The district art show is from
4/14/08 - 4/18/08.
5:30 - 7:00 at RIS.

TEAM 71

Language Arts students will begin a unit on biographies. Each student will read a biography and complete a time line of that person's life, including accomplishments as well as struggles. Class presentations will focus on how we can learn from others.

Students also are continuing their vocabulary study. A comprehensive test over all of the chapters studied will occur later this spring. Previous data has shown that students' word knowledge truly increases through this program.

Please continue to study definitions as well as synonyms and antonyms with your students.

In Science, we are completing our Electricity Unit. We will then be studying magnetism and electromagnetism. Please remind students to keep their binders organized, as our binder checks will no longer be announced ahead of time.

7-1 students in Social Studies are finishing up their study of Africa with a partial showing of the miniseries "Roots". Students are watching the main character Kunta Kinte during his life in Africa and his passage to the new world and into slavery. A test over Chapter #2 of the Africa book will be around April 18th.

We will be starting a study of Asia after that test.

In Pre-Algebra we are working on ratios, proportions, and percents. My hope is that the students will realize that many "everyday" situations can be solved using a proportion! Intro. to Algebra is beginning Chapter 5, "Writing Linear Equations." The students are really beginning to put "it all together"!

TEAM 72

Spring has Sprung!!! We have entered our last marking period of this school year, but we would like to remind all students and parents that this time of year is still a critical academic time. With our school's annual Cedar Point trip looming, and other fun team activities being planned, it is important that all students work to keep their grades high and their behavior and attitudes positive. Participation in any planned events may depend on positive behavior and good grades.

Language Arts News:

The students in Ms. Volkman's LA classes are currently completing their unit on myths and legends and will be moving on to poetry in the next few weeks. The students in Ms. Stevens' LA classes are just beginning their Biography unit. The Project information letter will be sent home the week of April 14th and students will be selecting their subjects and beginning their research.

Social Studies News:

Students are currently finishing up the Africa unit of study. All students will be moving on to the Asian and Australia Unit of study. Students will be constructing kites in class as a culminating activity for this unit!

Science News:

Students are currently completing their electricity unit and will be starting a new unit of study focusing on the forces of motion. During this unit, students will be completing several fun projects including a lego project, a simple machines activity, and a roller coaster building activity.

Math News:

Students will be starting Chapter 6 which will be focusing on Scale Drawing. It is also important for students to continue reviewing fractions, and multiplication facts daily. Please use the following web site as a resource. www.pre-alg.com.

TEAM 81

In science, space project presentations are underway as we wrap up our astronomy unit. Next, students will explore geology of Earth through the study of rocks and minerals and plate tectonics.

Students are becoming the teachers in Social Studies! Students are developing and presenting lessons about social changes of the 1800's.

In Language Arts, students have just begun to read the novel, *The Outsiders*.

TEAM 82

As the school year begins to wind down we, as parents and teachers, need to emphasize the importance of finishing the year on a strong positive note. Many major educational concepts are covered at this time. In Language Arts students will be writing a major persuasive paper and in Social Studies the focus will be on the Civil War with a common assessment culminating activity. These will serve as springboards for our students as they enter high school.

TEAM 83

As the year closes we start to prepare for the end of the year activities and lessons. In Language Arts we will be finishing our unit on Historical Fiction the unit will help students in Social Studies classes. In Math we will be learning geometry concepts as well as continuing with graphing equations and inequalities. The Algebra classes are working on quadratic equations and understanding the process to solve the equations. In Social Studies the causes and effects of the Civil War will be covered ending the year with a project on the war. In Science we will be working on a Geology unit dealing with plate tectonics and volcanoes.

NJHS

Even though the end of the year is fast approaching, Sherman Middle School's National Junior Honor Society members are still in full swing. They have a *Cutest Future Basketball Star* contest planned in which members of the 8th grade basketball team have submitted photos for the contest. Students and staff will be able to cast their votes for the cutest baby beginning on April 15th, and the winner will be crowned during half time of the faculty-student basketball game on April 24th. NJHS members also have a car wash planned for the end of May.

The National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony for the class of 2013 will be held at Sherman Middle School on Wednesday, May 14th. Parents of these inductees will receive more detailed information soon.

CEDAR POINT NEWS

Preparations are underway for the annual Cedar Point trip at Sherman which will occur on June 10th. Students are welcome to join us on the trip as long as they meet the following requirements for the second semester:

- (1) Maintain good attendance – no more than 15 semester absences in any one class
- (2) Show good behavior – no suspensions
- (3) Demonstrate responsibility – no outstanding fines
- (4) Have passing grades – no more than one "E" in any class

The cost this year (\$61) includes the bus ride, entrance ticket, and mandatory t-shirt for students. We look forward to your child joining us at Cedar Point.

BAND NEWS

Good luck to our 7th Grade Band!

They are performing for State Band Festival on Saturday, April 26 at Holly High School. A detailed itinerary will be going home with students no later than Friday, April 18th. Congratulations to our students for achieving this level of performance. We are very proud of you!!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Here is a chance for your family to help out those in the world who are less fortunate and help you with your spring-cleaning. We are collecting shoes and boots that are still in decent condition to donate to the American Legion Post and sent to the people of Afghanistan. Any size, children to adult, can be used since many of these people have nothing for their feet. The terrain in that country is rugged and rocky and cut feet are common. This results in injury and infections and that causes other problems. Please look into your closets and see if there is anything you can donate. Bring them to SMS and drop them off in the box located in the student office. The collection will continue all through the month of April. Thank you for your support in this worthy cause.

The SMS 8th Grade Choir's SPRING CONCERT

The 8th Grade Choir will be hosting its Spring Concert on Wednesday, May 28th. The concert takes place in the Cafeteria of Sherman Middle School at 7 pm. The choir, which is made up of 24 young women, will present their semester's work including many international folk songs as well as traditional choral songs, a freedom song, and a Disney pop song. One special song will feature guest instrumentalists from the SMS Band. This concert will also feature four soloists (Alyssa Gouba, Claire Hardy, Alli Hinman, and Gabby Parker) who have been taking private voice lessons after school. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

PAN-O-RAMA

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 19th for the Parent Awareness Networks' Spring Sale, PAN-O-RAMA from 10:00 - 3:00 pm at Karl Richter Campus gym featuring fifty vendors with crafts, garage sale items, etc.

CELL PHONES

In this electronic age it is sometimes hard for students and their parents to understand why we would have a policy against allowing the use of cell phones in school. It may be helpful to review some of the reasons why this policy is in place. In addition to the disruption a ringing phone could cause in a classroom, these devices can be used:

To share answers on tests.

To take or share inappropriate pictures/videos

To share rumors and gossip

To sabotage the efforts of emergency responders in a crisis

Flooding the airways keeping responders from being able to communicate with key people

Providing inaccurate information in an emergency situation

If you have a need to contact your child during the school day, please contact the office. We assure you that the message will be delivered. If your child has an emergency and needs to contact you, they may use the office phone. We expect students to make ride arrangements and social plans from their home phones. The school phone is reserved for important calls such as reporting an illness.

In the meantime, we ask that you review with your child the district policy found on Page 10 in the student agenda. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Sherman Parent Connection News

Profits (approximately \$1300) from the Little Caesar sale will be used for 2008-09 student agendas. We appreciate the students and parents who participated. Justin Bennett was our top seller with 33 items. Justin received a \$25 gift certificate. SPC is busy planning our Teacher Appreciation Week celebration; there are daily food themes provided for staff in the Teachers Lounge. In addition, SPC collects a wide array of gifts from local merchants that are raffled daily. The Grand Prize is a weekend at the Open Acres Lodge owned and operated by SPC parent, Monica Malvich. If you missed the opportunity at Parent Teacher Conferences to sign up to donate food or a gift for this celebration and would like to contribute, please contact Alice Beckner at 248-889-7311.

We are ready to wrap up the year. Our last meeting will take place in the IMC at Sherman at 1:45 on May 6. It's not too late to join us. All parents are welcome to drop in at any meeting. Next meeting: discussion of dress code, filling positions vacated by parents who will be moving on to the high school.