

# SHIPPENSBURG AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## MAROON AND GREY MONTHLY

AUGUST 2026

### Dates to Remember:



August 8th -- Back to School Family Fun Day hosted by the Shippensburg Chamber of Commerce @

Shippensburg Fair Grounds

August 12th -- 6th Grade and New Student Orientation

August 18th -- SAMS Open House

August 20th -- FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

September 7th-- No School

September 10th -- Picture Day at SAMS

September 18th--No School

September 22nd--YES! Day @ SAMS

October 2nd--School Custodial Appreciation Day

October 12th--No School

### Changes for the Upcoming School Year:

As with everything in life changes are inevitable. Below are key changes for this coming school year.

- Waterbottles must consist of water only. Energy drinks, coffee, etc will not be permitted.
- SAMS will welcome a new ELA Interventionist and Math Coach to our building.
- We will move from IXL to Edmentum for our diagnostic programming. (pending board approval)
- Education field trips WILL count toward the 10 excused absences procedure.
- Cell phones will continue to not be allowed at SAMS, however this is now additionally a state regulation.

### Open House:

Open house will be held August 18th from 6 - 8 p.m. Parents and students should plan to come during the allotted time slots. If you cannot attend during your student(s) grade assigned time, you may come at a time of convenience between 6 - 8 p.m.

6:00 - 6:30 p.m. -- 8th graders and their families

6:40 - 7:10 p.m. -- 7th graders and their families

7:20 - 8:00 p.m. -- 6th graders and their families

We look forward to seeing all of the SAMS families. Teachers will be available for brief meet and greets during the 6-8 p.m. timeframe.

### Parent Drop Off:

Parent drop off for students in the morning will take place from 7:00 a.m. to 7:25 a.m. at the front entrance of the building. Students will enter the building and be directed to the cafeteria/homeroom where breakfast can be obtained if desired.

### New Staff

Kirsty Herb, School Counselor Last Names L - Z

Natalie Saunders, Math Coach

Alisha Mowery, ELA Interventionist

Ashley Frawley, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA (formerly ELD Teacher)

Allison Thrush, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies (formerly 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA)

### 6th Grade and New Student Orientation Details:

Welcome class of 2033 to the Shippensburg Middle School! We are excited to meet each of you and be a part of your education journey. Orientation will take place on August 12th at 10:00 a.m.; 2:00 p.m. OR 5:00 p.m. Please choose the time that works best for your family. **No sign up is necessary.** During this time you will receive an overview of the middle school, receive your team information, meet building administration and office staff, and complete a self guided tour of the building. Orientation will take approximately 45 minutes. Locks will be available for purchase during this time. Locks will be \$3.00 each. All Chromebooks will be distributed the first week of school.

### Lunch Prices:

Lunch Prices:

- Breakfast -- Free for All Students
- Lunch -- \$3.40

The State Government has renewed funding for the free breakfast for all students program. Students will be need to have monies available on their account to purchase lunch. You may add money to your student's account using the following link: <https://shipk12.revtrak.net/>.

The link for online free/reduced meal application is available on the district website or web address: [www.schoolcafe.com](http://www.schoolcafe.com)

# SHIPPENSBURG AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## MAROON AND GREY MONTHLY

AUGUST 2026



**SHIPPENSBURG AREA Chamber of Commerce**

**BACK TO SCHOOL FAMILY FUN DAY**

**FREE EVENT For Families & Children**

**FEATURING:**

- Educational Activities & Hands-On Exhibits
- Free School Supplies
- Free Entertainment
- Free Haircuts
- Free Pizza

**Saturday, August 8, 2026**  
**11 AM - 2 PM**

**Shippensburg Fairgrounds**  
10131 Possum Hollow Road  
Shippensburg, PA

**Kick Off the School Year With Us!**  
Join us for a free family event featuring school supplies, haircuts, entertainment, pizza, and community resources for local children and youth. Discover local programs and services while enjoying a fun-filled afternoon at the fairgrounds.

**FAIR** **VOLVO** **UPMC**  
LIFE CHANGING MEDICINE

### Attendance Procedure Change:

Previously students who utilized educational field trips throughout the year did NOT have the educational field trip days count toward the permitted 10 excused days of school. This year and all **educational field trips WILL count toward** the permitted 10 excused days of school.

Students and families **missing 4 or more unexcused days** will be notified to participate in an Attendance Improvement Plan conference and those missing 6 or more unexcused days could result in a CYS referral or district justice citation.

Additionally, Pennsylvania implemented regulations that students with **more than 6 unexcused days** are NOT permitted to transfer to a cyber school without permission from a district justice or judicial entity.

### Website:

The middle school has an active website as part of parent and community communication. The website includes a building calendar, team and department pages, and additional helpful links. Visit the website frequently to stay up to date on middle school happenings. [www.shipk12.org/middleschool](http://www.shipk12.org/middleschool)

### Regular Bell Schedule:

Please see the updated bell schedule for the 2026 - 2027 school year.

BELL SCHEDULE 2026 - 2027

| Period       | 6th Grade                  | 7th Grade                    | 8th Grade                   |
|--------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Homeroom     | Homeroom<br>7:25 - 7:35    | Homeroom<br>7:25 - 7:35      | Homeroom<br>7:25 - 7:35     |
| Period 1     | Exploratory<br>7:37 - 8:22 | Core 1<br>7:37 - 8:36        | Core 1<br>7:37 - 8:36       |
| Period 2     | Exploratory<br>8:24 - 9:09 | Core 2<br>8:38 - 9:37        | Core 2<br>8:38 - 9:37       |
| Period 3     | Core 1<br>9:11 - 10:09     | Exploratory<br>9:39 - 10:24  | Core 3<br>9:39 - 10:38      |
| Period 4     | Core 2<br>10:11 - 11:09    | Exploratory<br>10:26 - 11:11 | Core 4<br>10:40 - 11:39     |
| Period 5     | Resource<br>11:10 - 11:50  | Lunch<br>11:13 - 11:43       | Resource<br>11:41 - 12:24   |
| Period 6     | Lunch<br>11:52 - 12:22     | Resource<br>11:45 - 12:27    | Lunch<br>12:26 - 12:56      |
| Period 7     | Core 3<br>12:24 - 1:27     | Core 3<br>12:29 - 1:28       | Exploratory<br>12:58 - 1:40 |
| Period 8     | Core 4<br>1:29 - 2:30      | Core 4<br>1:30 - 2:30        | Exploratory<br>1:42 - 2:24  |
| Return to HR |                            |                              | Return to HR<br>2:26 - 2:30 |
| Dismissal    | 2:30 1st Bus Group         | 2:34 2nd Bus Group/Walkers   |                             |

### Electronics:

**Cellphones, earbuds, meta glasses and other electronics are not permitted for personal use in the middle school.**

Headphones may be used for class activities at the teacher's discretion. Devices will be taken and discipline will be issued if students are found to be utilizing devices during the school day. This has been SAMS procedure previously, but is now a state regulation. Students found to be in use of their device will have the device taken and discipline issued.

### Locks and Lockers:

All students will be assigned a locker for use throughout the school year. Backpacks, coats, cell phones will all be stored within the locker throughout the day. Locks are available for purchase for \$3.00 at the school office.

### Intervention

The middle school will have a full time ELA Interventionist this year to support our students that are struggling with reading concepts. This course will take place during our traditional exploratory rotation. Students may miss one of the five exploratories (Music, Art, CreaTech, Career Readiness or Design and Discovery) to participate in this program. Parents will be notified via e-mail prior to the exploratory cycle rotation.

# SHIPPENSBURG AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## MAROON AND GREY MONTHLY

AUGUST 2026

### Student Picture Usage Information

The district operates on a 'passive consent' procedure for use of student pictures in district publications and social media usage. If you wish for your child's picture to **NOT BE POSTED or utilized in district publications and/or on social media**, please reach out to your child's assistant principal.

Stephanie Barnhart -- Last Names A - K

[stephanie.barnhart@ship.k12.pa.us](mailto:stephanie.barnhart@ship.k12.pa.us)

April Fitz -- Last Names L - Z

[april.fitz@ship.k12.pa.us](mailto:april.fitz@ship.k12.pa.us)

### Back to School Supplies

Suggested school supplies by grade:

(Additional items may be requested per team)

6<sup>th</sup> Grade:

- Pencils
- 1 inch binders (3)
- Headphones or earbuds (wired or bluetooth)
- Highlighter
- Dry erase markers
- Pocket folder
- Glue Stick

Extra considerations:

- Colored Pencils

Classroom Donations:

- Tissues
- Clorox Wipes

7<sup>th</sup> Grade:

- Pencils
- Pocket folders with prongs
- Headphones or earbuds (wired or bluetooth)
- 1 inch binders (3)
- Notebook

\*\*\*Optional Casio fx-300ES

Plus calculator for use at home

8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

- Pencils
- Two 2" binders

### Backpacks

We have continued to adjusted our schedule that all students will have ample time to use their locker at the beginning and end of the day. **No backpacks should be used throughout the day.** Students needing to carry their Fitness clothes should use a cinch backpack, a grocery bag, or small duffle bag.



SOCIAL MEDIA  
SAFETY  
TEENS



THE FOLLOWING CHECKLIST CAN HELP YOU TAKE STEPS TO KEEP YOURSELF SAFER ONLINE.

- CHECK YOUR COMMENTS AND IMAGES.  
Have you posted anything inappropriate or illegal, like threats, nudity, alcohol, or drugs?
- TALK TO YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT WHAT'S OK TO POST.  
Agree that you won't post embarrassing or hurtful comments or images of each other. Be clear that you'll delete -- or if needed, report -- any posts that are inappropriate, illegal, threatening, or could get you in trouble.
- REVIEW YOUR ACCOUNT SETTINGS.  
Always ask yourself -- what is on my profile and who can see it?
- KNOW YOUR FRIENDS, CONTACTS, AND FOLLOWERS.  
These are the people who can see, share, and comment on what you post so you want to be sure you can trust them. Block and report anyone who makes harassing, threatening, or inappropriate comments.
- KEEP AN EYE ON 3RD PARTY AND CONNECTED APPS.  
Some of these will allow you to log into one app using account information from another. Be careful, as this may allow the company access to your profile information.
- DON'T FORGET MOBILE.  
When you use mobile devices like smartphones and tablets to post something or check in, you could also be sharing your location. Check your settings to make sure you're only sharing what you want to.
- REPORT.  
You have the right to be safe online. If anyone cyberbullies you, make a report to the website or app. If anyone shares or asks you to share sexual messages or images, make a report to CyberTipline.org.

NetSmartz

For more resources visit [Missingkids.org/NetSmartz/Resources](http://Missingkids.org/NetSmartz/Resources).

### Back to School Ready

It is time to start practicing for back to school so that students are ready for a year of success! Some tips to assist you and your student include:

1. Re-establish routines. Practice getting up at the correct time, eating breakfast, preparing school supplies. Discuss what after school looks like; where does homework get completed, what will your schedule look like.
2. Set goals and intentions. What goals do you and your child wish to accomplish this school year? Academically? Socially? What steps need to be taken to reach those goals? What supports need to be in place to ensure success?
3. Prepare for social connections and a positive mindset. Who are good friends and connections that can be fostered this school year? What adults can be supportive in the building and at home? Who are you excited to see again and make reconnections? Encourage excitement regarding school.

We are excited for the new school and cannot wait to see how our students grow and find success!



# SHIPPENSBURG AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## MAROON AND GREY MONTHLY

AUGUST 2026

**YES!**  
YOUR ECONOMIC SUCCESS

**Shippensburg Area Middle School**  
**Tuesday, September 22, 2026**  
Approximately 7:30 AM to 11:15 AM  
\* exact times will be provided closer to the date

For More Info

CLICK HERE

WATCH NOW



For More Info

- Empower students to own their own economic success.
- Facilitate fun & engaging career readiness activities.
- Receive both virtual training & on-site support.
- Have fun while impacting our future generations!
- Light breakfast provided
- ADULT VOLUNTEERS ONLY



CLICK HERE TO REGISTER  
or SCAN the QR Code



Junior Achievement of South Central PA  
717-945-9028 | www.jascpa.org  
Contact us at sbaker@jascpa.org

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**  
Volunteer for our YES! program.

### ATTENTION PARENTS

ALL INCOMING 7TH  
GRADERS ARE REQUIRED  
TO HAVE

**TDAP AND MCV4**

(MENINGITIS VACCINE)

PRIOR TO STARTING  
7TH GRADE



**SAFE SAY**  
SOMETHING

SEE IT. REPORT IT.



MOBILE APP



1-844-SAF2SAY



SAFE2SAYPA.ORG

### ATTENTION PARENTS

ALL INCOMING 7TH  
GRADERS ARE REQUIRED  
TO HAVE A

**DENTAL  
EXAM**



FOR THE  
UPCOMING  
SCHOOL YEAR

SHIPPENSBURG POLICE FOUNDATION PRESENTS

**NATIONAL  
NIGHT OUT**



TUESDAY  
AUGUST 4TH



6-8  
PM



SHIPPENSBURG POLICE  
DEPARTMENT PARKING LOT  
60 W. BURD STREET, SHIPPENSBURG



FREE ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!



FINGERPRINTING



SNACKS &  
REFRESHMENTS



PUBLIC SAFETY  
DEMONSTRATIONS



CHILDREN'S  
ACTIVITIES



Join our partners in law enforcement as they provide educational materials, demonstrate resources, and foster relationships within the community.

### ATTENTION PARENTS

ALL INCOMING 6TH  
GRADERS ARE REQUIRED  
TO HAVE A

**PHYSICAL  
EXAM**



FOR THE  
UPCOMING  
SCHOOL YEAR

### Going on vacation? or just a short trip

Planned absences require advance  
notice to be excused.

Filling out an Educational Trip Form  
and submitting to SAMS office before  
your planned absence will allow those days  
to be excused.

Each student is limited to 10 days of educational leave  
per school year.



Scan for Education  
Field Trip Form

### Shippensburg SCREEN-FREE FESTIVAL

NANCY GRAYSON  
ELEMENTARY  
301 LURGAN AVENUE

6

AUGUST  
5-6:30 PM  
RAIN OR  
SHINE



RAFFLE

FREE DINNER (WHILE  
SUPPLIES LAST) -  
RAFFLE PRIZES - GAMES  
AND ACTIVITIES

An evening for  
families with children of all  
ages to unplug  
and support  
youth mental  
wellness.



For more information, contact Emily Fox  
coordinator-scc@shipresources.org  
(717)477-1961  
shipresources.org



### SAMS ATTENDANCE NOTES

ATTENDANCE NOTES MUST BE RECEIVED  
WITHIN 3 DAYS OF ABSENCES

NOTES MAY BE SENT TO SCHOOL WITH STUDENT  
OR EMAILED TO:

SAMSATTENDANCE@SHIP.K12.PA.US

PLEASE INCLUDE STUDENT'S FULL NAME,  
DATE OF ABSENCES AND REASON.



# SHIPPENSBURG AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## MAROON AND GREY MONTHLY

AUGUST 2026

### Social Media:

Middle School Administration does their best to keep families, students, and the community apprised of the fun and exciting activities taking place within the building and classrooms. Please consider following the middle school on social media to stay apprised of happenings.



Shbg Middle School



@shbgmiddleschool

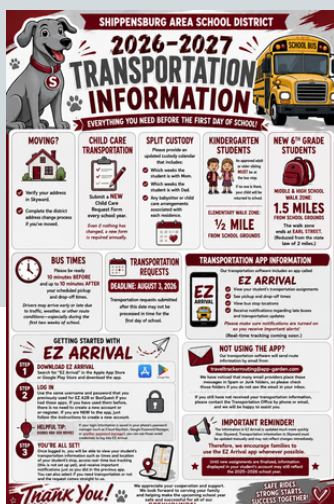
### PTO:

The PTO has made great strides for the Middle School. We are thankful for the parents of our students that want to support our building through this manner. Monthly meetings will occur throughout the school year. Please check the calendar of events for dates and times. The PTO has been able to fundraise for various field trips and events for our students. We look forward to seeing you there.

### First Day of School:

The first day of school is just around the corner and we want to ensure you know what to expect. All students will enter the building through the bus ramp or the parent drop off area. Upon arrival, students will have the opportunity to get breakfast if they choose and then students will report to their assigned homeroom. The day will consist of getting to know you activities, locker assignments, building tours, PBIS lessons, class meetings with administration, and of course lunch. The time will be spent with your homeroom/team teachers. This day is structured to welcome students back and allow students to be acclimated to the new school year. We will resume our traditional bell schedule on Friday, August 21st.

### Bus Information and Behavior:



As school begins a flood of yellow busses will once again be taking to the streets. A reminder to students that behavior on the bus should replicate behavior in the classroom. Students should be seated, quiet, and respectful throughout the bus ride. Electronics may be used on the bus, however music should not be played without earbuds.

### Transportation:

Bus information for the 2026 - 2027 school year is posted in Skyward. Please review to ensure information is accurate prior to the start of the school. All questions and concerns should be made to the Transportation Department.

### Community Resources:

Aliff Counseling -- 717.477.2556  
(School Based Mental Health Provider)  
Crisis and Suicide Hotline --988  
Cumberland/Perry Drug and Alcohol -- 717.240.6300  
Crisis Chambersburg Hospital -- 717.264.2555  
Drew Michael Taylor Grief Support --  
<https://drewmichaeltaylor.org/>

### Building Contact Information:

Main Office -- 717.530.2750  
Office Hours -- 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
SAMS Attendance E-Mail --  
[samsattendance@ship.k12.pa.us](mailto:samsattendance@ship.k12.pa.us)

Principal -- Jeremy Barnes  
Assistant Principal --  
Stephanie Barnhart -- Last Names A - K  
April Fitz -- Last Names L - Z  
School Counselor --  
Angie McKee -- Last Names A - K  
Kirsty Herb -- Last Names L - Z  
School Social Worker --  
Tabitha Curtis