

SHIPPENSBURG AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MAROON AND GREY MONTHLY

SEPTEMBER 2026

Dates to Remember:



September 7th-- No School

September 9th--Club Day!

September 10th -- Picture Day at SAMS

September 16th--PTO Meeting@7pm

September 17th--Color Run Kick Off event

September 18th--No School

September 20th--PBIS Clothing Sale Ends

September 22nd--YES! Day @ SAMS

September 23rd--Club Day

October 2nd--School Custodial Appreciation Day

October 12th--No School

Athletic Spectator Information

A reminder that MS aged students and younger are **not permitted into sporting events without the accompaniment of an adult.** Students should remain with an adult throughout the sporting event. This includes Middle School and High School sporting events.

Bus 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 in their assigned seat throughout the bus ride
- quiet throughout the bus ride
- respectful throughout the bus ride to their peers and driver
- only ride their assigned bus

Electronics may be used on the bus, however music should not be played without earbuds.

Staff Changes

Our favorite building principal, Mr. Barnes has been approved as the district's new Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Director. He will still be with Shippensburg, but serve at a district wide level. We are thankful for the impact that Mr. Barnes has had on our building, staff, students, and families. We will certainly miss him. Until a replacement is hired Mrs. Barnhart and Mrs. Fitz will be leading the building. Please reach out as necessary.

PBIS Criteria

Our Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) program rewards students for meeting expected behavior expectations. The program works to reward students through our paper currency, Champ Chances. Students can use the Champ Chances to purchase items in their classroom stores, participate in grade level raffles, go outside during lunch and enter raffles during marking period activities.

Marking period events also take place for all eligible students in our building. Students who have accrued two or more discipline referrals during the marking period would not be eligible to participate within the marking period event. Additionally, students who have been assigned ISS or OSS during the marking period would also be considered ineligible for the marking period event. There will be opportunities for restorative practices for students to earn their way back into the marking period events at the principal/assistant principal discretion.

Safe 2 Say is an anonymous tip app and website that any user can report warning signs, threats to themselves or others, self harm, and other concerns before it is too late. Tips are assessed and process through the crisis center and acted upon as necessary by local agencies and school personnel.



SHIPPENSBURG AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MAROON AND GREY MONTHLY

SEPTEMBER 2026

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

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

April Fitz -- Last Names L - Z

april.fitz@ship.k12.pa.us

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.

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

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.



Junior Achievement®
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
717-843-8028 | www.jascpa.org
Contact us at sbaker@jascpa.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Volunteer for our YES! program.

SHIPPENSBURG AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MAROON AND GREY MONTHLY

SEPTEMBER 2026

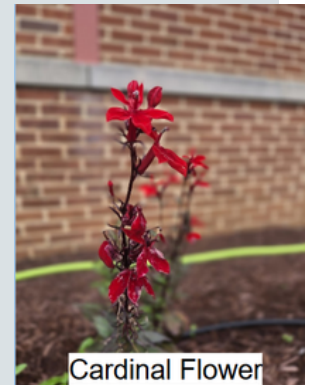
Pond Addition

Last school year, Mrs. Tritt wrote a grant through the Shippensburg School District Foundation and was awarded funds to create a Sustainable Pond Renovation and Biodiversity Enhancement to our courtyard. The addition is beautiful as seen in the photos below.

The goal of this project was to renovate the existing pond in our small courtyard, transforming it into a sustainable ecosystem that fosters biodiversity and supports native wetland plant growth. The previous pond area was underutilized and lacked a diverse range of flora and fauna. The pond was overgrown with vegetation and the pump no longer worked. Through the addition of native plants, trees, shrubs, and perennials, we increased biodiversity, improved water quality, and created a sustainable ecosystem.

The improved courtyard will integrate environmental, scientific, and ecological principles while providing educational opportunities for students. It will also align with the Pennsylvania STEELS Standards by providing more opportunities to incorporate hands-on learning in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. The goals included:

- Renovate the pond system
- Enhance biodiversity
- Create a sustainable ecosystem
- Support environmental education
- Meet Pennsylvania STEELS standards



SHIPPENSBURG AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MAROON AND GREY MONTHLY

SEPTEMBER 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 on the third Wednesday of every month 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.

SAMS PBIS

FALL FUNDRAISER

ORDER NOW

ORDERS DUE **SEPTEMBER 20**

GREYHOUND GEAR FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Browse the live fundraiser shop for available styles, colors, sizes, and prices.



TEES



SWEATSHIRTS



SWEATPANTS



MORE

crruniforms.com/product-category/pbis-greyhounds/

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/>



Virtual Information Night

Wednesday, September 30, 2026, 5:30-6:30 PM

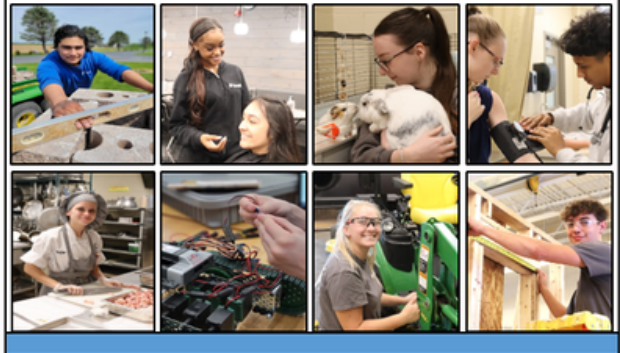
Is your child a potential future CareerTech student?
Have questions about the Open House or unsure of the application process?
Do you know how to best prepare your student for acceptance?
Get answers to these questions and more!
Please register using the QR code below.

THIS SESSION is for anyone with questions about CareerTech, no matter what grade your student is in. Use the link below to join us **virtually** on Sept. 30th.



Join on your computer, mobile app, or room device.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)



2465 Loop Road, Chambersburg, PA PH 717-265-9053 Fax 717-265-6568 info@franklinctr.com
The Franklin County Career & Technology Center does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its program and activities.

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

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