

# SHIPPENSBURG AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## MAROON AND GREY MONTHLY JANUARY 2023

### Dates to Remember:

- January 3rd -- Welcome Back!!!
- January 4th -- SAMS Supports SU Basketball
- January 9th - 20th -- IXL Winter Diagnostic Testing Window
- January 13th -- In-service; No School
- January 16th -- No School
- January 20th -- 2nd MP PBIS Celebration
- January 23rd -- PTO Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
- January 23rd -- Start of 2nd Semester
- April 25th - 27th -- ELA PSSA Testing
- May 1st - 2nd -- Math PSSA Testing
- May 4th -- 8th grade Science Testing
- May 16th - 17th -- Algebra Keystone Testing



PTO:



**Why a PTO at SAMS?** - A PTO has been reinstated at SAMS as a way to provide opportunities for students to gather in a safe space and to raise funds to help offset the costs of field trips for students (see information below). SAMS wants to employ field trips that are beneficial and academic for our students and the PTO is helping to make the field trips feasible.

### Why PTO is raising funds - Field Trips by the numbers-

On average a field trip cost \$25/ student in costs. This includes transportation and ticket/expenses for students and chaperons. Our goal is that every student can participate in field trips regardless of the families financial situation. If every student at SAMS participates in one field trip a year that equates to \$25 x 800 students to equal \$20,000.



### Student Council Updates:

Student Council saw great success with the sale of CandyGrams to their fellow classmates. The building also participated in a door decorating contest sponsored by Student Council (see pictures on social media) with the winning classrooms receiving a hot coca bar. Next up for Student Council is organizing a spirit week for Be Kind and other activities that focus on kindness in February.

**R&K Sub and Sandwich fundraiser** - The PTO will be hosting an R & K Sub and Sandwich fundraiser just in time for your Super bowl Party. Flyers will be sent home with students the week of January 2nd and orders will be due back to SAMS on January 26th. Subs and Sandwiches will be ready for pick up on Thursday, February 9th. All proceeds will be used toward funding field trips at SAMS.



### PBIS Updates:

PBIS is excited to bring the 2nd marking period celebration day! The day will include a lip sync battle for students and teachers, give aways including: blue tooth speakers, candy, Gatorade, adidas bags, and so much more, and a performance by the cheerleaders. The day is shaping up to be a great time for all eligible students.

As a reminder students must have 1 or less referrals to be eligible to participate in celebration day.

PBIS is also working on rolling out lessons to all students to target are most frequent behaviors within the middle school. These lessons will focus on correcting the behaviors of defiance and disrespect. Students will receive lessons from both their core and exploratory teachers within the subject matter to deter defiant and disrespectful behaviors at SAMS.

### Upcoming meeting dates -

January 23rd, February 27th, March 27th, April 24th and May 22nd



### Spectators at SAMS



This winter we will be implementing new student spectator guidelines for students middle school age and younger. These spectator guidelines reflect those already in place for varsity football games.

**Students middle school age and younger must be accompanied by a paying adult in order to be admitted to any indoor athletic contests at the Middle School and/or High School.** Students who are not accompanied by a paying adult who are middle school age or younger will not be permitted into the contest. Thank you for your cooperation!

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### Flyers:

At the end of the newsletter there are three flyers. **One advertising our districts SMS Text Message alerts.**

Families can request to receive text message notifications in addition to e-mails and phone calls. **A second flyer for the Heart and Sole girls running program.** The program is the middle school version of Girls on the Run and will take place starting in February. **A third flyer is for the Franklin County Career and Technical Center's open house.** This event is open on any prospective student.



### Social Media and Group Messages:

Students ages 11 - 14 can be influenced greatly by their peers and the expectations that peers place on each other. Students at the middle school level, although, are approaching the age of maturity still need guidance when navigating social media and group messages. Students and parents report inappropriate conversations, threats, and drama to building administration daily. Often times students feel more comfortable talking and sharing inappropriate content online than in person. **Please monitor your child's social media and group message accounts and talk with your student regarding appropriate online interactions.** Threats and comments made online have a large impact on offline life and behaviors and can result in offline consequences for students and families.



### Community Resources:

Aliff Counseling -- 717.477.2556  
(School Based Mental Health Provider)  
Teenline -- 866.350.4357  
Cumberland/Perry Drug and Alcohol -- 717.240.6300  
Crisis Chambersburg Hospital -- 717.264.2555  
Drew Michael Taylor Grief Support --  
<https://drewmichaeltaylor.org/>



### PSSA Testing is Coming:

Mark your calendars and clear your schedules as PSSA testing dates have been posted. Students should be in school on the following dates, well rested, and ready to perform their best. All grade levels will test in ELA and Math subject areas. 8th grade students will also test in Science. Additionally, students enrolled in 8th grade Quadratics will take the Algebra I Keystone Exam.

English Language Arts - April 25th - 27th

Math - May 1st and 2nd

8th Grade Science - May 4th

Algebra I Keystone Exam - May 16th and 17th



### Construction Updates:



Construction at the Middle School is finally underway! Construction trailers and fencing were installed on December 21st and 22nd. Parent drop off and pick will remain the same, however, students coming off the bus will enter at the rear of the building instead of using the cafeteria entrance. The construction project will bring 6 additional classrooms to the building and provide much needed additional room in the cafeteria. Work for the project will be mainly exterior through the remainder of the school year, however there will be some noise disruption as the project gets underway. We are excited to begin this project and see our building expand.



### 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  
Rosemary Junkin -- Last Names L - Z  
Building Social Worker -- Tabitha Curtis

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SMS Text Opt-In



## Parents and Guardians

### You can take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

Our school utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.\*

You can participate in this free service\* just by sending a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to our school's short code number, **67587**.

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with "Stop".


SchoolMessenger is compliant with the [Student Privacy Pledge™](#) so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.



**Opt-In from  
your mobile  
now!**



**Just send "Y"  
or "Yes" to  
67587.**

 **Information on SMS text messaging and Short Codes:** SMS stands for Short Message Service and is commonly referred to as a "text message". Most cell phones support this type of text messaging. Our notification provider, SchoolMessenger, uses a true SMS protocol developed by the telecommunications industry specifically for mass text messaging, referred to as "short code" texting. This method is fast, secure and highly reliable because it is strictly regulated by the wireless carriers and only allows access to approved providers.

*If you've ever sent a text vote for a TV show to a number like 46999, you have used short code texting.*

\*Terms and Conditions: Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Mobile carriers are not liable for delayed or undelivered messages. See [schoolmessenger.com/tm](http://schoolmessenger.com/tm) for more info.



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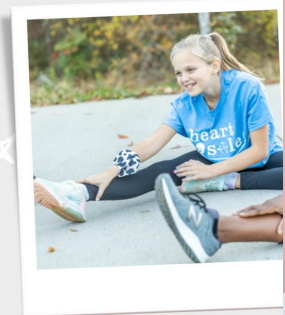
JANUARY 2023



## Heart & Sole is for **EVERY** girl.

**Heart & Sole is an afterschool program like no other!**

Once per week for 10 weeks, girls in 6th-8th grade will get the opportunity to connect, grow and thrive! Heart & Sole will provide a safe and interactive space for girls to connect with each other, learn valuable skills such as how to cope when things get difficult and practice positivity, and most importantly, have fun! The season ends with a celebratory 5K.



### *Why it matters* It's fun. It's effective.

Participating in Girls on the Run transforms girls' lives by helping them increase their self-confidence, develop healthy relationships, and feel good about themselves, inside and out.



Girls who were the least active at the start of the program increased their physical activity by more than 40%\*



97% of participants said they learned critical skills to manage emotions, resolve conflict, help others or make intentional decisions\*

\*Results based on an independent study conducted by Positive Youth Development expert Maureen R. Weiss, Ph.D.

### **Shippensburg Area Middle School**

Registration: January 13-30, register online at [www.gotrmidstatepa.org](http://www.gotrmidstatepa.org)

Program Starts: week of February 27

Practices: Tuesday, 2:45-4:45 pm

5K Celebration: May 13 at HACC, Harrisburg

Contact: Tricia Blount,  
[triciablount@hotmail.com](mailto:triciablount@hotmail.com)

Financial assistance available!



SCAN ME

Learn more today at [www.gotrmidstatepa.org](http://www.gotrmidstatepa.org)  
Contact [sarah@capareagirlsontherun.org](mailto:sarah@capareagirlsontherun.org)

*The school district neither encourages nor discourages a student's participation in the activity described herein.*

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### Information Night

Tuesday, January 3, 2023 5:30-6:30 PM

Is your child a potential, future CareerTech student?  
Did you miss the Open House or are you 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 January 3rd.



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

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

