



# Voice of the Vikings



Shaw Middle School

January 2022

## From the Principal's Desk

Our professional development over the last four years has been focused on building rapport with our students, supporting students' personal academic and social goals, and developing student awareness of their strengths, areas where they need support as learners, and how to use their resources to succeed. In addition, the Shaw teachers have been studying strategies to eliminate barriers that prevent students from fully engaging and accessing learning in the classroom. Additional teachers have been added to each team to support learning through a team-teaching, differentiated, workshop model. We are finding that the relationships our teachers form with their students and the addition of support teachers are leading to higher academic achievement and growing student insight into behaviors that align with success in school. The "Neighborhood" design of Shaw Middle School supports not only best teaching practices but also a highly personalized learning environment for our students, rich with support and intervention.

A "Neighborhood" is a cluster of four classrooms where classrooms open to each other, and also open to a comfortable student friendly space called the "Living Room". Living rooms provide teachers and students with flexible learning spaces where students can learn and work alone or in small groups. Living rooms include a restroom (in addition to larger restrooms found in the hallways), a huddle room where staff can work one on one or in small groups with students, and a drinking fountain. Student lockers are located in the hallway, just outside the neighborhood door for quick and easy access. Learning relationships between teachers and students were at the center of the neighborhood design. The design, our dedicated staff, and our amazing students have transformed the Shaw culture. Students say Shaw Middle School is "my school", a place where I set goals and bring action to the plans I have for my future. Shaw is a safe place where students can dream and, with staff support, take the steps necessary to someday live those dreams.

In the fall 2022, Shaw staff will welcome 6<sup>th</sup> graders to the middle school. By moving 6<sup>th</sup> graders into the middle school, our school district can meet the legal requirement to reduce class sizes at the elementary level. At Shaw we believe that our students will benefit from three years in the middle school rather than two. 6<sup>th</sup> graders will learn in two of the neighborhoods on the first floor. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade neighborhoods were designed with the knowledge that 6<sup>th</sup> graders would be joining the Shaw Family in 2022. The Shaw bus loop is surrounded by Spokane Schools' property, open only to buses, and designed for the purpose of safety when dropping students off. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade neighborhoods open to the bus loop allowing students to enter directly into their neighborhoods where teachers will greet them each day before going to breakfast. All 6<sup>th</sup> grade electives are found on the first floor making those classrooms easy to find. The Office, Counselors, Library, Commons

Continued on Page 5

## Inside this issue

<u>Article</u>	<u>Page</u>
• APEx News	2
• WSHAW	
• Relationships & Support	
• 2022-23 Enrollment Information	3
• On the Calendar	
• Registration & Family Nights	4
• AVID	
• Student of the Month	
• Principal News (cont'd from pg 1)	5
• Academic Support	6
• Sports Schedules	
• Before & After School	7

The mission of Shaw Middle School is to prepare all students academically and socially for High School and beyond.



Team APEx students came back strong after winter break to finish Semester 1. Thirty-four students had met all project, assessment and Lexia goals and were invited to a special celebration on January 14<sup>th</sup> to recognize their stellar work. On Feb. 11, APEx student awards will be passed out to acknowledge students who demonstrate strong character. Encourage your student to nominate a peer by going to Ms. Smith's Clever page and completing the form! Thank you, APEx families, for all your support during the first half of the year and your continued support in Semester 2.



Photo 1: from left, Jenny Ngo, Hemlynn Heine, and Elizabeth Shvachev create a poster to remind others of class expectations.

Photo 2: from left, AJ Debrum, Diego Sumner, and Tyson Vogrig generate ideas for team celebrations.



## **WSHAW ~ Radio Shaw**

We are really enjoying our new school and all the amenities that it offers. One of our favorites is the amazing sound system in the Commons. We have been using it at breakfast and lunch to play music and give shout outs to our amazing students. We call it WSHAW Radio Shaw.

We play music that is uplifting and reinforces themes around character and culture. February is Black History Month and music by black artists will be featured. For Valentine's week we are celebrating themes around Love for Community. We will be playing music that reinforces what makes us special and brings us together.



Students have enjoyed making requests and dedicating songs to each other. We would like to open this up to families as well. If you would like to dedicate a song to your student or wish them a Happy Birthday, send it to [WSHAW@spokaneschools.org](mailto:WSHAW@spokaneschools.org). Please include your student's name, who is dedicating the song and why and what lunch they have. Please make requests school appropriate. We would love to give your student a shout out!

## **Relationships & Supporting Students**

At Shaw Middle School we are organized to meet the needs of all learners. We have strategies and supports that are used universally with every student, every day. We also have specialized supports for students who need more to be successful.

Each of our students is a part of a team at Shaw. This means that your student along with a group of peers share six teachers throughout the day in their Math, Science, English, and History classes. This allows the students and teachers to get to know each other and grow their relationships and successes as learners.

Advisory is an example of a support for all students. Each day all students begin their day with advisory. Advisory is a key component of our school goal of creating and fostering relationships that create an alliance between students and staff. We use the program Character Strong to help with this and to promote social and emotional learning. CharacterStrong connects powerful instruction with inter-

personal relationship-building to support character traits like resilience, empathy and kindness. These lessons and experiences have a positive impact on each of our students and ultimately the culture of the entire school. During these unprecedented and uncertain times, focusing on our social and emotional health is more important than ever, and CharacterStrong does a great job providing tools to keep our spirits up.

Shaw also has a dedicated team comprised of a cross section of staff members who meet weekly to address the needs of individuals or groups of students who need more than what is offered at the universal classroom level. This team analyzes pertinent data and information to pair resources and research-based interventions best suited to help students find success.

At Shaw we realize that every learner is different, and we strive to provide them with the skills and habits of success necessary to achieve their dreams, plans, and goals.

## **Enrollment / Registration for 2022-23**

SPS is adjusting attendance boundaries to support lower class sizes, the addition of three new middle schools, and moving sixth graders into middle schools. The new boundaries go into effect on the north side of the district the fall of 2022, and the south side of the district the fall of 2023. Please click this link to review important information about what you need to do to ensure your child is enrolled at the correct school for this next school year. **The deadline to apply for a school other than your neighborhood school is Tuesday, February 15th.** There are special circumstances that apply to those whose boundary has changed—please review the information and feel free to call if you have any further questions, 354-5800.

Here are a few instances where families will want to access the [Online Enrollment Portal](#) to opt to stay in their current school for 2022-23.

**Priority Choice:** Students who will be assigned to a different neighborhood elementary school, and also have a new middle & high school feeder pattern due to boundary changes, can request to stay at their current school and will be given priority in the choice transfer process. Acceptance depends on available capacity for neighborhood students as outlined in board procedure 3131.

**Legacy:** Students who will start grade 5, 8, or 10-12 in August 2022 can stay at their current school, if space is available, even if their attendance boundary has changed. Space availability for Legacy students will be determined in accordance with the board procedure 3131.

**Extended Legacy:** For a small group of students, the boundary change will mean a school assignment change, feeder pattern change and moving from a southside to northside school. Acceptance depends on available capacity as outlined in board procedure 3131.

- Students currently in grades K-5 can request a one-year extension to remain at their current school.
- Students currently in grade 6 can request to stay for two years, completing middle school in their current middle school feeder pattern, but will need to submit a new enrollment form for the fall of 2024 if not planning to attend their neighborhood high school.

## **On The Calendar**

- February 18—Early Release, 2:15pm
- February 21—President’s Day, No School
- February 22—Bemiss Parent Night
- February 23—Hearing & Vision Screening
- February 23—Cooper Parent Night
- February 28—Longfellow Parent Night
- March 1—Regal Parent Night
- March 15—Orchestra Concert
- March 17—Band Concert
- March 18— Early Release, 2:15pm
- April 4—8—Spring Break
- April 15—End of 3rd Quarter
- April 22—Early Release, 2:15pm

---

Shaw Families,

We are a proud Title I School. This is a federal designation that provides our school additional resources to improve student learning. We use our Title I funds to hire additional instructional staff, provide professional development opportunities for staff, purchase additional instructional materials, and engage the family community in events. We will be planning virtual family events and hopefully in-person in the future. Please view our Shaw website for more information.

At Shaw, we invite you to continue to find ways to partner with us in your student’s education. One way to partner with us was to provide input on our Title I Parent Engagement Plan, our Title I Compact, and our School Improvement Plan which were emailed out to families and placed on the Shaw website home page. We appreciated your feedback. Currently, the revised documents are available on the website. Thank you, families, for supporting your students at Shaw Middle School.

## Registration & Family Nights

We are so very excited to welcome our incoming 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade families to Shaw. Our new building was designed as neighborhoods where all content classrooms are adjacent to each other. This design allows students to transition within their neighborhood and only leave for their two elective classes. Shaw continues to implement teaching teams to provide instruction for students in the four core content areas – English, math, science, and social studies. Teachers share a common set of students and a common planning period, an approach that allows for greater communication about student needs. Teachers can share what they learn about individual students and leverage that information to build stronger relationships with students, determine appropriate and effective curricula, and address different study skills and learning techniques.

We know students do not all learn at the same rate, do not all have the same goals and interests, and that periods of equal length are not appropriate for all learning situations. We believe this transition for elementary to middle school (secondary) will be similar to their previous educational experience. Teaching teams have the flexibility to adjust the daily schedule based on how it will best achieve learning goals for students. For example, two teachers may team up during the same or adjacent periods to integrate curriculum or facilitate a longer science lab. Within our neighborhoods, teachers have the flexibility to provide a variety of learning to those who need to accelerate and those who may need support. At Shaw, we

believe all students have the ability to accelerate and demonstrate their knowledge in a variety of ways.

We also know that middle school students benefit from consistent routines, and our teaching teams have developed procedures and expectations that are implemented in every class. Students can feel safe to focus on learning because they know things will not change with every teacher or class period. They know how content is progressing, how they fit in to the group, and what is expected of them. When the learning environment is consistent across content areas, students are more likely to thrive and experience personal and academic growth.

Our elementary schools will be coming to tour Shaw and register for classes for the 2022-2023 school year the week of February 14. We will be hosting **Family Nights** for our incoming students on dates listed below. These nights will be organized by school.

- Tuesday, February 22nd— Bemiss Elementary
- Wednesday, February 23rd—Cooper Elementary
- Monday, February 28th—Longfellow Elementary
- Tuesday, March 1st—Regal Elementary

More information will be emailed to families directly and posted on our Shaw website.

The Shaw mission and vision statements establish our intent to prepare students for academic and social successes in high school and beyond by providing them with a safe, responsible, and respectful learning environment. Teaching teams are one of the models we are utilizing to fulfill our mission and achieve our vision.

## AVID

AVID students are participating in tutorials twice each week. During the tutorial session, students each present a point of confusion from one of their classes, and the adult tutor and classmates support the student in solving the problem. Tutorials build skills around self-advocacy, academic language, and collaboration.

During the first two weeks in January, seventh graders each researched a college and created a visual presentation to share with the class on Jan. 14. Eighth graders completed the same project but with career choices in which they are interested.

## Congratulations to our November & December students of the month!

**Academic Tenacity**—Carlos Alfaro, Markus Alsup, Jaeda Birch, Isaac Clement, Aaron Do, Olivia Fielding, Kyleigh Hassett, Ruson Keja, Fountain Riliang, Diego Sumner, Ronald Warrick VI

**Growth Mindset**—Zach Chavez, Elizabeth Close, Mika Compton, Gabe Henry-Wright, Jaelyn Hill, Jakota Johnson, Joshua Lewis, Amelia Olsen

**Kindness**—Danyella Nguyen, Mequiyah Tomeo, Arthur Wedge

**Self Direction**—Taylor Corbin, Jordan Looper, Cienah Rappe, Fountain Rilang

**Resilience** - Dominick Medina



(lunchroom), Gymnasium, playfields, and play structures are all easily accessible from the 6<sup>th</sup> grade neighborhoods as well. We understand how important it is that our 6<sup>th</sup> graders get off to a great start in middle school. We also understand that this transition may be a little scary, especially in the first year. Because 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade neighborhoods are found on the second floor, mixing of 6<sup>th</sup> graders with the older students will be minimal. There is no unsupervised time at Shaw, so our 6<sup>th</sup> graders will have staff close by.

We know that moving up to middle school can be stressful and scary for both students and parents. We are confident that once you see the school and talk with teachers and staff, that you will feel comfortable with the transition. We will be providing several opportunities for parents and students to visit Shaw, ask questions, and express concerns and fears. Staff, including teachers, will be available during these times to answer questions and engage in discussion. Knowing that not all parents will be able to attend, or need a more personal opportunity, I will be available through email, phone call, and or in person by appointment. My email (Principal) is [jons@spokaneschools.org](mailto:jons@spokaneschools.org), phone number is (509) 354-5805, and or call Mrs. Perier at (509) 354-5884 With questions or to make an appointment.

**Don't hesitate to call my staff if you have questions:**

**Administration and Support:** (354-5800)

**Student Scheduling:** Janet Lane (354-5806)

**Student Support & Intervention**

- Rhett Lashbrook (354-5887)
- Tony Ressa (354-5827)
- Matthew Kellen (354-5872)
- Sam Thomas (354-5894)

**After-School Academic Support & Activities, Summer School:** LeAndra Myers (354-5826)

**Math Support, Mathia:** Sandi Bennett-Scott, (354-5829)

**Campus Safety Specialist:** Kory School (354-5850)

**Athletics:** Ish Quidwai (354-5851)

**Team Communicators:**

**APEX,** Sarah Smith (354-5866) 7th gr (8th gr 22-23)

**ShRed,** Sydney Bushnell (354-5837) 7th gr (8th gr 22-23)

**Home,** Bill Reese (354-5869) 8th gr (7th gr 22-23)

**PEAK,** Heather Kaluza (354-5846) 8th gr (7th gr 22-23)

6th Grade Team information will be coming in a future publication.—Stay tuned!

**Online Resources & Video Links**

- [2022-23 Enrollment Information](#)
- [Shaw Website](#)
- [Step Inside Shaw Video](#)
- [This Is Your School Video](#)

**Students working in the APEX living**



**Students working Mr. Egger's classroom**



**Students working in Mrs. Kaluza's classroom**



**Students working in the APEX living room**



**Play structure on Shaw MS grounds**



**Students working in the APEX living room**



## Academic Support

One aspect of the Shaw Middle school mission is to prepare students for academic success in high school and beyond, and our teachers are dedicated to ensuring that students can meet their grade-level learning standards. We know that not all students learn the same way, so we provide multiple ways for students to acquire information and knowledge, give alternatives for demonstrating what they know, and tap into their interests to increase motivation by offering appropriate challenges. Many classrooms include two co-teachers and a para-professional, allowing for differentiated instruction and opportunities to address learning needs for students at all levels.

The district has provided the Lexia and MATHia software programs to give us more opportunities to support students in their English and math classes. Teachers plan so students have time in class to work together and all content is available online so students can work independently outside of the school day. Lexia supplements classroom instruction in the development of literacy knowledge and skills. The focus on reading comprehension, word study, and grammar helps students increase their language competency and confidence. MATHia is a personalized learning platform that includes coaching support and is aligned to the district curriculum. Some workspaces build conceptual understanding through step by step examples, practice problems, and hits. Other workspaces allow students to demonstrate concept mastery by adapting to a student's exact needs.

Our afterschool program gives students the opportunity to engage in activities that support them academically and socially. Teachers are available to answer a question for a student who needs the extra study time to complete an assignment and fill learning gaps. Students who want to extend the knowledge and skills can participate in a variety of activities that engage them more deeply in learning. We encourage all students to be involved in a way that is meaningful and valuable to them. See page 7 for information about the before & after school program—offerings and how to participate.

### 8th Grade Basketball Schedule

- February 14—8th grade Basketball
- March 1—Girls @Mountainside; Boys @ Shaw
- March 3—Girls @ Shaw; Boys @ Garry
- March 8—Girls @ Shaw; Boys @ Sacajawea
- March 10—Girls @ Glover; Boys @ Shaw
- March 15—Girls @ Garry; Boys @ Shaw
- March 22—Girls @ Shaw; Boys @ Garry
- March 24—Girls @ Northwood; Boys @ Shaw (4pm)
- March 28—Girls @ Chase; Boys @ Shaw
- March 30—Girls @ Shaw; Boys @ Glover



### Wrestling Schedule

- March 2—Salk Middle School
- March 9—Glover Middle School
- March 16—Garry Middle School
- March 23—Shaw Middle School
- March 26—Salk—Spok-A-Loo



### Interested in Sports?

Sign up through [Family ID](#)

A current sports physical is needed. (physicals are good for 2 years) If you need assistance with getting a physical or signing up, please reach out to Mr. Quidwai or the student office.

***All sporting events begin at 4:15pm unless otherwise listed.***

Spokane Public Schools complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate in the admission, treatment, employment, or access to its programs or activities on the basis of age, sex, marital status, race, color, creed, national origin, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability, sexual orientation including gender expression or gender identity, or honorably discharged veteran or military status. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's Title IX/Staff Civil Rights Officer, ADA Officer, Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying (HIB)/Student Civil Rights Officer and/or 504 Compliance Officer: 504 Compliance Officer: Melanie Smith, 509.354.7284; ADA Officer: Stephanie Busch, 509.354.5993; Affirmative Action Officer: Nancy Lopez-Williams, 509-354-5651; AHERA Officer: Robert Findley, 509.354.7143; ALE Officer: Heather Bybee, 509.354.7361; Certification Officer: Cindy Coleman, 509.354.7318; Claims Agent: Rebecca Doughty, 509.354.7298; Contract Officer: Cindy Coleman, 509.354.7318; Copyright Compliance Officer: Mark Martell, 509.354.7212; Equal Opportunity Officer: Nancy Lopez-Williams, 509-354-5651; Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying (HIB)/Student Civil Rights Officer: Melanie Smith, 509.354.7284; Personnel Officer: Nancy Lopez-Williams, 509-354-5651; Public Records Officer: Terri LeFors, 509.354.7395; Safety/OSHA/WISHA Officer: Rebecca Doughty, 509.354.7298; Secretary, Board of Directors: Dr. Adam Swinyard, 509.354.7268

## **Before & After School Opportunities at Shaw**

Shaw’s before and after school offerings are designed to provide academic assistance as well as enrichment and acceleration opportunities for students beyond the school day. The goal is to build students’ involvement in school, which may help increase attendance, build confidence and creativity, and help foster positive relationships with peers and adult role models.

We encourage all students to be involved in a way that is meaningful and valuable to them. Please provide permission for your Shaw students to come before school or stay after using the QR code, [online](#) or by requesting a hard copy from our student office.



Please see below for the current daily offerings.

*Coming Soon: CIS PrimeTime Mentoring, PEI Urban Forestry, and Shaw Refugee Connections*

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
<b>Before School 8:00-8:45</b>	Check in Mindfulness Academic Support Open Gym	Check in Mindfulness Academic Support Open Gym	Check in Mindfulness Academic Support Open Gym	Check in Mindfulness Academic Support Open Gym
<b>After School 3:30-5:15</b>	Academic Support Zag Study Buddies Joyful Movement Christian Fellowship Maker Club Anime Club	Academic Support Zag Study Buddies STEM Activities Chess Club Card/Boardgames Music Mentoring Girl Scouts/Girls Who Code	Academic Support Zag Study Buddies Joyful Movement Leadership Theater Arts Club GU GAME (6-7 pm)	Academic Support Zag Study Buddies STEM Activities GU Connections Nutrition/ Cooking Regal Elementary Refugee Connections

Snacks are provided to all students staying after school and transportation home is also available to regular bus riders at 4:45pm and 5:15pm.

### **Exciting Opportunity for Students**

We are partnering with the Washington State University Educational Talent Search program. This *free* program is designed to provide students with services to help them be successful in Shaw Middle School, earn a competitive GPA, prepare for college, and graduate with an Associate’s or Bachelor’s degree.

Through Educational Talent Search your student will be able to participate in field trips and college campus visits. They will receive academic assistance through academic advising, tutoring, SAT & ACT preparation, and educational success workshops. They will also receive assistance with applying to the colleges of their choice, financial aid, and scholarships. As a parent/guardian, the program will work with you on understanding the different options your student has for attending college and to support you through this process.

This program is *free* to students who meet the eligibility criteria. The requirements include your student demonstrating academic need, having an interest in attending college, and meeting income guidelines.

If you are interested or have questions, you may reach out to Dr. Jim Mohr at WSU by [clicking here](#). You can also check out the [website](#) and you and your student can apply right from the [website](#). We can also help you and your student complete the application.

### **Citizen Complaint Process**

If parents/guardians and other citizens believe that schools have violated any federal rule, law or state regulation that applies to a federal program, a Citizen Complaint may be filed. At Shaw Middle School, we have copies of the Citizen Complaint Process in our main office.