



WHAT'S INSIDE:

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EXTRA! EXTRA!

SCS students explored the 7-acre ecology lab and pond this year. Upgrades coming this summer!

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SHS Recognized Nationally

Shelbyville High School recently earned recognition as a 2021 U.S. News & World Report Best High School. Nearly 18,000 high schools nationwide are ranked on a range of factors, including enrollment, graduation rates and results of state assessments and Advanced Placement tests to determine the top

schools in the country. "I am very proud of the accomplishments of the staff and students at SHS," Principal Brent Baker said. "Shelbyville High School and Shelbyville Central Schools are consistently performing at a high level. That is just another reason why Shelbyville is a great community to be a part of."



Why Choose Shelbyville Central Schools?

- Shelbyville Central Schools (SCS) has been rated an A or B school corporation by the Indiana Department of Education since 2010.
- Shelbyville High School (SHS) has consistently been rated as a Best High School nationally and locally as reported by US News and World Report. For 2020, SHS was ranked in the top 20 for best Indianapolis area high schools, as well as ranked 79th in the state out of 410 high schools. Nationally, SHS is ranked in the top 25 percent in the nation.
- SHS has an Early College model through collaboration with IU and IVY Tech that results in an Indiana College Core track of 30 college credits that transfer to any Indiana college or university.
- There are 20 Advanced Placement course options for students as well as 9 Indiana University dual credit courses and 20 IVY Tech dual credit courses available to students.
- SCS partners with Blue River Career Programs, which is an area career and technical education school. There are 12 programs that offer additional dual college credit and industry certifications preparing students for college and career pathways.
- SCS graduates receive two years free tuition to IVY Tech in the Advantage Shelby County Program.
- SCS offers K-12 gifted and talented programs that offer students acceleration and enrichment as well as provide Honors and high school courses to students in the middle school.
- SCS is 1:1 technology for grades K-12.
- SCS provides supportive alternative environments for students who struggle with the traditional school model.
- SCS offers extracurricular activities at all levels. Starting in fourth grade students can participate in sports that include cross country, track, volleyball and basketball. There are 14 different sports teams for students at the middle school and high school levels.
- Performing arts and fine arts opportunities exist at all levels. Academic teams begin competing in 4th grade and continue through 12th grade. There are STEM-focused extracurricular Robotics Clubs at all levels and co-curricular activities at the high school such as Band and Choir.
- In 2019, SCS established the Golden Bear Preschool. The preschool has half-day and full-day programs available to 3- and 4-year-olds. The classes are based on the Indiana Early Learning Foundations. Students exit the preschool confident and capable for the all-day kindergarten program and beyond.

Hands-on Learning, Caring Staff Highlights of Preschool



It's difficult for the Wilsons to name the best aspects of Golden Bear Preschool, where their son has attended for two years. "From the office staff, to his amazing teachers, to the lunch crew, the indoor and outdoor playground, Senses, and much more...he loves it all," Kassy Wilson said. The facility, which opened in 2019 at 1115 E. State Rd. 44, Shelbyville, features indoor and outdoor play areas and 15 spacious classrooms, each of which emphasize experiential learning for three- to five-year-olds. "The teachers are all teaching investigations, or thematically," Principal Lora Nigh said. Kids scoop, pour, and dump items from nature, such as cornhusks, within sensory bins located in each room. The bins were especially useful during the recent creation of bird feeders made from pinecones, pea-

nut butter, and birdseed. "Hands-on sensory-based learning through investigation of many topics allows the children in our building to take learning to the next level and sets them up for success throughout the rest of their school careers and into the workforce," preschool teacher Angi Elliott said.

"Her growth in education this past year has been amazing to watch..."

- Megan Deweese

The Deweese family has appreciated these interactive elements, taught safely throughout the pandemic. "She has enjoyed her ability to be creative in the classroom with multiple mediums, ranging from painting with mar-

bles to being taught how to properly use scissors," Megan Deweese said. "Her growth in education this past school year has been amazing to watch, and I am truly grateful to those who have played a role in her growth." Interactive learning led by a caring staff has quickly become a hallmark of Golden Bear Preschool. "The students here learn everything through play and experiences created by a building full of amazing staff," speech therapist Christina Bradburn said. The four-foot-tall kids' door, a rock climbing wall and Senses play area are complemented by a staff skilled in early childhood education. The school maintains a 1 to 10 staff-to-student ratio. "At Golden Bear Preschool, I have not at any point in time had any concerns for the safety of my child while there," Deweese said. "I know

that everyone that interacts with my daughter genuinely cares about her well-being along with all of the other children. This is evidenced by the friendly greetings at the door in the morning with every child being addressed by name, to all of the staff consistently wearing their masks."

"From the office staff, to his amazing teachers, to the lunch crew, the indoor and outdoor playground, Senses, and much more...he loves it all."

- Kassy Wilson

Some parents also send their children to before-school care, which starts at 6:40 a.m. There's after-school care available

until 6 p.m. Pre-pandemic, parents often dropped in to see learning in action. "As a parent, being involved is really important to me," Wilson said. "The administration has always been so wonderful at welcoming me in and allowing me to volunteer at the school. Of course, the pandemic brought a stop to that, but they did everything to keep us parents updated with all the great things going on inside the school. His wonderful teacher is always updating, communicating, and posting all the fun things via their app to keep us involved with our kiddos." Deweese agreed. "As a parent, especially in the throes of a pandemic, it is difficult to trust others with the care of your child. At this point, I cannot put a price on my daughter's health or education, and I feel like both of those areas are respected while she is at Golden Bear Preschool."

Preschool is the first formal step of your child's educational journey, and Shelbyville Central Schools is excited to assist in the adventure. Enroll your child in a half-day or full-day program for the 2021-2022 school year at Golden Bear Preschool today! Scan the QR code to access the application or visit <https://preschool.shelbycs.org>.



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SCS Gets Innovative, Active in Pandemic

With safety protocols in place, Shelbyville Central Schools teachers adjusted instructional practices to excel throughout the pandemic. "My class successfully grew socially, emotionally and academically to launch into kindergarten," Golden Bear Preschool teacher Jordan Bledsoe said. "I couldn't be more proud of my class as a whole with how they adapted to changes in the classroom." The following are just some of the innovative and active lessons our students participated in over the past year.

Golden Bear Preschool

My class successfully engaged in hands-on sensory-based learning activities. By placing extra protocols on the sanitation and cleaning of our sensory table, we successfully used our sensory table all year throughout each unit of study. Preschoolers were able to explore water, soil, noodles, sand, recyclables, space, and more through intentional hands-on play-based instruction. - *Angi Elliott*

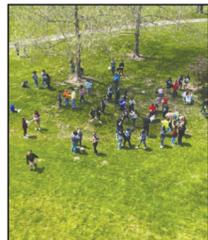


My class successfully investigated Space. We learned how to work cooperatively, as well as independently, through hands-on activities. We learned how planets rotate around the sun, as well as the many skills needed by astronauts to make repairs to their ship. We also constructed our very own classroom rocket ship. - *Judy Anspaugh*

Coulston Elementary

My class enjoyed learning about Bill Garrett as part of our Shelby County history unit with the book "Getting Open" and meeting, virtually, the author, Tom Graham. - *Micka Kincaid*

My class was able to successfully build stamina for completing longer tasks and reach their classroom goals. We celebrated goal mastery by decorating pumpkins in October and building gingerbread houses in December. We also completed a variety of STEM projects including Hour of Code, making Pasta Rovers and constructing a safe structure for The Egg Drop. - *Kristin Parker*



Hendricks Elementary

My class spent time outdoors when the weather permitted. In May, we went on a nature walk and visited the outdoor lab. We were able to walk the trail, saw various forms of plant and animal life, and collected pond water for a microscope science lesson. My students have also enjoyed reading and doing journal writing outside this year. The fresh air has been wonderful, and kids love a change of atmosphere! - *Angie Eldridge*



Although safety protocols modified our instructional practices, my class built friendships by playing games using technology, created beautiful artwork for classroom and hallway displays, sang songs to learn vowel teams and learned about measurement by having potato races. - *Teresa Titus*

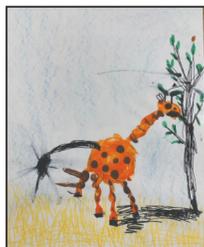
My class successfully fingerpainted after reading the book "Giraffes Can't Dance" out loud. Extra tables allowed social distancing, with only two students seated per table. Wearing my mask, I was able to pass out supplies to each student. When the students completed their fingerprint paintings, they washed their hands with soap and water. It was a great and safe learning experience for Kindergarten students! - *Eric Sutton*



Students participate in Drama Club activities at Shelbyville Middle School.

We had a special guest speaker via Google Classroom who shared his National Parks experience and answered students' questions. This fit nicely into our reading and science lessons, and though we couldn't take field trips, our guest was able to share video clips and photos that made us feel like we were experiencing just a little bit of the parks that were highlighted. We also wrote letters each month to our penpals in Frankfort, Indiana, and met our penpals "face to face" in May through Google Classroom. - *Teresa Meredith*

My class successfully investigated Space. We learned how to work cooperatively, as well as independently, through hands-on activities. We learned how planets rotate around the sun, as well as the many skills needed by astronauts to make repairs to their ship. We also constructed our very own classroom rocket ship. - *Judy Anspaugh*



Shelbyville Middle School

My class successfully used outdoor spaces for activities to connect our reading to our own lives. After reading the story of Odysseus and the Cyclops, students spread out and conducted experiments outdoors to see just how well they could do things with only one eye. They then wrote about their experiences as the Cyclops. - *Heidi McIntire*



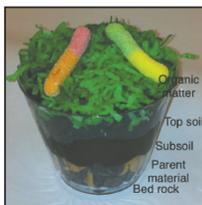
Loper Elementary

Our classes studied balancing equations to get the variable by itself. Under normal circumstances, students would practice removing pieces from one side of a physical scale to the other side to understand how to balance an equation. Since we needed to social distance and not share manipulatives, we laminated pictures of scales, making it easier to sanitize between each use. We had a class set of the laminated scales. We then organized tiles into baggies so each student had their

own manipulatives. This allowed each student to have their own set of scales and tiles at their desk to physically practice balancing the equations. Students then used their laminated scales and tiles to work on physically balancing the equations. Since the scales were laminated, students could also use their dry erase marker to work the problem out. - *Marijo Hamblen-Snow and Kim Clark*

At the beginning of the school year, I had over half of my students enrolled in our virtual/online platform. Our students/families continuously communicated via Google Meet, Zoom and by email. As we conclude this school year, the majority of my students have returned to in-person learning and are thriving. My students are anxious and excited to embark on the journey that awaits at Shelbyville High School. - *Drew Parsley*

Art students were able to successfully complete 90 percent of the usual hands-on studio projects that would have been completed in a non-covid setting. With the teamwork of both students and staff, tools and supplies were able to be disinfected before each use, enabling students to experience the traditional visual arts curriculum. - *Shanae Dees*



Shelbyville High School

My class successfully engaged in course content and collaborated using technology tools such as Google Slides and Google Docs. Students participated in writers' workshops and provided feedback electronically to improve each other's writing skills. - *Kathleen Herriott*

A group of art student volunteers from SHS completed a large mural in partnership with Leadership Shelby County during "Friends of the Fairgrounds" clean-up day at the fairgrounds. Students maintained social distancing, wore face masks, gloves, and aprons and worked in teams of two to prep and paint their mural. Check out the finished mural along walking path bathrooms near the race track. - *Sarah Thorpe*



Although safety protocols modified our instructional, rehearsal and performance practices, members of the SHS choirs were able to rehearse and create music and make in-person concerts possible for their immediate family members and closest supporters this year. All high school choirs observed CDC guidelines and music rehearsal/performance protocols at all times during the school year. Although conditions were far less than ideal, our students persevered and worked really hard to bring music to life this year. I am so proud of each and every one of my students for all the efforts they put forth this year. - *Joel Kenemore*

My class successfully utilized Google Sites to virtually collaborate with partners and create online content portfolios for European Middle Ages topic projects. - *Josh Teague*

My classes successfully engaged in many labs, like the soil lab. In this activity, students were able to independently construct samples of soil to identify the layers of the soil horizons. - *Kennedy Lawson*

Although this year was filled with unique obstacles and a lot of change, my students were still able to enjoy various socially-distanced activities. In my anatomy class, my students were tasked with creating a social media presence for a hormone to demonstrate an understanding of hormonal functions, without having to impede on schoolwide safety protocols. Afterward, we talked about their selection and we brainstormed what kind of posts this hormone would make. Just because we were distanced does not mean we sacrificed meaningful learning. - *Derek Heim*

New Fieldhouse, Weight Room Coming to SHS



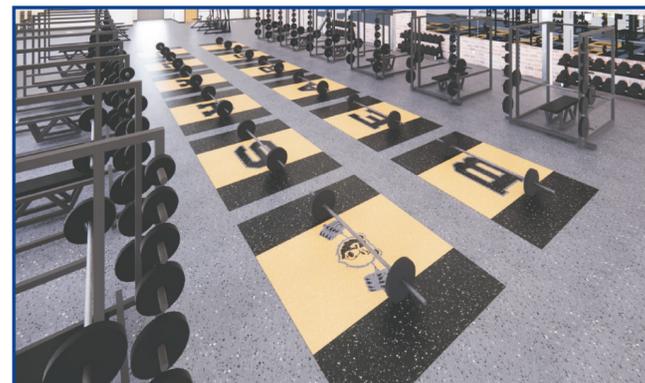
Architectural renderings depict the new fieldhouse facility to be constructed at Shelbyville High School.

News that an athletic fieldhouse will be constructed on the Shelbyville High School campus has students and staff planning the possibilities. "A lot more kids will be able to have a state-of-the-art sports performance facility," SHS teacher and Head of Sports Performance Royce Carlton said. The 8,000 square-foot structure, to be built to the west of the auxiliary gymnasium, will include a weight room that is over double the size of the current facility. The gymnasium space will offer additional amenities. "This will also benefit students, allowing more space to practice during the weekend and when there is bad weather," sophomore softball player Chyenne Eads said. Karissa Hamilton, a junior at SHS, agreed. "There are many times that junior varsity and varsity softball, baseball

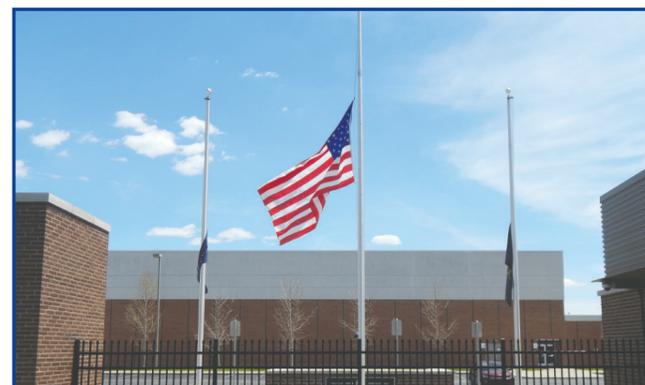
and tennis are all needing a place to practice even though we do our best to share the space," she said. "Additional space is much needed and a new fieldhouse will be beneficial for the Golden Bears to grow athletically." Just two years ago, Carlton presented to the Shelbyville Central Schools board regarding program needs. "Our current facility has been packed," he said. "The efficiency of running large classes through there

"A lot more kids will be able to have a state-of-the-art sports performance facility."

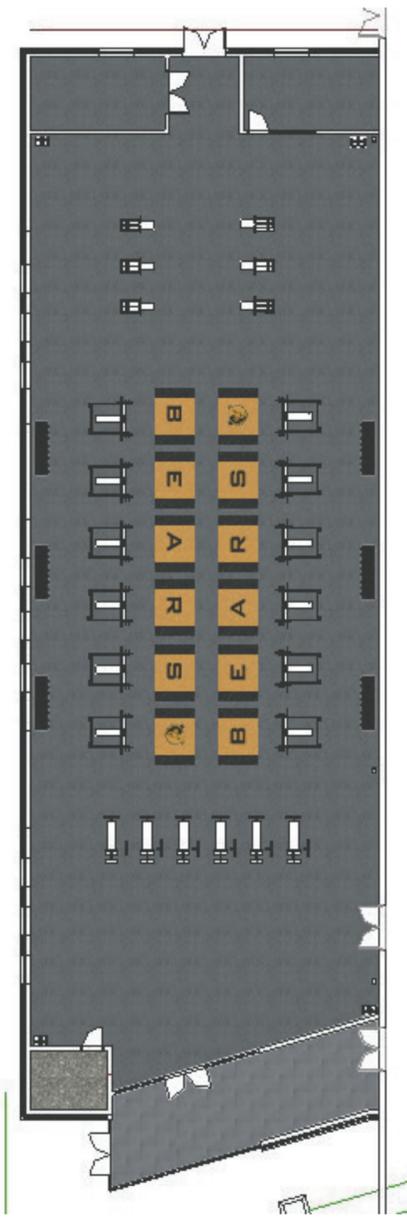
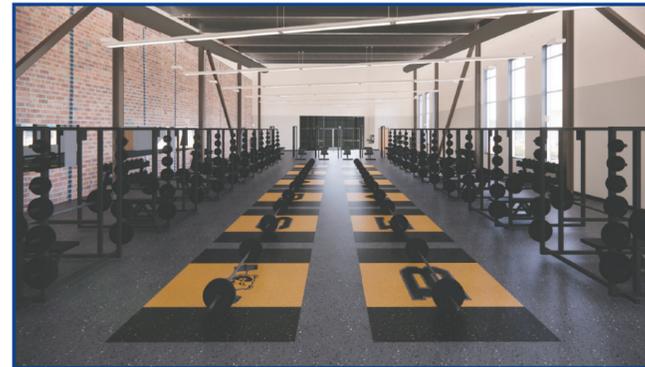
- Royce Carlton



Top and bottom photos show renderings of the weight room to be included in the new fieldhouse facility.



ABOVE: The new Shelbyville High School fieldhouse will connect to the current auxiliary gymnasium, across the parking lot from the soldiers' memorial and J.M. McKeand Stadium.



ACTIVITIES

FFA

Student Council

Quiz League

Brain Game

Drama

National Honor Society

Speech

Yearbook



Academic Teams

National Art Society



Gaming Club

Latin Club

Spanish Club

Table Top Club



Sports

Spell Bowl



Robotics

Madrigal

Le Cercle Français

Shelbyville Central Virtual School to Launch this Fall

Following months of data collection and consultation, the Shelbyville Central Schools board approved the launch of Shelbyville Virtual School, set to begin this fall. The program will build on the past year, during which a virtual option was offered through the pandemic. "It was comforting talking to the virtual teachers over the last two weeks,

in terms of what they've learned, and they have confidence that this can be successful," SCS superintendent Mary Harper said. "If we can offer a virtual option, I think we can do it better than anybody else." About 175 SCS students are successfully completing this year's virtual program. The new Kindergarten through high school Virtual School will feature op-

portunities to participate in extracurricular activities, including sports and Blue River Career Programs.

The Virtual School is for all grades, K - 12.

Andy Snow, current SCS Technology Integration Specialist, will serve as director of the Virtual School. The online learning platform Edgenuity, which follows Indiana state standards, will be

used, and some SCS teachers will continue to work outside contract hours to serve up to a maximum of 300 virtual students. "(Snow) is going to be working with teachers this summer to make sure our scope and sequence aligns totally to Edgenuity," Harper said. "When we have students that are participating in Edgenuity who for any reason want to

come back onsite, there's going to be a smooth transition when they come back."

While the Shelbyville Central Virtual School may be new, current school officials are old pros at creating a new institution.

"This is the board that started both the (Golden Bear) Preschool (in 2019) and the Virtual School," board member David Finkel noted.

Virtual School Wrap-up 2020-2021



Elementary virtual teacher Ashley Heller surprised her students on the 100th day of school.

Mrs. Heller wasn't the only one having fun virtual learning this year at Shelbyville Central elementary schools. In addition to dressing up as a 100-year-

old lady to surprise students on the 100th day of school, the class read 100-day-themed stories, danced, counted to 100 in different ways and completed themed assignments. "The

feedback that I got from students and parents that day was fantastic," Mrs. Ashley Heller said. Below are quotes from two other teachers who provided virtual instruction this year at the elementary level.

Jill Scott

"My absolute favorite moments have been my virtual class parties, when my students get to see most of the class at the same time. They are in awe that that many kids can be online at the same time, and as overwhelming as it is for

me to try to handle that many little voices, it is so sweet to see them talk to each other as friends from other schools from the small groups I have made."

Karen Hampton

"For some students, I do a small-group Google Meet for reading at 10 a.m. This has allowed me to get to know the students and them to know me, and they can actually ask questions about what we are working on, right then and there. Probably the most mem-

orable has been watching the students as they get to know each other through Google Meets. I believe that part of going to school is to learn socialization and making friends. Since I have students from all three elementary schools, it has been fun to watch them get to know each other and become friends. The Google Meets have been good for me, too, because I miss having students in my room."

Fundamentals, Teamwork Highlighted at Clinics

In lieu of a standard season, Shelbyville Central elementary schools hosted basketball clinics this year. The focus on fundamentals with the fourth- and fifth-graders paid off, coaches said.

The Hendricks Elementary boys team's initial attempts at rotating each player through a "three-man weave" drill took over 45 minutes.

"During this time, the boys would throw the ball all over the gym," coach Carmen Fansler said. "Most of the time was spent chasing balls."

But as the weeks progressed, so did their skills. Fansler even turned the previous albatross into a challenge: participants would go down the court and back without dropping the ball. Every dropped ball resulted in mandatory running.

"The last three practices, the boys were able to complete this drill in 15 minutes with no balls dropped," Fansler said. "It felt like a huge success of patience, teamwork and precise passing."

"...by the end you could really tell they were improving and getting better at those fundamental skills."

- Susan Lockridge

Coulston coach Susan Lockridge agreed. "At the beginning, they struggled with ball handling, passing, etc.; however, by the end you could really tell they were improving and getting better at those fundamental skills."

Given the pandemic, safety was the primary concern. Students wore masks when entering and leaving practice and when not running. They also sanitized their hands as they entered and exited the gyms. Although nothing compares to the thrill of in-game competition, coaches and administrators were determined to make the best of the season.

"It wasn't what any of us wanted, but it is what we had to do," Loper Elementary girls coach Teresa Meredith said. "It was very different, but in the end I think the players still had the opportunity to improve skills and to play in scrimmages."

Meredith noticed that the clinic format resulted in greater teamwork: experienced players demonstrated and improved their skills by working with those new to the sport.

"That was fun to watch, and especially rewarding when I overheard positive language and encouragement being used in 'coaching' their peers through the new experience," Meredith said. "I saw some true comradery among most of those attending."

Veteran coaches such as Hendricks Elementary's Jessica Larrison said the different format didn't

"The boys were like a cheerleading team at times, always cheering on one another."

- Carmen Fansler

preclude the usual relationship-building between players and coaches. The second-grade teacher enjoyed working with the older students.

"I love getting to see my past students, and get a refresher course each practice on what the new style is, popular songs, or even what they are doing outside of school," Larrison said. "Getting to see both age

groups lets me feel more connected to the school."

Coaches also get to play a role in the successes of each player.

One Hendricks student struggled the first week of practice after Fansler introduced layups. "He continually wanted to do a jump shot," she said. But PE teacher Bryan Brown pulled him aside one day and worked for 10 minutes one-on-one.

"The next week at practice, he was successfully doing right-handed and left-handed lay-ups," Fansler said. "The other boys on the team were super excited and celebrated. The boys were like a cheerleading team at times, always cheering on one another."

The girls were excited, too, especially when SHS girls varsity basketball coach Becca Hoefler attended some of the clinics.

"I think the girls were

shocked when they were told who she was," Loper coach Whitney Uhls said. "One of the fifth grade girls even made a comment that she was definitely going to be showing off her skills when (Coach Hoefler) came. I think Hoefler's presence made a big, positive statement."

From drills and stations to games, including knock-out, steal the bacon, sharks and minnows, and intra-squad scrimmage competitions, players quickly adjusted to the revised format. And several boys' teams adapted to a different type of coach.

"I think they were a little worried about having a female coach at first, but I showed them some skills I knew and beat them a few times in knock-out," Fansler said. "I think that showed them that I would be okay to coach them for the season."



Shelbyville Central Invests in Capital Projects



Over the next few years, numerous renovations and additions will improve Shelbyville Central Schools buildings. All projects are funded through bonds, which will not increase property taxes. The timeline below shows details on the various improvements.

2021-2022

Coulston Elementary: work to exterior walls, brick and stone capping; refurbishment of the elevator, HVAC temperature control upgrade

Hendricks Elementary: pavement repairs, additional drainage, skylight replacement, fencing, new gym risers, HVAC temperature control upgrade

Loper Elementary: work to exterior walls, brick and stone capping; HVAC temperature control upgrade

Shelbyville Middle School: all-purpose outdoor storage building, HVAC and plumbing repairs, roof/parapet wall replacement of pool area, exterior brick repair

Shelbyville High School: HVAC temperature control upgrade, boiler repair and replacement, outdoor athletic storage, outdoor band storage, flooring in weight room and auxiliary gym, HVAC upgrades in weight and wrestling rooms, replace flooring in current weight room, replace flooring in auxiliary gym, new weight room addition

Beginning 2022

Coulston Elementary and Loper Elementary: renovation
SHS & Hendricks Elementary: new HVAC systems
Shelbyville Middle School: new blackbox theater

Beginning 2024

Transportation & Technology buildings: upgrades including new heating/cooling systems
All buildings: cosmetic, athletic, safety, security and efficiency improvements

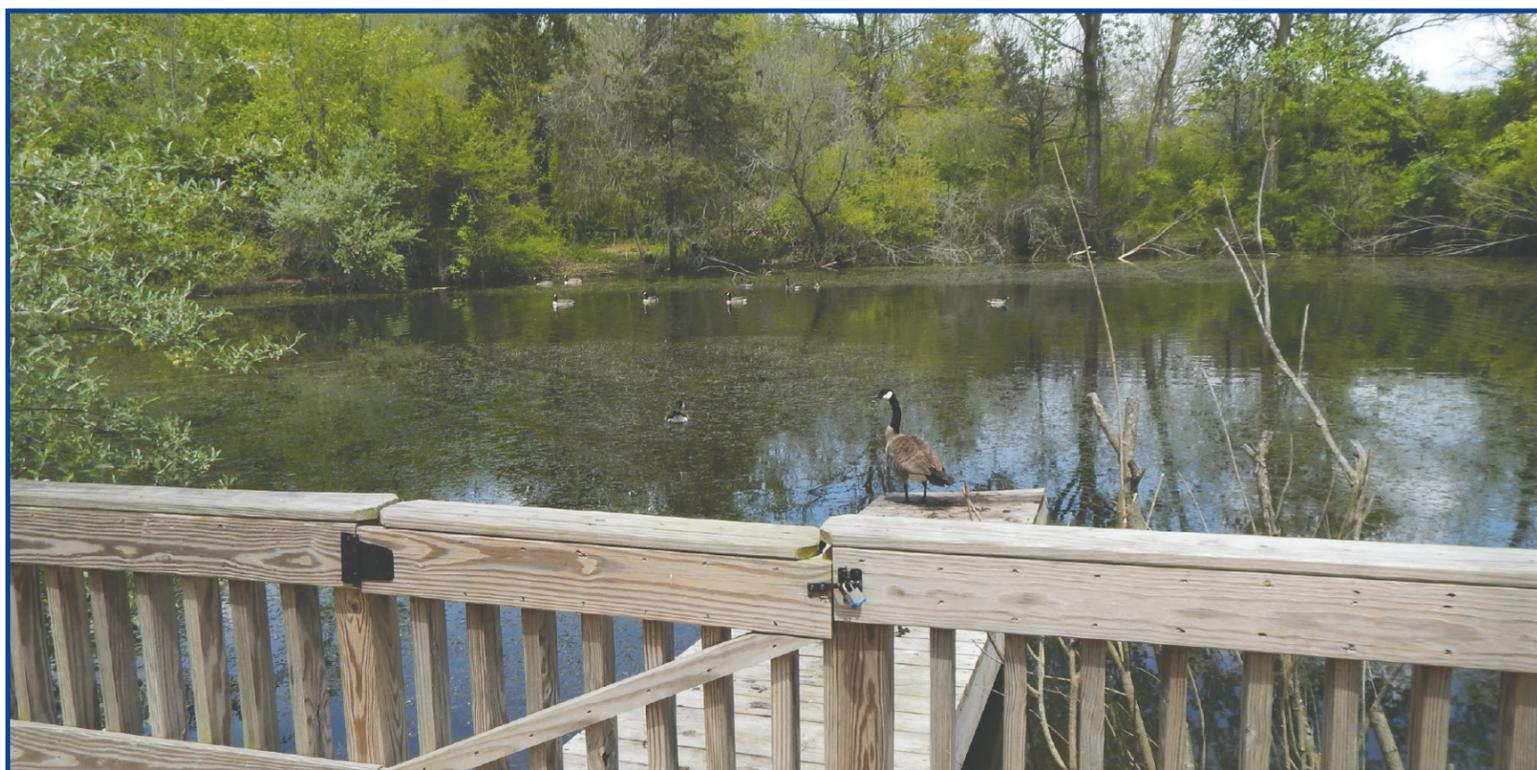


SUPPORT THE SCS FOUNDATION

The Shelbyville Central Education Foundation promotes and supports creativity, innovation and excellence in the SCS community by distributing funds not readily available through local, state and federal tax revenue. The QR code on the left links to the Foundation website. The QR code on the right links our Donate Now link through the Blue River Community Foundation. Donations should be made to the Shelbyville Central Education Foundation.



Upgrades Coming to Popular Outdoor Lab



The Ecology Lab - within walking distance of three Shelbyville Central schools - will receive additional upgrades this summer. There has already been plenty of progress over the past several years.

“We’ve mulched all the trails, built a couple of bridges and we started putting in benches with the objective of having five different classroom sites out there with enough seating for a class,” Mr. Jack Shoaf, Shelbyville High School science teacher and outdoor education lab manager, said.

An observation deck was

added to the pond within the 7-acre lab, and students have cleared out invasive species, which opened up the canopy, and planted wildflowers. A Duke Energy grant allowed for the old shed to be replaced, and construction students at Blue River Career Programs poured concrete donated by Shelby Materials for the new metal structure.

The lab is now easily accessible thanks to the mulched walking paths. The trail’s wood chips came as a donation from RushShelby Energy as they clear tree limbs out of power lines. In addition to the labor of Mr. Shoaf’s stu-

“Kids sometimes forget that they’re right in the heart of Shelbyville.”

- Mr. Paul Ashbrook

dents, various SHS teams formed a competition to see who could transport mulch in wheelbarrows the fastest.

Students from nearby Hendricks Elementary, Shelbyville Middle School and SHS regularly use the lab and pond for Language Arts observation activities and science labs, includ-

ing chemical testing of urban runoff, population studies and community ecology. The Earth Club, advised by Mr. Chris Lux, has even raised bees in the wooded area and sold the honey for a fundraiser.

Although the lab has existed for decades, it continues to be improved and used for additional educational purposes.

“Five years ago, when you opened up the gate, you couldn’t even see the water,” Mr. Shoaf said.

Today, the water and several new benches are visible from the same spot, thanks to students steadily clearing out invasive species such as

bush honeysuckle. A contractor will soon be hired to finish the job. Mr. Lux has been working on a plan to replant the area with native species. A contractor will also be hired to dredge the pond, and a grant has been submitted to install an aeration system.

It will all add to an amenity that SMS teacher Mr. Paul Ashbrook says is invaluable to students.

“It’s experiencing the joy of nature,” he said. “Kids sometimes forget that they’re right in the heart of Shelbyville.”



BECOME A GOLDEN BEAR

Students who live out-of-district and wish to transfer into Shelbyville Central Schools must complete an online application, available under the Parent tab at <https://scs.shelbycs.org> or through the QR code.



Ag Students Get Unexpected Visit



Riley Henry, Ellie Simpson, Nevaeh Hickman, Caitlyn Bellows, Miss Kennedy Lawson, Kade McNicholas, Jessica West and Joseph Maciel pose with Dr. Temple Grandin after a virtual presentation.

Introduction to Agriculture students expected to write reports on famous scientists. They did

not expect a “personal” virtual visit from the subject of their studies, Dr. Temple Grandin.

Although Grandin is autistic and could not yet speak at age four, she went on to earn her PhD and be-

come an animal behaviorist. Shelbyville High School students in Miss Kennedy Lawson’s class recently wrote papers and watched a film about Grandin’s life and work.

“To wrap up the lesson, I reached out to Dr. Grandin to see if she would be willing to do a Zoom meeting with my students; sure enough she was,” Lawson said.

The class appreciated hearing Grandin’s insights on animal behavior, humane treatment of livestock in slaughter and her personal story of surpass-

ing expectations.

“Dr. Grandin made it clear that you really can do anything you want to in life if you believe in yourself and never give up,” Lawson said. “One of her famous quotes is, ‘The most important thing people did for me was to expose me to new things.’”

Lawson’s students experienced that quote firsthand in the waning days of school this year, thanks to a virtual visit from the famous expert.