



UPCOMING DATES:

For more information consult Edline or your school calendar.

- 8/30:** Meet & Greet (9:00-10:00am)
- 9/5:** First Day of School
- 9/7:** PTG Back to School Picnic (5:00-7:00pm)
- 9/7:** Music Lesson Open House & Lesson Sign-ups (6:00-7:00pm)
- 9/11-9/14:** Leadership Retreat for 8th grade
- 9/12:** PTG Meeting @ 4:45 room 101
- 9/12-9/15:** AMC Mountain Classroom for 7th grade
- 9/18-9/22:** Ecology School for 6th grade
- 9/27:** Team Picture Day – wear your uniforms!
- 9/29:** Grandparents' Day (Registration begins at 8:30 am)
- 10/3:** Prekindergarten & Grades 1-3 Open House (6:00-7:00pm)
- 10/3:** PTG Meeting @ 4:45 room 101
- 10/4:** Open House Grades 4-8 (6:00-7:00pm)
- 10/4:** Capitol Center for the Arts Grade 3 (10:00am)
- 10/5:** School Picture Day
- 10/9:** SRS Closed *Columbus Day*
- 10/10-10/13:** Parent/Teacher Conferences K-3
- 10/14:** SSAT test date at SRS
- 10/15:** Making Strides Walk (1:00pm)
- 10/20:** Halloween Dance Grades 5-8 (7:00-10:00pm)
- 10/28:** Halloween Parade/Party – PreK-4 (9:30am)

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR:

Look for the Saplings on Chalkable each month this year posted online at www.shakerroadschool.org. A classroom will be featured with updates from special events, school trips, athletics and alumni. If you have any photos of sports or school performances that you would like to share, we would love to have a copy. Hope you enjoy the articles.

- EDITOR:** Patti Hicks
- COPY EDITOR:** Tad Curry
- PHOTOS:** Sammi Daniels
Cathy Linden

Welcome to the 2017-2018 School Year

As we turn the calendar page to August, we are excited to start another school year. Each year at SRS promises incredible growth for all students. After a rejuvenating summer, all of us at SRS return to school eager to help students reach their potential. It is always inspiring to be part of a community that cares so deeply about the academic and social growth of each child. We are grateful to work with all families, and know our success depends on positive partnerships between school and home. We look forward to working with you all this year.

In addition to our annual traditions, we have exciting plans for this year. Our community theme for 2017-2018 is health and fitness. Teachers and students will explore healthier lifestyles and we hope to bring in local experts to help us learn. The Science fair returns this year with a focus on engineering. Again, we hope to partner with local engineers to learn about this fascinating STEM area. Citizenship is an integral part of our program and mission. Each month, our school focuses on a new citizenship theme. We invite you to discuss these themes at home with your children. This year, in order from September to May, themes include responsibility; (academic) honesty; empathy & kindness; tolerance; conflict & peace; courage & self-advocacy; identity & belonging; diligence; independence & collaboration; patience.

It has been a busy summer preparing for your arrival. Back to school information can be found on Chalkable. If you do not use Chalkable frequently, please become familiar with it, as this online portal is our primary means of communication, including required school forms and report cards. Go to www.shakerroadschool.org to find easy access. Please make sure to return all required back-to-school forms. A list can be found on Chalkable. Remember to refer to the school calendar and the website for important dates. If you haven't already followed us

on social media, including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, and LinkedIn, please do so. We make updates daily to most sites.

As your summer winds down, please contact us if you have any questions about the upcoming school year. We can't wait to see you in September!

Warm regards,
Matthew Hicks
Principal

Meet and Greet Day!

Meet and Greet will be held on Wednesday morning, August 30 from 9:00—10:00AM. We have set aside this time for students to come prior to the first day of school to meet their teachers, see their classrooms, and help alleviate those first day jitters! All classrooms will be open and faculty will be available during that time for anyone wishing to stop by and say hello. Families may go directly to their child's classroom, and if you are unsure where the classrooms are located ask one of the faculty members or stop in the main office for assistance. We hope to see you there!

SEE WHO'S WHO WITH A BIRD'S EYE VIEW — GO GREAT BLUE!



100 BUILDING: MAIN OFFICE

- 100 Conference Room
- 101 Spanish (Mrs. Giberti)
- 102 Library (Mrs. Potter)
- 103 Conference Room

200 BUILDING:

- 201 Infant Room
- 201A Toddler Room
- 202C Health Center
- 203 Prekindergarten 3 (Marie Washburn)
- 204 Art (Mrs. Morrison)

300 BUILDING:

- 301 Heron's Nest (Mary Hartz)
- 302 Study Hall
- 303 First Grade (Mrs. Stewart)
- 304 Prekindergarten 4 (Frances Witte-Holland)
- 305 Kindergarten (Ms. Burgess)

400 BUILDING:

- 401 Fourth Grade (Mrs. Newbery)
- 402 Second Grade (Mr. Blazon)
- 403 Second Grade (Mrs. Daniels)
- 404 Third Grade (Mrs. LaRochelle)
- 405 Conference Room

500 BUILDING:

- 501 Fifth Grade (Mrs. Patterson)
- 502 Science (Mr. Hicks)
- 503 Auditorium
- 504 Fifth Grade (Ms. Carter)

600 BUILDING:

- 601 Sixth Grade (Mrs. Berry)
- 602 Language Arts (Mr. Curry)
- 603 Social Studies (Mr. Dow)
- 604 Conference Room
- 605 Mr. Matt's Office
- 606 Director of Student Activities/Fitness Center
- 607 Math (Ms. Raby)
- 608 Language Arts/Math (Mrs. Linden)
- 609 Technology Lab

700 BUILDING:

- 700 Music Cabin (Mrs. Minsinger)
- 701 Band Cabin

SRS PARKING PROCEDURES

In our ongoing effort to improve campus security, please make sure that you have a SRS Parking Decal for your vehicle. These decals are to identify SRS families on the campus, golf course or river fields by the maintenance and security personnel. They are placed on the lower right inside corner (passenger side) of your windshield. If you need additional decals, please see Betsy in the Main Office.



DAILY PARKING

A friendly reminder as we start the new school year, the middle school upper circle is for drop off only. Parking is only allowed in the adjacent parking spaces to the right (Lot C). Please do not leave your vehicles unattended for any time. If you wish to walk your child into the school buildings, please use Lot C. There is ample room for parking for families of students in grades Kindergarten through eighth. Lot A is for all infant, toddlers, and prekindergarten classrooms.

When using Lot B, please remember this is a one-way driveway. It is very dangerous to park along Shaker Road when dropping off your children, as many cars coming down the road may not have a clear line of sight. It is also just as convenient to park in Lot C for Kindergarten and first grade, in both the morning and afternoon. Simply follow the sidewalk to the 300 building and avoid the congestion in Lot B.

EVENT PARKING

The maintenance area parking lot is used daily for faculty and staff to allow for ample parking for parents in the morning and afternoon. During large school events, this lot is available for parking rather than parking along Shaker Road or in the active drop-off circles. These areas are to be left open for emergency vehicles.

Please observe the ONE-WAY traffic designs of ALL parking lots on campus. Additionally, be considerate of our neighbors on Shaker Road and on the West Portsmouth Street Athletic Fields, by respecting the posted 30 mph speed limits. We want to do our part to ensure the safety and comfort of those living in the neighborhoods.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Doug Hicks

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

A welcome new addition to the second grade teaching team this year is Samantha Daniels. 'Sammi' is a familiar face to most folks here on the Shaker Road School campus. She is a director of our summer program, Camp Shaker, and works in the Placement Office helping to transition our students to high school. Sammi is also a soccer coach and middle school drama director. In her spare time she enjoys coaching lacrosse and ice hockey! Sammi always brings a high level of energy and enthusiasm to her work with young children.

Sammi is a Concord native, graduating from St. Bonaventure University in 1997, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education, and Spanish. She holds Highly Qualified Teaching Certification in New Hampshire, and is a certified Elementary Education teacher. Sammi has taught Prekindergarten, Kindergarten, third, fourth, and fifth grades, as well as primary and middle school Spanish. Sammi is married with two children, Benjamin '16, and Natalie '18. We are very excited to have Sammi joining the primary teaching team this year.



The Blue Herons Sponsor Kid's Spot of Hope on October 15, 2017 Making Strides Walk



The Blue Herons of Shaker Road School will once again sponsor the Kid's Spot of Hope tent at the Making Strides, Garden of Hope. Blue Heron team members will be present to provide a simple, safe, fun experience for the youngest participants with activities and crafts. We will also continue to offer the use of our school bus to pick up walkers and survivors that need a lift along the route. If you cannot walk, please consider sponsoring one of our walkers, every little bit helps.

Each year Shaker Road School has a team participating in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in Concord. This will be our 18th year joining the thousands of individuals, community businesses and organizations raising money in the fight against breast cancer. Due to successful bake sales over the school year in the Heron's Nest, we have raised over \$700 and are currently the number one team in fundraising. Let's keep this record rolling!

We invite you to join our team again this year, to continue to help raise awareness and dollars to fight the disease. Your dedication and participation is a vital part of our success.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 15, 2017. You may sign up online today at makingstrides.acevents.org and look for our team, Blue Herons of Shaker Road. All registrations need to be entered by September 11th to receive a team shirt with our name on them. Fund raising may continue until bank days!

Please consider being part of our team in some way. Call or e-mail me at jayne.crevier@shakerroadschool.org with any questions or to register.

Thank you,

Jayne Crevier
Team Captain/Blue Herons of SRS

Grandparents' and Grandfriends Day at SRS

Over 300 grandparents and grandfriends joined the Shaker Road School community last fall, to spend a day in their grandchild's shoes. It is an exciting time for students to give their grandparents/grandfriends a tour of their school, meet their teachers and classmates, and see the classrooms. Everyone from Prekindergarten through middle school is welcome.

This annual Grandparents' Day is one of the highlights of our school year. Please mark your calendars for Grandparents' and Grandfriends' Day on September 29, 2017. Please RSVP by calling Betsy in the main office at (603) 224-0161.

Watch for more details coming soon! If you have any questions feel free to contact Patti Hicks at patricia.hicks@shakerroadschool.org. Hope to see you there!





The Heron's View Blog

The Heron's View launched last year with monthly blogs from the SRS faculty and administrators. They provide a snapshot of some of the latest news and achievements of our remarkable students and programs. Please enjoy these blogs by visiting our new website at www.shakerroadschool.org, and look under 'Life at SRS, The Heron's Blog.'

Summer "Vacation" for SRS Faculty

by SRS | Jul 18, 2017 | Main Blog, Teacher

Most of us have seen the humorous quips about teachers' energy levels by the end of the school year or the video posts on Facebook, but what happens when summer actually begins? To be honest, there is a fair amount of decompressing and enjoying the sun, but for most teachers this is balanced with the immediate planning of the school year to come.

During the summer months at SRS, the majority of the faculty continues on as tutors, camp counselors, and lifeguards. I might even challenge that the school year never really ends rather it just shifts gears to summer session. What do I mean by this? Well, let's see if I can do it justice!

June begins with the discussion of schedules, class divisions, and who will teach which classes the following school year. This is generally followed by the reworking of all decisions and beginning the process again only to go back to our original thoughts. The ground work is done! From this point, I take the wheel and lock myself into room 101. Similar to an author with writer's block, I surround myself with crumpled drafts of the middle school schedule, trying to make that final class fit like the sentence that captures the essence of a novel. Alas, if only creating the schedule was that romantic or exciting. Now that the big picture thinking is complete; there is one month remaining to account for all the details needed to have a successful year ahead.

July brings fireworks, celebrating our independence, and the cleaning out of closets! Don't get me wrong, as a teacher I enjoy a newly stocked supply room. This is also the month I become close to our textbook reps and harass colleagues with emails about creating "welcome back" letters. Finally, I turn my attention to the school calendar. You know the one with all the adorable graphics that you post on the fridge or plug into your mobile calendar alerting you about music recitals, ski days, and PTG events. Whew! A month and a half in and we're ready to present the much anticipated back to school packets.

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But wait...there is an entire month left of summer! This is when the teachers really get into gear. Lessons are planned, bulletin boards are finely crafted, and the agenda for the faculty retreat unfolds. Excitement is building and you can feel the energy radiate across campus. The countdown has officially begun towards the first day of classes. And just like that...the new school year has begun! See you in a few weeks!

Rebecca Carter, Teacher



Update from the Placement Office

The class of 2017 has undoubtedly spent part of the summer preparing for their transition to high school! After years (and in some cases, decades) at Shaker Road Schools, these students are excited about and more than prepared for a new learning environment that will challenge them and encourage them to learn and grow much like SRS did.

The process to get to this point was exactly that – a process! As they often do, last year’s eighth graders spent a good amount of time researching schools, completing applications and deciding where they would attend high school. Each year in the placement office, we meet with students and parents to help determine what the best next step for their child will be upon leaving Shaker Road School. We continue to believe that each student and family has a unique search for the “right” high school. Sometimes that school is the public high school in town or a boarding school a few hours from home. This year we reinstated SRS 9, which we had several years ago, for those students wanting to spend their ninth grade year right here at Shaker Road School before going to another school. Every year it varies dramatically but each year it is just as exciting to usher families through this journey and celebrate with families when they make their final decision!

Parents often ask us, “Where do most of the Shaker kids go to high school?” and that’s a tough question to answer! One year we had more than half of the class attend their local public high school, and then in another year we had more than half the class attend various private schools. We have found that there are no “trends” for our eighth graders or any matriculation numbers that are consistent from year to year. What we do know is that we work hard to make sure that students feel supported in their transition from Shaker Road School to high school, and that their classmates and friends support their decisions. Most importantly, we want all students to feel supported by the Placement Office, no matter where their ninth grade year takes them. Once again, we congratulate the Class of 2017 and wish them the very best as they head off to high school. We hope and expect to see their smiling faces when they return to Shaker for a visit!

Submitted by: Caitlin Connelly

Acceptance and Matriculation List

For the classes 2001-2017 Shaker Road School students were accepted at the following schools. An asterisk () denotes matriculation.*

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *American Hebrew Academy Avon Old Farms School Berkshire School *Belmont High School *Bishop Brady High School *Bow High School *Brewster Academy *Brooks School *Burr and Burton Academy Cambridge School of Weston *Canterbury School *Coe-Brown Northwood Academy *Concord Academy *Concord High School *Cushing Academy *Dana Hall School *Deerfield Academy *Derryfield School *Dublin School *Eagle Hill School *Emma Willard School Ethel Walker School *Goffstown High School *Governor’s Academy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groton Academy *Holderness School *John Stark Regional High School *Kearsarge Regional High School *Kents Hill *Kimball Union Academy *Lawrence Academy *Londonderry High School *Loomis Chaffee School *Manchester Central High School *Merrimack Valley High School *Middlesex School Milton Academy *Miss Porter’s School *Nashoba Regional High School National Sports Academy *New Hampton School *Northfield Mount Hermon School *Northwood School *Pembroke Academy *Phillips Exeter Academy *Pinkerton Academy *Plymouth Regional High School *Portsmouth Abbey School | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Proctor Academy Putney School *Sant Bani School *Shady Side Academy *Shaker Road School 9th grade (SRS 9) *St. George’s School St. Johnsbury Academy *St. Mark’s School *St. Paul’s School * St. Thomas Aquinas Stoneleigh-Burnham School *Tabor Academy Taft School The George School The Gunnery *Tilton School *Trinity High School *Walnut Hill *Weston High School *White Mountain School *Williston Northampton School *Winnisquam High School Worcester Academy |
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Guiding Our Children Through School Transitions: Elementary School

Dr. Sharon Sevier



My daughter recently sent me a picture of my granddaughter when she was two years old. Her comment under the picture was “Tears.” I totally understood her, the baby she loved and protected, the one who was so innocent and full of wonder, was about to “graduate” from kindergarten. Where does the time go? I think every parent of a school-age child wishes that they could turn back time. It’s hard to think of them leaving the nest and heading off to the school bus on that very first day. We see the kids full of smiles and excitement but behind them we see moms and dads fighting back tears. Sitting here writing this, I fast forward 12 years and see those roles exchanged, the kids fight back tears as they leave home for college while mom and dad are full of smiles and excitement knowing their kids are out of the house for a while. How perspectives change.

Parents and children deal with a number of school transitions throughout life. As parents, we want the best for our kids, and we want them to be happy, successful and fulfilled during their school life. Parents sometimes struggle with how and what to do to make this possibility more of a reality. Here are a few ideas that might keep everyone smiling.

Always, ALWAYS talk positively about going to school. Your child will zero in on your emotions and feelings like a homing pigeon headed back after a long flight. Be positive and excited for this new venture.

Learn the ropes. When your local school has parent meetings about the transition into kindergarten, attend! These opportunities will allow you to meet important school personnel, like the principal, teachers, counselor, and nurse. You will also learn about any before-school activities that may be taking place, as well as important dates.

Many elementary schools offer a “jump start” program for

incoming kindergartners. My best advice would be to make this a priority for your child to attend. These programs allow friendships to begin forming, and they give children a foundation for how school works; the types of things they’ll do each day, expected behavior, routines, etc. Find out the dates of these activities early so you can plan your vacation time around them.

Orientation activities usually occur right before school starts. Go! Orientation allows your child the chance to do things like ride the bus, find their way to their classroom, get acquainted or re-acquainted with the teacher and other children, and just generally familiarize themselves with school and the classroom.

Set a reasonable bedtime and start a “prep” routine. Being in school half or all day can be a big change for these little guys. They will be exhausted for the first few weeks. Expect crabbiness and whininess. It will pass. Making bedtime a bit earlier, especially during the transition, will be a good idea. It’s also a good idea to set a routine for getting clothing picked out and having the backpack readied each evening. Those things make the mornings much less chaotic.

Be prepared for crying. Not yours, your child’s. I’ll talk about your crying in a minute. If your child starts fussing and crying about going to school, it’s imperative that you hold firm. Of course, talk about their concerns. Address any fears calmly and reasonably. Let the school staff know that this is an issue. School counselors can work magic with situations like this; don’t hesitate to talk with them. Be firm and consistent in taking your child to school each day, regardless of whether or not they want to go. Your child has to see that you are ok with school and you are making it a priority. The teachers and staff are experienced with children who have separation issues. Leave your child when the teacher or staff person tells you to go, and trust that they will take care of things well. Honestly, they will let you know how things are progressing. Once in the car, it’s ok to shed some tears. It’s hard leaving your little one, especially if s/he is upset. Typically, these situations work themselves out, and all is well.

Questions or concerns. During the course of the school year, if you have questions or concerns, please contact the school. You want to have the right information, not rumors. Having the right information allows you to make better decisions. Be careful about listening to the stories or advice of other parents, as the needs of their child may not be like the needs of your child. Ask your questions, and don’t worry about asking questions. School personnel appreciate it when parents ask clarifying questions. It allows the school the opportunity to give correct information, and it helps to inform your decisions and/or calm your nerves. If something happens in life that may impact your child’s school life, let the teacher or school counselor know. They can be prepared to help your child through whatever may

be happening, and make school a safe and secure environment for him/her.

Homework and reading with your child. Start early in setting up a specific time and place for your child to do homework. I'd suggest it be at the same time each day and in someplace where there is no TV or other technological distractions. Your presence should be very noticeable. Let your children know that you are there if they need you but until they say there's a need, allow your children to do their work on their own. Here's what I've often told parents: "if you step in and do things for your child, the message you may be sending is this: 'honey, I love you but you are not capable.'" We want to empower our children to do things and attempt to do things on their own. If they make a mistake, it's ok. That mistake allows them to re-learn, and it teaches them that they don't have to be perfect. It's ok to make

mistakes. One other suggestion on homework is building in a time for you to read to your child and for him/her to read to you as they learn. Even if there is no homework, make reading together an evening event. Choose fun books, and make this a quality time for learning and togetherness. Reading is a critical skill, so the more practice our children get, the better.

I hope these are helpful tips for you!

About the Author: **Dr. Sharon Sevier** is a Licensed Professional Counselor in the State of Missouri, and currently serves as the Interim Director of Advocacy for the Missouri School Counselor Association. She has been in education for 40 years and likes to say "Rising kids today takes courage, honesty, and a great sense of humor. It's a great privilege to be able to work with students and families as we all navigate this great life journey."

Guiding Our Children Through School Transitions: Middle School

Dr. Sharon Sevier

Ah, middle school, the time during which every parent gains a full understanding of why some animals eat their young. Seriously, I do love middle school students. They live in a world of black and white. There's no gray. Things are either a crisis or they are nothing. I often referred to my students as my "drama and trauma kings and queens," and they earned that title every year.

My daughter is a middle school counselor, and I love talking to her about these years. She's very trendy, funny, and sassy, and the kids gravitate towards her like nobody's business. She tells it like it is with her students, and she gets away with saying things to them that their parents would not dare, for fear of having their heads bitten off.

Middle school is a time when many kids regard their parents as being "dumb," "over-protective," and "not knowing anything." When I got my Ph.D., I thought my kids (then in middle school) would be so proud of their mom. What I realized is that they thought those three letters were wrong; they thought they should be "DTD"...Dumber Than Dirt. It was tough to go through but, parents, we do get revenge. Once my kids had children of their own, I became the smartest woman on Earth!! So it does come full circle.

Here's what happens in the middle school years: our children become more and more independent. In 6th grade, it's the transition between elementary and middle school. There's a bit more coddling in their academic setting, and the students have a healthy sense of unease as they enter the social world of middle school. By the end of 6th grade, they've pretty much got it all figured out, and their social world bursts open



with wild abandon. For the next two years, they think they are standing at the mountaintop and they know it all. Mood swings are rampant, popularity becomes a curse and a blessing, body image, attire, and being cool all take precedence over anything else. So how do parents navigate these years keeping their kids safe and in check, while also keeping their sanity?

Here are a few of my favorite tips, and also a few from my daughter:

- **Stay in contact with the school, especially with the school counselor, and allow them to "be the heavy" when you're struggling to get through to your child.** I often had conversations with parents who were so frustrated because their child would not listen to them. So I offered to "be the heavy" for them. I'd call the student in and would "talk turkey" with them, saying basically what the parent had said. In fact, I

remember the day one of my students said, “you sound like my mom,” before he left. I was thinking, “Yeah, that’s because I just talked to her!”

Seriously, school counselors have different credibility in middle school than parents. We can say the exact same things that you do and the kids will listen because we’re not you! School counselors become a godsend at this age and they can be a great resource and support, but you have to talk to them and trust them. Don’t be embarrassed about telling them about family life issues. The more information the counselor has, the more s/he can help you, your child, and the teachers. School counselors are there to help. They’re not there to be in or know your business. We care about your child’s success in every facet of his/her life, and we want to be good advocates

• **Continue with the set time for homework, and stay on top of grades. Don’t wait for the teachers to contact you; you can also contact them.** Most middle schools today have an online student management system that allows parents to see their child’s progress. You can check grades, as well as attendance. I’d suggest making it a weekly event, maybe during homework time, that you sit down with your child and review what’s online in the student management system. Teachers have well over 100 students they are dealing with on a daily basis. Parents, generally, have only a couple of students they are in charge of. Parents need to stay on top of their child’s grades, and they need to contact teachers when they have questions/concerns. There is no excuse for a parent to say “I didn’t know” when so much information is readily available.

Have a specified time and place for homework each school night. Don’t accept, “I don’t have any homework.” If there is no homework, they can always review what was taught that day or they can read. You must be firm and let your child know that the homework time and place are in cement--no negotiation. When they are finished with their homework, ask to see it. I wouldn’t suggest reviewing it, but check it for completion. They have to know that you take this seriously, and you are going to be checking.

If I may, I’d like to beg and plead with you about the place for homework. Please don’t send your kids off to their rooms, armed with technology, to do homework. Have them do homework in a central place in your home where your presence is apparent. NO cell phones during homework time. They will take things much more seriously if you put some strong parameters on homework completion. They make think you are the spawn of Satan for taking their cell phone but, trust me, they’ll live through it and their work will be better quality.

• **Technology...the good, bad and ugly.** No doubt, technology is alive, well and rampant. We love it, we hate it. Our kids adore it. It’s their life line, it’s their life. My daughter, the middle school counselor, feels very strongly about middle school students having free reign with technology. She suggests that parents check the sites their kids are going to, and that means reading what’s posted there. Too often, middle school students get caught up in things they shouldn’t, and it can have disastrous

effects. You are the parent, monitor the technology! There are ways that you can block sites, monitor use, and monitor what’s being communicated. You can also cancel the cell phone. If your child isn’t using technology safely and appropriately, cancel it. It’s a tough lesson, and they will say that you are ruining their life and they hate you, but you are doing them a favor. Make them earn the privilege back. Notice what I said. It’s a privilege to have a cell phone; it’s not a right. Technology is wonderful when used for good, but it can turn into a nightmare without supervision.

• **Vary friendships.** Middle school is that time of life when kids change friends like it’s their job. Girl bullying, boy bullying, and popularity requirements are the bane of the middle school student’s existence, and of their parents’. It doesn’t happen to everyone, but it happens enough. I always strongly urge parents to identify their child’s passions and interests and get them into groups outside of school. These groups enlarge the friendship circle and, if things aren’t going well at school, there are always other people to hang out with. Church, Scouts, athletics, volunteer work, dance, and hobbies/talents all offer students a chance to grow, blossom, and be with different people. If you find your child hanging with the same kids all the time and/or afraid to do things without those people, it’s time to change things up. Having just one or two friends is a sure sign of future trouble, you just know that, at some point, they are going to cease getting along and the world will collapse. If they have other friends, outside of school, they’ll be in much better shape.

• **Don’t rescue your child from natural consequences.** Be a parent...not a friend. My sister-in-law is a character. She’s very honest and blunt, and I love it. She told me about a conversation she had with her two daughters. It went something like this, “I’m your parent, not your friend. I don’t need more friends and, if I did, I wouldn’t choose you.” I cracked up. Now, let me tell you, she loves her kids beyond belief, but she was making a point, I’m your parent! I’m not here to be your friend.

Being a parent means setting boundaries, setting rules, having expectations that stick, and allowing your child to suffer the consequences of their actions. If your child flunks a test, don’t blame the teacher. Your child should be the first one you talk to. If the teacher says your child isn’t doing homework and your child says s/he is, make them show it to you each night. If your child goes to an unacceptable website at school, and gets in trouble for it, don’t blame the school. Kids learn from their consequences. If we take away their accountability, they will never learn responsibility. It’s ok not to be the “cool mom” or the “cool dad.” “Cool” only matters if you need a sweater. It’s the “mom” and “dad” word that matters the most. Be one, and be tough! Your kids will love you for it.

Good luck with middle school! Keep your eyes and ears open, and ask for help when you need it. You are surrounded by support, and you are SMART and strong to ask for it! One last aside, I told my daughter, the middle school counselor, that I was writing this blog. I read her what I wrote about getting my Ph.D. and she said, “that’s not true! I was very proud of you.” Then she blamed her brother for being the one who thought I should have been “DTD”. Kids...

PTG Corner – What We Are All About!

Welcome to the start of another great school year at Shaker Road School. My name is Noel Chipman and I am your new PTG President. I look forward to serving in this capacity and hope to be able to continue the enjoyable, fun and educational PTG sponsored events of the past. In order to be successful we need your help as volunteers. If you do not currently get the occasional email updates from the PTG please email me at noelchipman1@gmail.com and ask to be added to the list to make sure that you are aware of upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. Together we can make this one of the best school years for SRS and for our children. Thank you!

PTG Meetings are held the 1st Tuesday of every month at 4:45pm in the office building. We discuss upcoming enrichment activities and community events. Our first meeting will be Tuesday September 12th.

DID YOU KNOW...

Volunteering and becoming involved in your child's school won't just benefit your child, his/her schoolmates and the community; it will also benefit you! There is abundant research indicating that those who volunteer more are both physically healthier and psychologically happier. Some studies have even found greater longevity amongst those who volunteer. So do yourself a favor and become involved this year!

Parent-Teacher-Group (PTG) Family Back to School Picnic

**Thursday, September 10th
from 5:00 — 7:00 PM**

The annual PTG back-to-school picnic will be on **Thursday, September 7, from 5-7PM**. Just bring your blankets, lawn chairs, and a picnic dinner and join the fun! This year the PTG is providing everyone with a special treat, DJ Rick Wisler, to entertain everyone with music and games. Cookies, water and juice will also be provided for everyone to enjoy. Hope to see everyone there!

2017-2018 PTG OFFICERS

- President:** Noel Chipman - noelchipman1@gmail.com
Co-President: Sherry Correia - Scorreia@gentexcorp.com
Treasurer: Melissa Pomeroy - melissa_pomeroy@yahoo.com
Secretary: Brooke Belanger - bc104@gmail.com
Communications: Laura Kozikowski - laura.kozikowski@gmail.com
SRS Liaison: Kim Stewart - Kim.Stewart@shakerroadschool.org

Calendar of Events

| DATE | EVENT |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| August 30, 2017 | Meet and Greet |
| September 7, 2017 | Back to School Picnic |
| September 12, 2017 | PTG Meeting at 4:45 |
| September 29, 2017 | Grandparents Day |
| September | Annual Appeal |
| October 3, 2017 | PTG Meeting at 4:45 |
| October (TBD) | Millennium Race |
| November 7, 2017 | PTG Meeting at 4:45 |
| December 5, 2017 | PTG Meeting at 4:45 |
| December 17, 2017 | Holiday Movie + Crafts |
| January 2, 2018 | PTG Meeting at 4:45 |
| February 3, 2018 | Socially Shaker |
| February 6, 2018 | PTG Meeting at 4:45 |
| February (TBD) | Pancake Breakfast |
| March 6, 2018 | PTG Meeting at 4:45 |
| April 3, 2018 | PTG Meeting at 4:45 |
| April 13, 2018 | Drama Bake Sale |
| May 1, 2018 | PTG Meeting at 4:45 |
| May 4, 2018 | Spring Barbeque |
| May (TBD) | Teacher Appreciation |
| June 5, 2018 | PTG Meeting at 4:45 |