

The Flame

Shekinah Christian School ~ Plain City, Ohio
September 2024 Volume 41/Issue 1



Fall Spiritual Retreat

Camp Crosley 8/20-8/23 2024

Administrator's Angle

by Dr. Josiah/ Luttrull MEd
Head of School



Greetings from Shekinah Christian School! We are excited to see all the things that God has in store for us in the coming months as we progress through another school year. This year, we will be utilizing our theme of “Behold Our God” to help us reflect more

deeply on who God is and how His character and actions impact us in our daily lives. We will be building on our

theme in chapels and Bible studies throughout the year to further unfold the biblical revelation of our God. Our secondary students will spend focused time in daily mentoring groups studying the various attributes or perfections of God to grow deeper in their relationships with Him. It is our prayer that each student at Shekinah would understand more of who God is and what He has created them to be. Please pray with us that this is a fruitful year of discipleship for all our faculty, staff, and students. We wait expectantly for what God has in store for us as we continue to serve Him and trust in Him!

AUGUST CHAPELS—OUR GOD WHO WAS, AND IS, AND IS TO COME

by Isaac Showalter (12th)

August 19 & 28— Dr. Luttrull

Dr. Luttrull led the first two chapels of the 2024-2025 school year. On August 19th, the students were introduced to the handbook and this year’s theme for our school, “Behold our God.” Dr. Luttrull pointed out the important points to remember in our handbook, such as the mission, vision, and core values that we hold as a school body.

On August 28th, Dr. Luttrull took the students through the third chapter of Exodus, where Moses encounters the burning bush. God said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” God explained that he wanted Moses to go to Pharaoh so that Pharaoh would let the children of Israel go. Moses asked, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘the God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘what is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” God answered, “I AM WHO I AM ... say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you.” Through



this acknowledgement of who He is, God gave His blessings and promised to give new life to the Israelites. Dr. Luttrull highlighted the importance of this scripture and illuminated what it means for us, that God has restored His blessing and His Word conveys abundant life.

CHAPELS TO BEGIN THE YEAR

by Emma McDowell (12th)

September 4 — Mr. Todd Charles



On September 4th, Mr. Charles, who teaches Phys Ed and middle school science, spoke in chapel. He talked about how God keeps His promises. Mr. Charles told the students, “This is the Word of God... You either believe it or you don’t” (referring to the Bible). Mr.

Charles shared multiple scripture passages with us. One of those passages was John 3:16-21, which tells us two promises. 1. “Whoever believes in Him shall not perish.” 2. “Whoever does not believe is condemned.” One of the main points that Mr. Charles made was “There’s nothing that we can do on our own to earn our passage into Heaven,” and that it’s “only through Jesus” that we can make it to Heaven. Mr. Charles closed chapel by sharing one last verse, Ecclesiastes 3:17 which says “I said to myself, ‘God will judge the righteous and the wicked, since there is a time for every activity and every work.’” “There is a time for every purpose under Heaven.”

September 11 — Mr. Nicholas Kallis



On September 11, Mr. Kallis, Shekinah’s secondary Bible teacher, shared with grades 6^h-12th about restoration. He shared with us three main points about the Blessing. The first one being how the Blessing was given to us, which is to have life and dominion (Genesis 1:28). Second, how the Blessing was lost due to man’s sin (Genesis 3:16). Finally, how the Blessing is restored, which is through Jesus Christ.

Mr. Kallis told us that the story of the Bible is restoration. He also shared that there is an “already but not yet” reality in redemption, saying “We’re free from the power of sin but not from the presence of sin.” Mr. Kallis closed chapel by telling the students, “One day our faith will become sight. Don’t look to broken cisterns.”

September 11 — Mrs. Jennifer Clark



Mrs. Clark, Shekinah’s K-8th grade principal, spoke to the K -5th grade students about “Who is God?” She shared with them that God is all powerful, and she read Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me” (NASB). She told the story of David and Goliath, and how David was able to defeat Goliath through the faith he had that God would give him strength. She talked to the students about how sometimes, we might be faced with our own “Goliath.” Mrs. Clark, closed chapel by sharing one of her own “Goliaths” which was cancer, at the age of ten, but how God gave her the strength to overcome it.



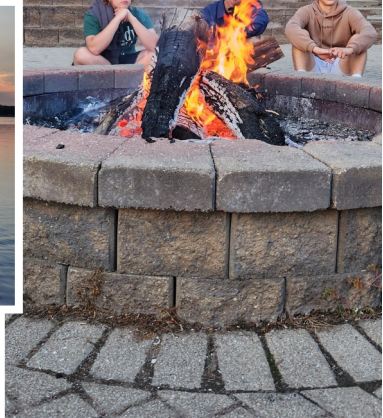
FALL SPIRITUAL RETREAT

AUGUST 20-23, 2024

by Alex Bauermeister (12th) & Joe Henson (12th)

For the first week of school, Shekinah's 6th -12th students and 20 chaperones traveled to Camp Crosley in North Webster, Indiana, where they played games and did fun activities together. They also gathered at the worship center every day to sing songs of worship with Shekinah's worship team followed by a message from Dr. Jimmy Bledsoe discussing the school's theme this year, "Behold our God." Over the week, the students, swam in the lake, rode the zipline through the forest, rode the giant swing, and did many other unique and exciting group activities.





The students were all given the opportunity to go on the giant swing pulled up by a rope by the other students in the group. When they released the rope, the swing dropped and sent them flying through the air back and forth. They swam in the lake and jumped on the inflatable obstacle course. The camp had a game room with a pool table, a foosball table, chess, carpet ball, air hockey, and ping pong. Students gathered at the dock and campfire to view the sunset at Lake Tippecanoe. They got to fly through the trees on the long zipline, barely avoiding the leaves flying by at high speeds. The students played basketball, nine-square, and gaga ball outside. It was truly a blessing that the weather was amazing throughout the week, allowing all outdoor activities to happen with no weather issues. After this week of spiritual growth and classmate bonding students were ready to begin their school year, ready to learn and grow and be lights of Christ. This is the first year Shekinah has done this retreat and many students have expressed their thoughts about how glad they were to be a part of it.

Farm Science Review 2024

by Aaron Humphries (12th)



The Farm Science Review was held September 17-19. This was third consecutive year Shekinah participated in the Farm Science Review. Throughout all three days students worked at the numerous entrances to the event, working alongside other students and Ohio State staff to manage admissions for all three days.



Tuesday: 9th and 10th Grade Students
Wednesday: 11th and 12th Grade Students
Thursday: 7th and 8th Grade Students



What is Farm Science?

Visitors and vendors come from around the country to attend the Farm Science Review. It is not only a great way to raise funds for Shekinah, but it also is a great way to spread the word about Shekinah. And above all else, it is really about spreading the love of Christ!



Enrollment Breaks a Record at 200

by Elijah Yutzy (12th)

New 2024-2025 primary students



The 2024-2025 school year has brought about many changes. One of the biggest of these is the fact that Shekinah is now home to 200 full time K-12 students. This is a 27% (43 student) increase over last year's 157 students. Of these 200 students, 30.5% (61 of them) are new to Shekinah. Breaking it down further, 34 of these new students are in grades K-5, while grades 6-12 added an additional 27 students. Shekinah also added five more part-time students, bringing the total number of part-time students up to eight. All in all, Shekinah now enrolls 208 full and part time students. This is the highest enrollment in Shekinah's history.

New 2024-2025 secondary students



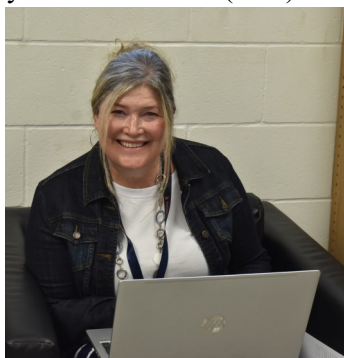
Welcome to Shekinah!

by Jacob Newman (12th)



Abbey Bechtol

Abbey Bechtol received her bachelor's degree in music with an emphasis in composition from Mount Vernon Nazarene University. She then completed her teacher certification in English Language Arts through Otterbein University, along with a student teaching placement at Dublin Coffman High School. Since 2018, she has been instructing students in piano, saxophone, clarinet, bass guitar, and voice. Mrs. Bechtol is teaching 7th & 8th grade English and also secondary music at Shekinah.



Jen Clark

Jen comes to Shekinah with 27 years of experience in the Hilliard City Schools system. She has taught grades 5, 7, and 8 and has a passion for reading and intervention support. Jen holds her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Ohio University and her master's degree in Leadership and Administration from the University of Dayton. She has been sensing God's calling on her for the past two years to pursue something different in her career, and she is excited to join us this fall as the K-8th principal.



Amy Cook

Amy has been an educator for over 20 years in both brick and mortar and virtual classrooms, and her passion is to help all students learn to love learning! She resides in the Galloway area with her husband, two daughters and dog, Lexi. She is very excited to join Shekinah this year! She will be working with our students and teachers to help every student succeed in the best way possible.



Jessica Hathaway

Jess is married with 4 kids. She lives on a mini-farm with a large flock of chickens, turkeys, more chickens and ducks. She holds a veterinary technician license and has been in veterinary medicine field for almost 30 years. She taught veterinary technology and human medical at the college level. She is a 4H Cloverbud advisor and a unit leader with American Heritage Girls. She is also very involved in her church. When she is not busy with kids and farm life, she enjoys crafting, gardening, and cake decorating.



Jessica Hirschak

Jessica Hirschak joins the Shekinah Christian staff this year as the Office Manager and Student Counselor. Jessica holds a bachelor's degree in psychology, a minor in organizational leadership, and a master's degree in mental health and marriage and family from Palm Beach Atlantic University. She is a retired licensed mental health counselor and a certified biblical counselor through the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors.



Nicholas Kallis

Nicholas grew up in central Ohio, and has spent his whole life in the state. In 2021, Nicholas received his Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies, as well as a Master of Divinity degree from Cedarville University. In addition, Nicholas met his wife, Mary, at Cedarville. They currently have two children together, Miriam, and Judah. Nicholas is passionate about helping students uncover the treasures of God's word.

Growing Pains & the Blessing of Change

by Mia Pierce (12th)

Change is ubiquitous. However, it often comes with a cost, and many people do not like change. In fact, according to some studies, 84% of people hate change with one in three people claiming to actively avoid change if at all possible. Nonetheless, change is inevitable and in order to continue growing, things must change.

Between changes in material, changes in policies and systems, and changes in the student body, change is everywhere at Shekinah.

One change here at Shekinah was the renovation of the girls' bathroom in the main building. The bathroom now has a handicap stall, a new locker area, the stalls have new doors, and new flooring.

Additionally, we welcomed a plethora of new lab equipment for the science classes like basic lab equipment, lab quests and chemicals to work with. The Honors Chemistry lab has already utilized the new lab equipment with an experiment last Thursday about chemical changes. The students were introduced with the new equipment such as lab quests which allowed for the data collected to be directly sent to the students' Chromebooks.

"It's awesome," says one senior. "We've never had this type of lab equipment before, so it's really nice."

With the new policies including the invisible cell phones rule, the distribution of new Chromebooks to grades 9-12 has helped with access to technology in the classroom.

"The addition of the Chromebooks was a very good idea," a freshman adds. "It allows students who don't have a way to access virtual assignments or see their grades from the comfort of their own home."

And, not forgetting about the elementary students, Shekinah now has new playground equipment. Rubber mats have been added in the Gaga ball pit and new swings have been added.

"The rubber flooring on the Gaga pit keeps it safer and cleaner for both the kids and teachers," remarks a student teacher's aide. "The swings are also a great new addition. They are both appealing to the eye and safer than the previous stand up swings at a regular swing level. The new equipment is great!"



Furthermore, there have been a lot of changes in the systems and policies this year. For example, Shekinah has started using FACTS-SIS in place of QuickSchools. This has been a massive shift in student management systems, especially for the teachers.

Another big change this school year was the replacement of discussion groups with mentoring groups. Instead of meeting for a class period every Thursday, students meet with their mentor groups every morning besides Wednesdays for fifteen minutes to start the day, and instead of being grouped by grade level, it is a mix among classes. The purpose of mentoring groups is to be more intentional about the incorporation of Scripture learning in intentionally constructed groups to learn uniform material about



our theme for the year, "Behold Our God." "It's been a really great friend group to have and a good way to start the day," a senior commented.

A grievance that some students have is the requirement to take finals even if you have an "A" in the class. "I actually like it because it shows how much you really know since you can't cram for it," admitted a junior.

Among the policies is also the "invisible phone" rule. The rule is that phones must be invisible or unseen from the hours of 8:15 to 3:15 while school is in session. Failure to do so results in disciplinary action and demerits. "I personally like it," says a freshman. "It means people actually talk and socialize."

While the growth in numbers alone is a major change, this isn't the only change that students have noticed in Shekinah.

When asked what they thought the biggest change was about Shekinah, one student said, "Growth. Growth in numbers and growth in spirituality; more focused in on the Bible and who God is and His infinite character."

With such an immense amount of growth and changes happening, there're bound to be some challenges along the way. As one student said, "There's a lot of new faces." Nonetheless, we are able to take these challenges and changes with an open heart to see what the future of Shekinah holds.

When one student was asked to comment on what they hope to see Shekinah do, they said, "I want them to still keep the importance of community as they get bigger and do everything for the glory of Christ."



Fall Sports Kickoff

by Max Kilzer (12th)

volleyball

The girls' varsity volleyball team has had a terrific start with, so far, a 7-4 record. Team captain, Nava Showalter, said, "So far the season has been great! It's been super fun to bond with all my teammates and learn ways to encourage each other individually. We're expecting great things for the rest of the season."

JV girls volleyball is on a roll with a 75% win percentage to start the season. Elaina Kosik says, "We have good team chemistry and we

connect really well, no toxicity. All the girls are fun to play with. It's always a good time!"

Middle school volleyball is crushing the competition! Sophia Nofziger stated, "We won eight games and have lost one!" She is confident they will win the MOCAL conference title. Cecilia Eichorn says, "All the girls work really hard. It's fun to get to know the younger girls."



Shekinah Christian's golf team is doing solidly as they approach the middle/end of the golfing season. Junior, Jayce Yoder says "We have struggled at times, but personally, I've had a great time and have enjoyed the team atmosphere. We're 3-8 but are starting to pick it up. Every day is a new day, every hole is a new hole." Go Flames!

GOLF



Student of the Month

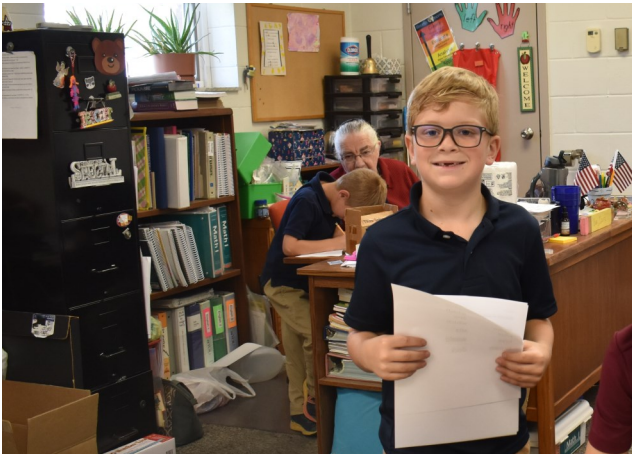


Judah M.—Secondary Student of the Month

Freshman, Judah M. was nominated by classmates as the September Student of the Month in grades 6-12.

Judah was nominated “because of his kindness and because of his outstanding respect.” Judah stands out as a person of character and integrity. One person said “Judah is funny.”

Congratulations, Judah!



Ryker M. —Elementary Student of the Month

A first grade student, Ryker M. was nominated by classmates as the September Student of the Month in grades K-5.

“Ryker is always a team player and friend to those around him. He has a great attitude and is continuously helping the student that sits next to him in class. He is an all-around great kid!

Congratulations, Ryker!

STUDENT VALUES

Responsibility, Kindness, Excellence, Respect, Persistence, Integrity, Team Player, Empathy, and Commitment

These are some of the values the students in the School Publications Class want to recognize each month. Students can drop their nominations into the blue bucket in the cafeteria. Besides naming a student from grades 6-12 and one from grades K-5, students need to write why they are nominating the person(s) they name.

Alumni News and Notes

Weddings:

Kelsey Beachy ‘20 and Collin Baschnagel married June 22, 2024.

Maddi Miller ‘18 and Alex Stutzman married August 3, 2024.

Births:

Matthew and **Michelle (Yoder) Maust ‘16**;
Autumn Anaia born May 3, 2024; second child, second daughter.

Justin and **Stacy (Troyer) Conner ‘09**; Lainey Sue born June 9, 2024; third child, first daughter.

Alex and **Kiara (Rohrer) Downing ‘16**; Liam Alexander born June 12, 2024; first child, first son.

Brad and Kaylan (Guzman) **Schauer ‘08**; Nia Nichole born June 13 2024; second child, first daughter.

Grady and **Kirstin (Yutzy) Niyonkuru ‘11**; Rio Lee born June 29, 2024; second child, second son.

Brock and Katie (Chrysler) **Yutzy ‘13**; Austin Tyler born August 4, 2024; third child, second son.

John Michael ‘18 and **Hannah (Headlee) Hershberger ‘18**; John Baylor born August 29, 2024; first child, first son.

Mark your calendars.....

September

26-27—NO SCHOOL: Teachers' PD

October

14—Fall CCP Informational Meeting

14—OHSAA Volleyball tournaments begin

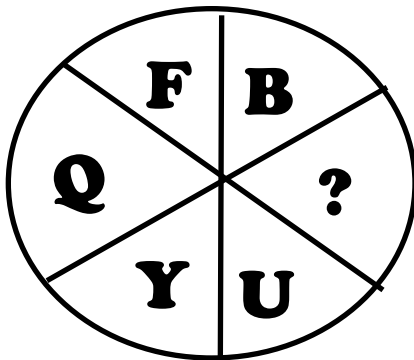
18—12:30 Dismissal End of 1st Quarter

24-25—NO SCHOOL Fall Break

29—PSAT for 9th-11th grade students

September Challenge

What is the missing letter? Text or call your correct answer to 614-873-3143 to be put in a drawing for a free 2024 yearbook.



**The Student Activity Booster Club
would like to thank our Sponsors
for their generous support!**

GOLD

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