

SHEKINAH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

THE FLAME

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VOL.
43

The First Days of the 2026-2027 school year have been off to a great start! Shekinah has welcomed many new staff members and teachers. Meanwhile, the students are getting used to their classrooms and new schedules. So far, we've kicked off this year with our Secondary Spiritual Retreat, first chapels, Farm Science Review, volleyball, and golf seasons, and lots of learning.

We're looking forward to all God has in store for this new school year!

You can also stay connected with us through Facebook and Instagram
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{Verse of the Year}

Ephesians: 1:3-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him.

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Dean's Digest

***"In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believe in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."
(Ephesians 1:13-14)***

The theme chosen by the Seniors for the 2026-2027 school year was "for his glory." This theme serves as a natural bridge from last year's theme, "into his image." God's great work in the Christian life of making us more like Christ is all to the praise of his glory, and the pursuit of Christlikeness is the pursuit of a life that is lived more faithfully for his glory. The theme verse comes from Ephesians 1:3- 14, where Paul lays out the drama of God's work in Christ, past, present, and future, to bring all things under the rule and reign of Christ. Throughout this passage, Paul repeats the refrain, "to the praise of his glory" (Eph 1:6, 12, 14). This helps us to understand that the central theme of the Bible is the glory of God. As a school this year, we are exploring the Gospel story under that great theme, and what it means for how we relate to God and others. We are exploring this theme through retreat, chapels, mentoring, Bible memory, and countless daily interactions. I invite you to pray for us this year as we explore this theme, namely, that God would develop us as disciples who live, to an ever-greater extent, for his glory.

-Mr.Kallis



Mr. Kallis has been teaching at Shekinah for three years. This is his first year as Dean of Students. He is married to Mary, and they have three children. He serves as an elder at Oikos Community Church in Galloway, Ohio.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEW STUDENTS by Benji Wanty



Chess Bailey says she loves Shekinah and that its super fun. She loves hanging out with friends, riding horses, and playing basketball. Something that she's excited for this year is her basketball season. Someone who made her feel welcome here at Shekinah is Charlee Hill. A fun fact about Chess is that one of her cousins got drafted in the NFL.



Justin Miller really likes Shekinah so far. He is excited for his upcoming basketball season. Justin likes to go fishing and playing basketball. A goal for this year is to get good grades. Some people that made him feel welcome here at Shekinah is Trevor Beachy and Preston Powell.



Carston says he likes Shekinah so far and that it's pretty good. He also says that he's excited to play sports like basketball and baseball. A goal that Carston has for this year is getting on the honor roll and getting good grades. Carston enjoys playing sports, video games, and hanging out with friends. Some people who made him feel welcome at Shekinah would be Trevor and Jaxon .



Julie is a first-year student at Shekinah who came from classical homeschooling. She says she really likes Shekinah. Julie likes drawing, watching movies, and swimming, and likes taking walks. One of Julie's goals for this year is to get good grades. A person who has made her feel welcome here at Shekinah is Hunttyr . An interesting fact about Julie is that she learned Latin.



Elle Hanna says that she likes Shekinah, saying that here at Shekinah they are a lot nicer than in her old school. Elle says that she is excited to become closer with friends. She really likes acting, singing, and writing. Elle says that her goals for this year include getting a good acting job. Gwen and Aria have made Elle feel really welcome. An interesting fact about Elle is that she's an actress, and she has been in a couple of commercials and is set to be in more upcoming model jobs.



Kae'Lynn says that she likes Shekinah. She says that she's really excited for the Washington, D.C. trip, and that she's happy that she's improving in her math skills. Kae'Lynn likes art and basketball. A new hobby of hers is sing. Some people who have made her feel welcome in Shekinah are Gwen, Mary, Harper, Aria, and Shiloh. An interesting fact about Kae'Lynn is that she is a very picky eater.



Finn Bailey says that Shekinah is amazing and remarked that he likes how everyone knows each other. He also said that he's excited for basketball and baseball season, and he's excited for many upcoming school events. Finn likes to play video games and collect Pokémon cards, and also hang out with friends. His goals for this year are to get straight A's. For Finn, the person who made him feel most welcome in school is K.J. A fun fact about Finn is that he can solve a Rubik's Cube.



Jacob says that he likes school. Jacob is excited to meet new friends and become better friends with old friends. He likes to play video games and to play basketball, football, and sometimes baseball. Jacob's goal for this year is to get better at English. The people that made him feel welcome at Shekinah are Maverick and Jacoby. An interesting fact about Jacob is that his great-grandparents used to live in Germany.



Sami really likes Shekinah so far, saying that it's really fun. She's excited to be able to see friends all the time and be with all of the new friends she made. Sami enjoys playing with her dog and playing the piano. A goal that Sami has for this year is getting good grades and making good memories. A person who made Sami feel welcome is Nancy Yoder. An interesting fact about Sami is that she can do a roundoff.



Seth says that he feels good about Shekinah, and people are nice here. Seth is excited for band and basketball. He enjoys playing football in his free time and hanging out with friends. A person who made Seth feel welcome is Kade Schlabach. An interesting fact about Seth is that he was born in Africa.

New Elementary Students

by: Leah Newman



Here's a first look at getting to know our new elementary students! Each kid who was interviewed was full of excitement and wonderful things to say about their new teachers, friends, and classes. In our 2nd grade class, we welcome Lillian King and James Byars; in our 3rd grade class, Benjamin Yutzy and Avery Yoder; and in our 5th grade class, Adeline King, Faith Yoder, Olivia Yoder, and Henry Yutzy. Here are a few fun facts and quotes about all of our new students:

Student Interviews:

- One thing Lilian is excited for at Shekinah is art classes! Her hobbies are playing with her dog, singing, and playing basketball.

- In response to her hobbies, Adeline said: "I'm really good at art, just like my dad. I like to paint flowers and horses."
- Some of Faith's hobbies are taking care of animals, reading, and playing piano.
- Henry's response to liking Shekinah was: "Shekinah's pretty good, and a lot better than my old school."

"People who made me feel welcome were Everest and Boaz; they were really kind to me."

-James B

- Benjamin likes to play with his stuffies and practice basketball. His favorite part of Shekinah is indoor recess! His goal this year is to master multiplication so he can move on to division.

"Mariah and Quinn B made me feel really welcome because they asked to sit with me on the first day of school." -Avery

"My mom runs a home bakery, which is super fun since I get to taste-test everything." -Olivia



The Class of 2039

by Cara Dobey



The youngest students at Shekinah, our kindergarten class, are the Class of 2039! There are 16 of them, cared for by their loving, faithful teacher, Mrs. Yutzy. I have the very fun privilege of being their teacher's aide this year, and it has been one of my favorite parts of my day, getting to spend time with them.

During one of my teacher's aide classes, I got to interview several of them. I enjoyed hearing what they had to say, and here are some of their answers:



- Isabella said: Her favorite color is purple, she's 5 years old, when she grows up she wants to be a ballerina teacher, and she loves playing capture the princess with her friends at recess.
- Irrelyn says: Her full name is Irrelyn Grace Conner, her favorite color is pink, and her birthday is March 22, 2020. She wants to be a mail person who delivers Bibles when she grows up. She's excited for store day in kindergarten and loves playing with friends.
- Charlotte: Full name is Charlotte Phillips; she's 5 years old; her birthday is March 16th. Her favorite color is pink; when she grows up, she wants to be a doctor. She loves riding bike with friends.
- Luca: Luca, 6 yrs, fav color blue and red, wants to be a fire truck guy, loves recess and playing capture the princess.
- Jack: He's 6 years old, his favorite color is teal, loves playing with his friends, and wants to be a farmer when he grows up.
- When they grow up, Brandon said he wants to be a cowboy, and Evelynnn wants to be both a dolphin and horse trainer.

Seniors' Retreat

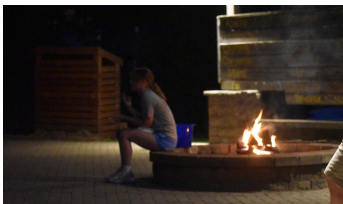
By: Leah Newman

The seniors kicked off their retreat week with a special day just for their class. They all enjoyed bonding with each other and having a peaceful day with just the seniors. Most of the seniors' favorite activities that day were tubing, getting served at Pizza King, and going swimming. When considering this as their last retreat, the seniors said they would really miss having time off from school while still being with the student body. In their interviews, they said:



Their responses:

Senior girls Cara and Lydia got opportunities to share their testimonies on Thursday night, with Lydia sharing: "What the devil intended for evil, God can use for good." And Cara saying it was a really good way that she could step out of her comfort zone and minister to other students who were also struggling.



A piece of advice from Marly is don't be scared to put yourself out there and make new friends, since her favorite part of the retreat was getting to know people she didn't before.



Dakotas favorite part of the retreat was Mr. Kallis letting them "sneak out" on Thursday night.



One piece of advice from David G. is that learning does not always come from the sessions; you can learn a lot from playing and talking with other people.

"It's very refreshing, and I miss the experience altogether." -Lydia



"I really liked how Corey DiCaro talked a lot about the emphasis on leadership. That we should be leading by example, and our heart posture should be in the right place."

~Quintin



Fall Retreat

By Benji Wanty

During the first week of school, the 6th through 12th grade students went all the way up to Camp Crossley YMCA in Indiana. Students enjoyed several fun activities such as high tower climbing, swimming, obstacle courses, ziplining, game room and the giant swing.



Four times over the retreat, all of the students and teachers met for worship, led by the Shekinah student worship team and Mr. Nord, and chapel led by Luke Brittan, where he spoke about the main theme: “For His Glory.” On Thursday night, all of the students met in the pit to hear testimonies led by Lydia Masula and Cara Dobey. After that, the whole school had a campfire, and we ended the night with the seniors helping students make s’mores.



student retreat perspectives

Broden Crawford says that his favorite part of retreat was being with friends and doing the obstacle course. His classmate, Sophia Nofziger, says one of her favorite parts was playing Upset the Fruit Basket. In middle school, Charli Hutson says that one of her favorite parts of retreat was going out late at night trying to scare other cabins, while friends Andrew Miller and Trevor Beachy say that they loved the game room.



September Chapel



Nicholas Kallis

On Wednesday, September 2nd, **Nicholas Kallis** was our all-school chapel speaker. We looked at the comparison and contrast between Saul and David in 1 Samuel 28-30. Both Saul and David found themselves in situations where they were "greatly distressed." Saul, however, chose to turn to that which was forbidden in his time of need. David, instead, chose to turn to God. The text says, "But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God." We see Jesus in the garden, in his time of distress, doing the same thing. I encouraged the school to follow David and David's son, Jesus, in turning to God in times of distress. At the end, I encouraged us to strengthen ourselves specifically in the love of Christ.

On Wednesday, September 9th, **Jeremy Miller** was the secondary's chapel speaker. He talked about 1 Peter 2, persecuted Christians are given instructions about how we are to suffer. In several verses throughout 1 Peter, suffering Christians are told they are blessed if they do suffer for the sake of Christ. The message encouraged Shekinah students to be willing to be courageous for Christ, embracing suffering as Jesus did.



Jeremy Miller



Kendall Yoder

On Wednesday, September 16th, **Kendall Yoder** was the secondary's chapel speaker. He shared parts of his testimony, pointing to the need to surround yourself with godly mentors. Over his life, mentors have helped him to remain strong in his faith despite grief and struggle. He challenged students to remain faithful and embrace godly community.

On Wednesday, September 23, **Anthony Conte** was the secondary chapel speaker. Anthony used two Old Testament stories to point to the idea that God sees us and God hears us. In Genesis 16, when Hagar ran away from Sarai, God sees and hears her, and she gives Him the name El-roi, the God who sees. In 2 Kings, Hezekiah trusts God to deliver Israel from the Assyrians, and God sees, hears, and rescues him. Anthony challenged students to trust God in difficult circumstances and remember that He sees and hears us, and, as people of God, to see and hear others in their pain and struggles.



Anthony Conte



Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Raines led the elementary chapel. On September 9th, Mrs. Clark talked, focusing on their Bible memory verse, Ephesians 1:13-14. She talked about our theme, For His Glory, what it means, and how Glory is the theme of the Bible. On September 16th, Mrs. Raines talked and focused on 1 Corinthians 10: 31. She stated that we do not need to be pastors or missionaries to do God's glory. Instead, whatever we do, we all can do it for the Glory of God. Then she asked students to come forward and represent different occupations: doctor/nurse, teacher, construction, firefighter, police officer. Then students used a flashlight and projected the light toward the ceiling to show how they are a light for God's Glory.

by: Natalie Wurschmidt

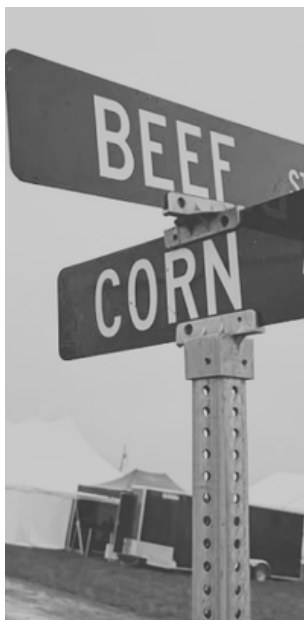
2026 Farm Science Review

By: Sara Sensenig

For the past five years the secondary Shekinah students have volunteered at Farm Science Review, held at the Molly Caren Agricultural Center in London, OH. Students worked at entrance gates labeled from A-O. They took and scanned entrance tickets to raise money for the Athletic department. The \$5,575 raised will help buy new uniforms and equipment for Shekinah sports teams.



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



The weather at Farm Science was very chilly contrasting to the last few years. Sophia Beachy (8th) said it was so cold she started singing Christmas songs. When David Gingerich (12th) got stuck in the mud, some kind people helped get him out. Hadley Price (9th) really enjoyed meeting and helping new people. Students had fun walking around and seeing cool stuff.



FALL SPORTS KICKOFF

BY CECILIA EICHORN



The volleyball season at Shekinah is starting out strong 1 JV loss and Varsity losses. When asked what they would like to work on and what their expectations are for this season, JV captains, Stella Kosik and Kate Helmuth said that they would like to focus on team dynamics with new players, and playing for the glory of God. The JV is most looking forward to games with competitions like Adena and Tree of Life. Varsity is also looking forward to games where they really have to fight for a win like London and Tree of Life. JV has a lot of upcoming freshmen this year and they said that this gave the team an opportunity to change how they played the game. They are focused on a more fast paced game than they have played in the last few years. Varsity is focused on a fast paced game as well and really growing players in the back row. Underclassmen Sara Sensenig says that as a freshman she feels like the team has been really welcoming and that the upperclassmen go out of their way to help them have a good first high school experience. The volleyball teams both look forward to the rest of their seasons and hope to learn and grow even more as a team as the season goes on!

The golf season has wrapped up at Shekinah, but looking back, the team has shown great growth and player improvement. Michael Miller said that he has had a lot of fun this year by growing friendships and improving his stroke by 20. He enjoyed playing with some of his best friends Ian and Brody. His favorite course to play at was Darby creek and some of his favorite matches were against Tree of Life and Granville. Over all the team had a great time this season and are looking forward to next golf season.



On September 17 against Genoa Christian, two of our senior volleyball captains hit some incredible career stat milestones! Eleya Beachy has surpassed 1000 digs, and Marly reached her 1000th kill AND 1000 digs all in the same game! Congratulations to our seniors on these huge accomplishments!



Alumni News and Notes

Births:

Angel and Sydney (Spires) Arauz '16;
Olina Rose born June 6, 2026; second
child, second daughter.

Drew and Carrie (Miller) Beitzel '11;

Margaret Susan (Molly) on June 27, 2026;
fourth child, second daughter.

Blake '11 and Mali (Dawson) Miller;

Ivan David on August 21, 2026; first child,
first son.

Marriages:

Joshua Spain of Dublin, OH married

Linette Shetler '08 (staff '13-'17;
'19-present) of Plain City, OH on
May 31, 2026.

Arthur Lyndaker '90 of Battleground,

Washington and Janelle Sullivan of
Battleground, Washington on July 3, 2026.

Connor Slabaugh '22 of West Jefferson, OH

married Hannah Pinkham-Gilbert of Dover,
Delaware on August 8, 2026.

Wyatt Helmuth '23 of Plain City, OH married

Karena Stoltzfus of Lewisburg, PA on
September 12, 2026.

Attention Alumni!

We'd love to hear from you. Please send updates about your lives to driskill@shekinahchristian.org. Tell us about births, weddings, new jobs, promotions, ministry opportunities, or anything else you'd like to share. We look forward to your responses!



The board would like to better communicate with the SCS constituency. The following agenda items offer a glimpse of recent board discussions.

August/September

- We reviewed SCS finances and continue to be on track with the budget for this year.
- We authorized the purchase of an additional 12 passenger van. We hope this facilitates simpler logistics for SCS families.
- We continue to work at filling vacant board seats.
- Mr. Riley reported on updated security measures and procedures at SCS. The board and administration agreed to additional student safety measures as SCS leadership seeks to provide a safe environment for students, staff, and faculty.
- Mr. Riley led a discussion on career planning programming at SCS. There is a desire to ensure SCS students are able to lead productive lives following graduation from SCS.

Next Meeting: October 13

Contact us at:

schoolboard@shekinahchristian.org

Mark Your Calendars.....

October

6 - Picture Retakes
16 - End of 1st Quarter
16 - PSAT
21- No School Teacher In-Service
22-23 - Fall Break

November

23-27 - Thanksgiving Break

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September Challenge:

Our athletic department won its very first MOCAL tournament championship title in 2017. Which sports team brought home the trophy, and who was the head coach?

Text: 606-568-6156 if you think you've got the answer!

THE STUDENT ACTIVITY BOOSTER CLUB

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for their generous support!

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SILVER

Cooley Custom Cabinet, Integrity Door Sales
Lyon & Sons Body Shop, Purdy Farms
Rosedale Bible College, Smiles to Love

BRONZE

Yutzy Pastures

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* Student Editors: Cara Dobey, Cecilia Eichorn, Leah Newman, Sara Sensenig, Benji Wanty, Natalie Wurschmidt

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