

SHEKINAH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

THE FLAME

May 2026 Volume 42/Issue 9

The Class of 2026



Photo Credit: mandilynn captured.com

Shekinah's 47th annual graduation ceremony took place on May 22, 2026, at Shiloh Mennonite Church. The 18 members of the Class of 2026 bring the total number of graduates to 477. This year's graduating class broke the record size for a graduating class at Shekinah. The previous record of 17 was held by the classes of 2011, 2016 and 2023, and 2024. Our commencement speaker was Mr. Nicholas Kallis. Before the commencement address, the Shekinah seniors led in worship. Following the address, Valedictorian, Abigail De Telder, and Salutatorian, Austin Helmuth, each gave speeches filled with memories from their school years. The 2025 Student of the Year, Max Kilzer, presented the award to the 2026 Student of the Year, Austin Helmuth. Haylee Beachy received the Arnold Shetler Character Award. After the presentation of the diplomas, the Shekinah Choir sang "The Lord Bless You and Keep You." Class President, Graci Higgins, then presented a class gift of remaining senior funds for facilities improvements. Anthony Conte prayed a prayer of blessing, and Jayce Yoder presented the Class of 2026.

(Read more about the graduates on pages 8-10.)

Closing Another Chapter...

Shekinah Families, Staff, Community, and Alumni,



Dr. Luttrull, EdD
Head of School



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The 2025–26 school year began in August and has now come to a close. It is amazing how quickly the years pass as our children continue to grow older. As we reflect on this school year, we do so with deep gratitude to God for allowing us another year to disciple

As staff, students, and families gathered for the senior clap out, Dr. Luttrull said it best: they are walking out of Shekinah’s doors transformed and ready to impact and serve their communities.

As we reflect on this year, our hearts are filled with both celebration and gratitude for all God has done at Shekinah. First, we would like to recognize our teachers and staff. Their hard work, love, and commitment do not go unnoticed. The endless hours they pour into our students — preparing lessons, assessing growth, communicating with parents, doctoring wounds, wiping tears, praying, and encouraging — are the reason Shekinah is both a light to our students and a home away from home. Thanks to their faithful dedication, we celebrated remarkable spiritual and academic growth among our students.

We are also grateful for our families and supporters who partner with us each day. Your prayers, encouragement, volunteer hours, and financial support help make Christian education possible. Together, we continue to build a community centered on Christ and committed to raising the next generation to know, love, and serve Him.

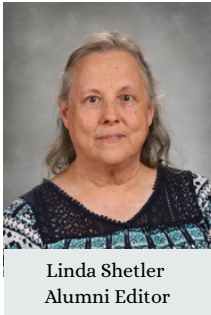
While our kindergarteners were just beginning their journey, we also celebrated our seniors as they prepared to exit Shekinah’s doors into the next chapter God has for them. It’s amazing to think that not long ago they were kindergartners walking through Shekinah’s doors for the first time, holding their Bibles ready to learn God’s Word. Now thirteen years later, they leave prepared to follow and fulfill Shekinah’s mission- to glorify Christ and impact their community.

As we look ahead to next school year, we are excited to see how God will continue to work through Shekinah Christian School. We pray that our students will continue to grow academically, spiritually, and emotionally as they seek to become more like Christ each day. Thank you for being part of the Shekinah family. We pray you have a restful and blessed summer filled with God’s peace, joy, and protection.

In Christ,
Dr. Luttrull, Head of School
Mrs. Clark, Principal



The Pain & Joy of Beginnings & Endings



Linda Shetler
Alumni Editor

In August of 1981, I arrived in Plain City, Ohio. With two years of teaching experience in Kalona, Iowa, and an invitation to teach at Shekinah just beginning its fourth year. This was the beginning of what became an adventure of a lifetime at Shekinah.

My title was “Miss Miller” that first year but changed to “Mrs. Shetler” over the summer. This year concludes my 38th year of employment at Shekinah, and Shekinah just ended its 48th year. Ending my time at Shekinah has caused me to reflect on how much dedication and combined effort has been poured into the school’s existence and operation through the years. I am so grateful for the sacrificial efforts of the founders of this school. These are people who still care about Shekinah and are invested in the school’s progress. For years, the motto of the school from Psalm 16:11, “...In Thy Presence Is Fullness of Joy,” hung in the front entrance. People who have come through the doors of the school have often commented about the peaceful, joyful, atmosphere at Shekinah.

When I attended my first Shekinah Festival, I was amazed by the parents, grandparents and entire community who worked together on committees all year long to put on this one-day event the second Saturday in September. The Festival at its peak was a place to come for plane rides, buggy rides, a quilt auction, homemade ice cream and apple dumplings, plus a multitude of pies, cookies and bread. It was a homecoming of sorts where one could expect to meet up with graduates and friends from afar. The Festival was an incredible amount of work, and yet was a unifying community event.

I had multiple roles at Shekinah that overlapped with teaching. For 21 of those 38 years, I was also the school custodian with my husband’s and four children’s help (when they were old enough). We couldn’t have done it without the help of parents. Every parent helped once a year to clean the entire building thoroughly in one Saturday morning. This biannual cleaning took place the end of the summer

and in the spring, and parents could choose which time they wanted to help. The Festival and school cleanings were just two examples of the ways everyone worked together.

I remember when the first newsletter ended up in the office waste basket, but we kept working at it. Initially, administrative assistants did the bulk of the layout and printing with copies going to current families. Students began helping, and we began sending *The Flame* to alumni. In 2015, The School Publications Class became a reality, and students were graded and earned a .5 credit for designing the annual yearbook and the monthly newsletter. This May issue is the ninth of Volume 42. The Flame is emailed to 691 alumni, alumni parents and grandparents. We also print 159 copies and mail 110 copies bringing the total published issues of *The Flame* to 850. Send us your email address to subscribe to the monthly issue if you’re not getting the e-version.

Shekinah has changed, but the things I pray don’t ever change are the community/family feel, the commitment to Biblical transformation, being changed into His image, and a solid Bible memory program. If you’ve attended or are a graduate of Shekinah or have sent a child or grandchild to Shekinah, I hope that you stay connected and continue to feel a part of Shekinah. *The Flame* is one way to stay in touch, to find out what’s happening in the lives of your former classmates, to pray for each other and to celebrate successes. There were no seniors in 1979, Shekinah’s first year, but by the 50th anniversary, of the school (2027-2028), It’s likely we’ll reach the total of 500 graduates. Each graduation marks an ending and a beginning. May we continue to “... press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14).

Alumni News and Notes

Kirby and Heather (Gingerich) Yoder ‘09; Henrik Theodore born April 20, 2026; third child, first son.

Alex and Maddi (Gingerich) Stutzman ‘18; Annie Joy born May 23, 2026; first child, first daughter.

End of the Year Chapels



Mr. Kallis concluded our Chapel season by encouraging students to continue seeking Christ as the summer begins.



On our final chapel day, our senior worship team led us into a time celebrating what God has been doing at SCS! We have been so blessed by this team. We'll miss them, but we're excited to see what God will do in their lives!



Cody Jones (Assistant Camp Director) of Bethel Mennonite Camp came and shared with us. He shared his heart on what Bethel Camp is about and challenged the students in Bible Drills.

Night of Fine Arts



Our Night of Fine Arts celebrated the creativity of our students. Mrs. Groh's classes shared demonstrations of their work, showing the heart behind each piece. Music for the evening was led by Mrs. Hacker, Mrs. Bechtol, and Ms. Driskill. It was a joyful night filled with color, music, and community as we welcomed the close of the school year.



Kindergarten Graduation



Along with our High School graduates, we also celebrated our Kindergarten class! Mrs. Yutzy's 12 students have been working hard, and on Awards Day they shared how ready they are for 1st grade. The halls filled with cheers as the school came together to "clap out" the young graduates. What a happy day!



Awards Day



On May 20th, our Awards Day highlighted the integrity, learning, and creativity shown by students all year as we wrapped up another successful academic year at Shekinah. We are so proud of all of our students for putting in the work to finish this year strong! We also would like to thank all of our faculty, staff and parents for pouring into these students so that they will shine bright for His glory!

(See list of awards and students on page 11.)

2026 SOFTBALL SEASON SUMMARY

by Coach Jennifer Hudnutt

This year's Shekinah softball team was very special. Led by team captain, Lydia Masula, the players came together and supported each other like never before. We again, had several new players but we are developing a good foundation for the next few years. There was so much improvement and growth with each player, but what makes them stand out among the rest of the league was their love for Jesus and the other teams definitely noticed. We worked together and stayed positive ending the season with a home run from Ali Troyer.

Record- 0-14

The Flame Award- Lydia Masula

Coach's Award – Olivia Hudnutt

MVP- Ali Troyer

All MOCAL team – Ali Troyer

Most Improved- Bristol Kramer

Team Managers- Shauna Nyland

Maggie Lyon

Leah Newman

Coaches- Jenn Hudnutt

Natalie Harris,

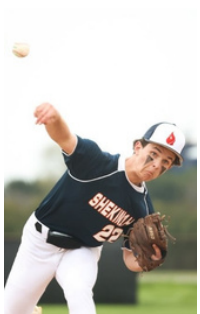
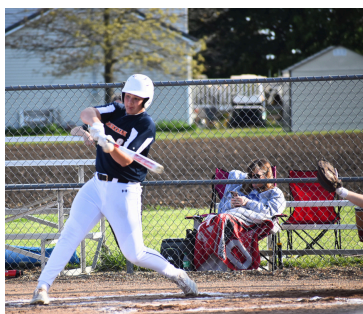
Kristina Digby

SEASON SUMMARY



2026 BASEBALL SEASON SUMMARY

by Coach Josh Oxley



What a season for Shekinah Baseball!

Our team finished 10-4 and League Champions. With such a young group, the future of this program is very bright. AJ was dominant on the mound all season, earning First Team All-League and First Team All-District honors. Aiden had a great year at the plate, on the mound, and in the field, earning First Team All-League and Second Team All-District honors. Cam earned First Team All-League and Honorable Mention All-District. Austin and Noah also received Honorable Mention All-League recognition.

I'm proud of how much our younger players grew throughout the season. Losing Jayce was tough, but his leadership and impact on this team were invaluable. Coach Ian has been a huge asset to the program, and I'm excited to see him continue to grow as a coach and mentor.

Most importantly, I'm proud of the character these boys showed through adversity. My challenge to them is to continue showing great sportsmanship and representing Christ well on and off the field.

Excited for where Shekinah Baseball is heading!



Student Poetry Corner

The Fast Car

My car is loud and has a lot of speed,
It looks so cool and shiny in the sun.
I drive it fast because it's what I need,
I think that driving is extremely fun.

I hit the gas and feel the wheels spin,
I roll the windows down to hear the sound.
I start to move and know I'm gonna win,
I love to drive and speed along the ground.

My lights are bright and show me where to go,
I look at signs to see where I will turn.
I do not want to drive it very slow,
I have a lot of stuff I need to learn.

I love my car and think it is the best,
It is way better than all the rest.

by: **Noah DiCarro 11th**

A Sandy Path

I raced on the coarse, sandy, winding path
To watch the birds among the ancient trees.
The sun glimmered off my distinguished mask,
While the warm winds ran in pace with the breeze.

A red bird stood at a strong flowing creek,
The fading day was coming to an end.
The Sun would grow sharp like a jagged peak,
And the birds sang on as if to command.

The time of gloom was slowly creeping near,
And the breeze circles cold like frozen doom.
When all animals are distinguished by noon,
The cold would be everywhere to consume.

One day is destined to be spring again,
One day, I will be walking paths again.

by: **Logan Humphries 11th**

The Mountains

When the sun shines through the mountains peak
It shows the beauty of the flowery fields
It glows upon the clear creek
Humans have the urge to stop and yield
Just to soak in the beauty of the view
The animals are jolly and trotting around
The line of trees appears askew
Everyone finds peace in the lack of sound
On top of the mountains, there is a layer of snow
Down in the fields the sun is warm
On top of the mountains, there is a blinding glow
The beauty of this place will make you transform
The tall grass is swaying in the wind
Clouds are moving rapidly in the sky
All broken hearts begin to mend
The sight fulfills every passerby
The sunrise paints the sky pink
Do not get too close there could be a crater
The view of the mountains makes everyone think
This sight makes everyone praise their Creator

by: **Marly Johnson 11th**

Attention Alumni and Shekinah Community

Linda Shetler has selflessly and extravagantly given of her time, her resources, her wisdom and her love for decades.

She deserves to be celebrated for her incredible sacrifice to Shekinah! You are invited to help celebrate Linda in the following ways:

1. A card shower: Her address is 5020 Kilbury Huber Rd. Plain City, OH 43064. She would love to hear from you.
2. A monetary gift towards an Airbnb for her and Arnold. Lynette Schrader is collecting funds for the Airbnb. You may use the QR codes below to send money, or you can write a check made out to Linda Shetler and sent to Shekinah.

Thank you for helping to celebrate our beloved Mrs. Shetler!



Congratulations Class of 2026!



Adam Barnett

Brenda & Jim Barnett
4 years Golf
Favorite Quote:
"Fool me once, shame
on- shame on you.
Fool me you can't get
fooled again."
-George W. Bush



Haylee Beachy

Derrick & Mandy Beachy
Senior Class Secretary
2026 Character Award
Art/Choir/Band/Drama
Worship Team
Morning Bible Study
Musicals 4 years
Volleyball 6th-12th
Basketball 7th-12th
Favorite Verses:
Romans 12:1-2



Lindsey Cooley

Steve & Rose Cooley
Speech/Art/Choir
School Publications
Musicals 4 years
Student Teacher's Aide
Volleyball 5 years
Favorite Verse:
Deuteronomy 10:12



Abigail De Telder

Eric & Heidi De Telder
Valedictorian
Honor's Diploma
Senior Class Treasurer
Student Teacher's Aide
Basketball
Favorite Verse:
Matthew 6:33



Jayden Denney

Jeffrey & Jaime Denney
Art/Choir/Drama
School Publications
Teacher's Aide
Volleyball/Softball Sub.
Favorite Verses:
Philippians 4:4-9



Malina Furr

Neil & Amber Furr
Art/Drama/Choir
3 Musicals
Favorite Verses:
John 1:9-5



Ava Hathaway

Brent & Jessica Hathaway
Tolles Student-
Welding & Fabrication
Art 11th-12th
"Frozen the Musical"-
ensemble
(Role: Handmaiden)
Favorite Verse:
Proverbs 3:5



Austin Helmuth

Mark & Angela Helmuth
Salutatorian
2026 Student of the Year
Band 10th-12th
Basketball 6th-12th
Baseball 10th-12th
Favorite Verses:
I Timothy 4:7b-12

Congratulations Class of 2026!



Ethan Helmuth

Arlyn & Carmen Helmuth
Art/ 2 years
Band 2 years
Golf 4 years
Favorite Verse:
Isaiah 40:31



Grayson Higgins

Jason Higgins
Megan Jackson
Senior Class President
Art 4 years
Band 10th Grade
School Publications
Student teacher's Aide
Volleyball - 4 Years
Favorite Verse:
Isaiah 41:10



Elaina Kosik

Johnny & Hilary Kosik
Art - 4 years
Choir - 2 years
4 Musicals
Student Teacher's Aide
Volleyball 9th-11th
Favorite verses:
Psalm 37:23-24



Margo Masula

Daniel & Donna Masula
Art 4 years
Drama - 2 years
3 Musicals
Student Teacher's Aide
2 years
Favorite Verses:
James 1:2-4



Shauna Nyland

Ian & Maria Nyland
Art 2 years
Musical set design
Softball Team Manager
Favorite Verses:
Psalm 139:7-12



Rillian Payne

Steven & Jennifer Payne
Musical - Back Stage
Basketball
Favorite Verses:
Acts 7:59-60



Brody Price

Kevin & Lauren Price
Art
Worship Team
Favorite Verse:
Luke 18:13



Nava Showalter

Matt & Colleen Showalter
Choir/Worship Team
3 Musicals
Student Teacher's Aide
Volleyball (4 years),
Basketball (4 years)
Morning Bible Studies
Favorite Verse:
I Peter 5:10

Class of 2026 continued



Noelia Wanty

Derrek & Carla Wanty
Senior Class V.
President
Art/Choir/Band
Worship Team
Basketball 4 years
Favorite verse:
Matthew 11:28



Jayce Yoder

Jerry & Jessica Yoder
Art/Band/Choir
Basketball 7 years
Baseball 3 years
Golf 2 years
Favorite Verses:
Matthew 22:37-40



These seniors have come a long way since 1st Grade in 2015 with Miss Martha Maust as their teacher. The class has grown and also lost a few along the way. Those who were at Shekinah in 1st Grade, and who are still at Shekinah posed for photographer, Jessica Yoder, for a re-enactment photo.



Part-time Seniors 2026



Luke Hockman

Thomas & Sarah Hockman
Tolles Student -
Welding & Fabrication
A. Government/Economics
Art 2 years
Drama 1 year
Baseball



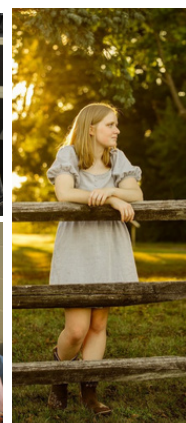
Maggie Lyon

Tyler & Megan Lyon
Art 4 years
"Lion King Musical"
Team Manager for Girls'
Varsity Basketball and
Varsity Softball
Favorite Verse:
Deuteronomy 31:6



Zachary Rightler

Brian & Erica Rightler
Bible & English
Baseball
Favorite Verse:
Proverbs 11:2



Congratulations to the three seniors who are graduating from their home school classes this year. They each took a class or two at Shekinah and participated in Shekinah's sports program.



Fourth Quarter Honor Roll Grades 2-12

AWARDS DAY

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

A Honor Roll

Eleya B., Haylee B., Reddington B., Sophia B.
Ava B., Maci C., Gaetano C., Gino C., Lindsey C.
Paighton C., Tatum C., Benjamin C., Elise C.
Abigail D., Isaiah D., Zachary D., Azariah D.
Benaiah D., Rachel E. Blayden F. Anna G., Ben G.
David G., Chloe G., Ila H., Austin H. Chloe H.
Grayson H., Charlotte H., Titus H., Ellie H., Hope H.
Olivia H., Evelina H., Maverick H., Quinn K., Elaina K.
Judah K., Jude L., Cade L. Liam L. Lydia M.
Bryce M., Carter M., Elise M., Josiah M. Ryker M.
Leah N., Dominick N., Jacoby O., Kenzie P.
Quintin P., Owen R., Theodore R., Kade S.
AnaSophia S., Elliana S., Nava S., Luciana S.
Hannah S., Lydia S. Samuel S., Finley S., Mira S.
Lana T., Maci T. Mathias V., Eliana W. Noelia W.
Alexavier W., Chase Y., Nancy Y., Hannah Y.

A /B Honor Roll

Vashti A., Daisy A., Edward B., Ember B., Quinn B.
Reagan B., Tanner B., Trevor B., Aria B., William
B. Jude B., Silas B., Jaxon C., Joshua C., Talulah
C. Brody C., Jakob C., Ceana C., Hadassa D.
Kenneth D., Raphael D., Jaden D., Noah D.
Cecilia E., Rebecca E., Malina F., Drew H.
Zane H., Eleanor H., Lilly H., Brantley H., Moriah
H., Mary H. Ariel I., Saraphina K., Stella K., Emlyn
M., Nora L., Andrew M., Avery M., David M.
Judah M., Michael M., Shiloh M., Hope M.
Logan N., Shauna N., Maverick M., Preston P.
Brody P., Joel R., Eleanor R., Theodore R.
Huntyr-Elaine R., Brody S., Evertt S.
Emmersyn S., Morgan S., Kenna S.
Tabitha S., Gwen S., Harper S., Darlene S.
Rayah T., Sianna T., Kailyn T., Ben W.
Felicity W., Addison W., Natalie W., A.J. Y.
Evan Y., Jayce Y., Preston Y., William Y.

Shining Star Awards:

K--Adelyn Luttrull
1st--Felicity Ward
2nd--Ryker Miller
3rd--Evelina Huy
4th--Hadassa De La Cruz
5th--Dominick Nofziger
6th--Ila Hathaway
7th--Kenzie Phillips
8th--Kailyn Troyer
9th--Bryce Miller
10th--Olivia Hudnutt
11th--Eleya Beachy

Arnold Shetler

Character Award:

12th--Haylee Beachy

Art Awards:

K-- Adelyn Luttrull
1st--Felicity Ward
2nd--Ryker Miller
3rd--Evelina Huy
Zane Hathaway
4th--Ariel Inman
5th--Huntyr Rogers
6th--Selah Smith
Gwen Stevens
JH--Violet Yoder
Andrew Miller
Art I--Lilly Hockman
Art II--Ava Hathaway
Shauna Nyland
Art III--Malina Furr
Art IV--Elaina Kosik
Most Improved
Brody Price

Music Awards:

--K--
Adelyn Luttrull
--1st--
Felicity Ward
--2nd--
Ryker Miller
--3rd--
Evelina Huy
Zane Hathaway
--4th--
Ariel Inman
--5th--
Huntyr Rogers
--6th--
Selah Smith
Gwen Stevens
--MS Choir--
Violet Yoder
--MS Band--
Isaac Kramer
--HS Choir--
Chloe Helmuth
--HS Band--
Bryce Miller
Haylee Beachy
--Musical/Theatre--
Eleya Beachy
Kenzie Phillips
Elaina Kosik
--Distinguished Musician--
AnaSophia Schrader

Athletic Awards:

Archie Griffin
Sportsmanship
Jayce Yoder
Haylee Beachy
Courageous Student
Jayce Yoder
Scholar/Athlete
Austin Helmuth
NFHS Award of Excellence
Austin Helmuth
Haylee Beachy

Mark Your Calendars.....

May

22- Class of 2026 - Graduation 7:00 pm

August

17-19 Staff & Faculty Orientation

18 -Back to School Night 6:00 pm

20 - First Day of School

20 - First Day of Kindergarten 8:15-11:30

26-28 - JH & HS Fall Spiritual Retreat

31 - NO SCHOOL



Answer to the April Challenge:

In which South American country is it tradition to clap your hands instead of ringing a doorbell when visiting someone's home?

Answer: Paraguay!

Congrats to Jessica Yoder on sending in the answer!

THE STUDENT ACTIVITY BOOSTER CLUB

would like to thank our Sponsors
for their generous support!

GOLD

Always at Your Side, Country Closet

IT made REAL, Jessica Photography

Miller Cabinet Co., Millwest Amish Furniture

P.C. Animal Hospital, P.C. Village Market

Phil Hill-Red 1 Realty, R & T Yoder Electric

Ronetti's Pizza, TL Builders

WJ Plumbing & Heating, Yoder's Septic Service LLC

Yutzy's Farm Market

SILVER

Cooley Custom Cabinet

Lyon & Sons Body Shop, Purdy Farms

Rosedale Bible College, Smiles to Love

BRONZE

Yutzy Pastures

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