

SHERMAN COUNTY SCHOOL

We're Back!

AS IS Newsletter

Superintendent's "WELCOME BACK MESSAGE!"

Fall '20-21, Issue 1 Date: Oct. 5

October 5, 2020 is truly a day to celebrate at Sherman County School! It marks the day our doors opened once again to on-site learning for our entire K-12 student body. It is a day that we have been anxiously awaiting since March 13, 2020. While this year will certainly look and feel different than previous years, our entire staff is excited to support and connect with students in person and remotely at home to provide a rigorous and joyful educational experience. Together we will go the extra mile for our students and school community.

For the health and safety of all students and staff, we have carefully designed thoughtful plans, routines and procedures that align with guidance from the Oregon Department of Education, The Oregon Health Authority and the North Central Public Health District. This includes, but is not limited to, requiring face coverings, frequent hand washing/sanitizing, contact tracing, visual screening, grade level cohorts, comprehensive cleaning/sanitization schedules, designed student movement patterns, scheduled bathroom breaks, hallway markings, organized and limited seating in cafeteria, staged entry/exit, cohort classroom/PE Equipment supplies, increased use of outside space, staggered breakfast/lunch in classrooms/gymnasium, the use of a backpack for personal items, temporary relocation of band/music and creative class scheduling.

Returning Sherman County students to on-site learning during a pandemic is an enormous responsibility that is shared by the school, staff, families, community, and regional/state public health organizations. Please know that we are/and will do everything in our power to mitigate the impact of communicable diseases at Sherman County School. There is no better time than now to work together, as a school community, to follow the safety precautions of wearing face coverings, maintaining distance, and frequently washing/sanitizing hands.

We have been working diligently on several ways to distribute information/communications to our school community as we jump into a new school year. We have a Facebook page (Sherman County School), an Instagram page (shermancountyschool), a weekly digital Husky Herald (emailed to families), daily virtual announcements (emailed to students and staff) and this newsletter. We are excited to announce that we are currently developing a new and more user-friendly website. This website will also include an app that will be available on iOS and Android formats. We anticipate going live with this new website by the end of October.

We value our partnership with the Sherman County School community. Please give us a call at 541-565-3500 if you have any questions. Stay safe and be well,



Yearbook Info for 2020 and 2021

Media Staff 2021

We are definitely in a brand-new year! This is especially true of the Media Class students for the fall of the 2021 school year. After just seven students combined between the two semesters a year ago, Media/Yearbook starts this year with ten students. One senior and all the remainder freshmen. We should be in good shape for the next four years! You will get a chance to meet them as they produce photos and stories for the monthly newsletter here and as you see their work in the Yearbooks that you order. Last year's Yearbook – cover spread image at right – is still available for ordering as well.



Whether you are ordering last year's book or this year's, the process is the same. Orders are made by going to the website [Treering.com](https://www.treering.com). On the upper right of the homepage, click the 'buy' tab, which directs you to a screen asking for your school's code. You will enter the Sherman code – a very long - 101367259899339. Once the code has been entered, you will be directed through the ordering information forms of name, address, and payment information. If you have any questions or problems with ordering, please contact Mr. Zacharias at his school extension 218 or via his school email. **If you order before October 31, you also get a 5% discount!**

Remember When????? Let us remind you!! 😊



In case you forgot what we do in the monthly **HUSKY** or even what was going on when we stopped going to school by coming TO school. Here are some quick reminders. The Media/Yearbook class is a learn-by-doing elective that has been tasked by the District to provide a monthly communication to the community displaying events, individual and school achievements, and celebrations. Several of the stories in this issue are Media student's first article productions.

And, way back last March, we missed getting to share Dr. Seuss week at SCS. Theodor Seuss Geisel, pen name Dr. Seuss, was born 1904 (March 2). So, reading programs across the country, including SCS, make a big deal of the first week of March by – did we mention - reading, see above middle, by dressing silly as students and staff followed the dress-up day calendar, and by finishing the week with a Dr. Seuss Carnival, as represented by the picture-booth quartet, above left, (l-r), then junior Jacob W as Cat-in-the-Hat, secretaries/admin assistant, Mrs. K and Mrs. B, along with 4th Grade teacher and Elementary Student Government Advisor, Mrs. K. Below left, Samantha R, with head in curls represents the dressing as an old person style that was popular with several girls that day, apparently owing to the fact that a young person today would just use an electric curling iron! Like personal phones that plug into walls, hair curlers are so old fashion.

The class with the consistent high percentage of students dressing up was, of course, the Kindergarteners as seen below on 'Hat Day.'

The during-school culmination of Dr. Seuss Week was the competition assembly for all the Elementary grades as illustrated by the crazy staff and student on-looker, far photo below.



Dr. Seuss Week:
March 2-6, 2020



Carnival photo at top courtesy of Jeremy Lanthorn. Kinder photo by Mrs. Macnab. Remainder by last year's senior staff members Morgan L. or Catherine R.

Events Oct. 5 - Nov. 6

- Oct. 5 – 7-12 Back In Building A-B Schedule**
Monday/Wednesday Pers 1, 3, 5. Power Hour
Tuesday/Thursday Pers. 2, 4, 6, 7
Athletic Conditioning 3:30-5:30 Regular Days
- Oct. 9 – NO CDL – Teacher Inservice Day**
- Oct. 12 – School Board Meeting, Library Program Room**
- Oct. 16 - 1/2 Day CDL – Office Hours/Testing**
- Oct. 21 – Picture Day**
- Oct. 23 – 1/2 Day CDL – Office Hours/Testing**
- Oct. 29 – End of First Quarter**
- Oct. 30 – No School – Teacher Planning Day**
- Nov. 1 – Daylight Savings Ends, Set Clocks Back**
- Nov. 3 – General Election Day**
- Nov. 5 – 1/2 Day, Conferences Afternoon - Evening**
 K-6 Vision Screening, 9-10 AM
- Nov. 6 – No CDL, Morning Conferences**



There is much that's not normal – we won't lie!

As you note immediately on the coming month's events at left, things are not quite normal. A month that would usually be filled with much extra-curricular, after-school fun is, sadly, not so full. With the exception of Season 1 Athletic Conditioning, there is no after-school activities during our temporary adjustments for in-school pandemic protocols.

The posting of this edition of the *Husky* coincides with the full return of the SCS student body to in-school education. K-3 started back the week of September 21, grades 4-6 followed the last week of September, and now 7-12 are back. There are, however, much that is different from going to school some seven months ago. Only staff and students are allowed in the school building. All those seeking entrance to the Elementary or High School offices for business purposes must ring a buzzer on signs outside each office main entrance, see top photo at left. Both entrances have convenient handwashing stations and clear sidewalk spacing reminder signs, as seen below.

Masks must be worn by all individuals inside the building when not eating and drinking as part of breakfast and lunch.

The upper parking lot is closed, with only loading zone drop off and pick-up lanes open. The middle section of the lower parking lot is reserved for student parking as well as parent waiting-area parking. Only one bus uses the loading zone at a time to deliver or receive students. Upon arrival at school 7/8 students enter the SCS through the Event Center (gym) doors and proceed up the upper balcony gym, with 8th graders going to the east (nearest the entrance) side and the 7th graders proceeding in front of the balcony bleachers to their area on the west (football field) side of the gym.

High School students enter the SCS through the building's secondary office entrance and then proceed to the left, down the ramp, and into the main gym area, where each class, as a cohort, has a designed bleacher area as signage indicates. While seniors do have a reserved area in the gym, the former student lounge is now also a temporary before school and lunch-time senior cohort area.

So long as the pandemic requires these temporary protocols 7-12 will also remain on the alternating period days to reduce transition and passing times between students. However, the periods will expand to around 85 minutes to make for a full school day.



9-12 You're in Main Gym – Look for Your Sign!



The temporary odd-even period schedule will continue as SCS transitions back into the building. There are differences (see the schedule below): each period will be extended to about an 80-minute block, with a 10 minute break, to create a full school day. Additionally, instead of making Homeroom a block in the mornings on odd days, a special Homeroom PowerHour has been added to the end of the odd day. PowerHour will initially focus on academic intervention assessments and needs of each student individually and then will expand to allow student to explore elective or independent study interests.

To promote social distancing and cohort integrity, movement in the building is strictly regulated. Before-school and lunch-period times are

not for roaming – students must be in the cafeteria or gym depending on their cohort's rotation (see final note in schedule below). 9-12 are in the main gym and 7/8 are in the upper gym.

Hallway traffic is one-way only, counter-clockwise, except for entry and exit. Go **right** – into classrooms and out of classrooms – and stay to the **right**, as you see Mrs. W model in the bottom-right photo. You should notice the roped barrier in the middle of the hall and the signs on the floor to help students remember.

7/8th Grade You're in Upper Gym

Mon./Wed.

7:45-8:15 building entry/breakfast in Gym
8:15 – 8:45, Homeroom (HR) announcements/CIS
8:49 – 10:07, Per. 1 (each period will provide a 10 min. break)
10:11 – 11:29, Per. 3
11:29 – 12:03, Lunch
12:07 – 1:27, Per. 5
1:31 – 2:56, PowerHour Homeroom (PHH)
First PHH will be first day's debrief, but will come to provide extra intervention and elective opportunities

Tues./Thurs.

Same
Same
Per. 2

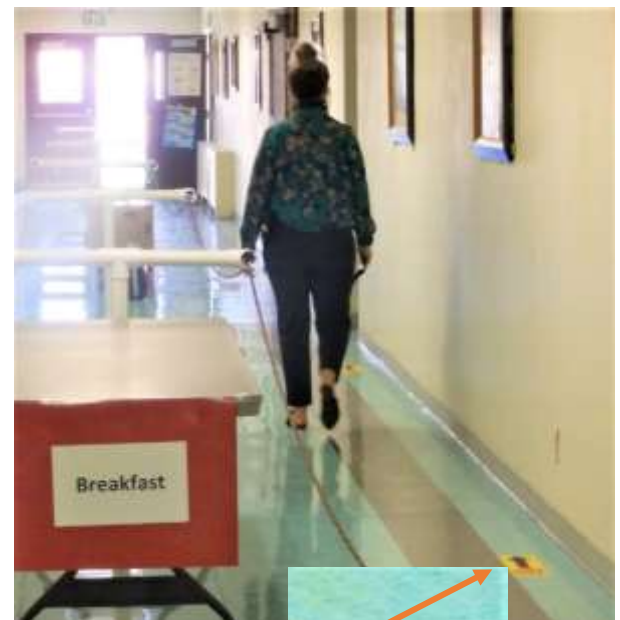
Per. 4
Lunch
Per. 6
Per. 7

Fri.

1/2 Day, AM is CDL work
Office Hours/Testing

Hot Lunch Cafeteria option available 9-12 on Mon/Wed; bag lunch in Gym Tues/Thurs; while 7/8 is the reverse

There is a Traffic Grid – One Way Only!!



Obey the signs!



Relocation and Social Distancing



There has been an incredible amount of thought and planning put into the SCS temporary protocols that has relocated some things. As you see in the photos above, 5th and 6th classrooms are now located in the MS hallway. 5th door, top left, is nearest the exit and their desk spacing is shown in middle photo. The 6th door is at right and masks are down because it was lunchtime, with Mrs. F supervising. 5th grade was enjoying hot lunch in the Cafeteria, photo immediately below.

K-3 were the first group to return to in-school education and their masks and social distancing is illustrated at left in their music class with Mr. Gronberg (who contributed the photo).

As the far-bottom photos illustrate, there is still recess – yay! However, there are noted differences. 5th and 6th grade use the grassy area just outside their temporary area and must use separately stored play equipment that is also sanitized after each period of use.



When the Students are Away, Then School Looks Like This!



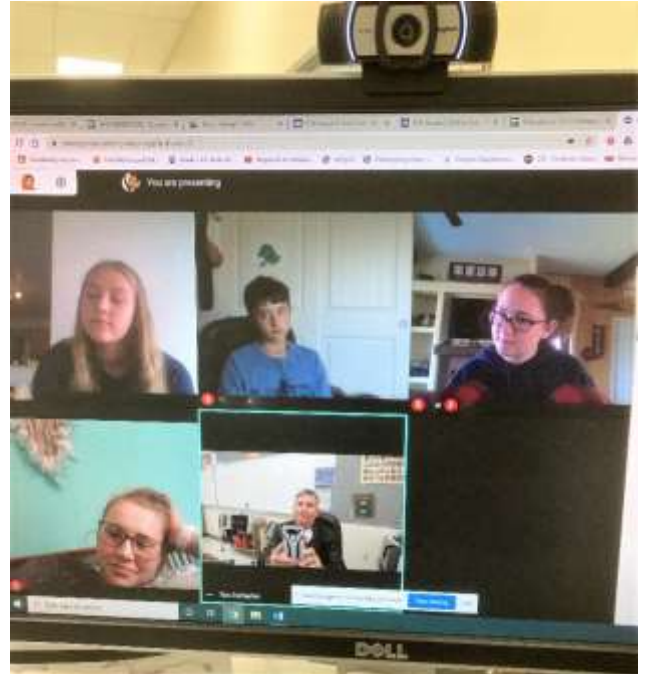
As the saying goes, “when the cat’s away, the mice will play!” Well, as seen above, when the students are away, then the wildlife will take over the physical campus. This doe actually had two fawns that abled down High School Loop in the middle of the day on the second week of school with the goal of checking out the apple tree by the gym. There was not much fruit on the ground, but they did seem to enjoy the irrigated grass!

As all SCS households are too aware by now, the virtual classroom looks like the photo at right. This is a third-week of class photo of students in Media/Yearbook. The discussion focused that day on the status of the mock-layout of this edition of the *Husky*. They were, of course, still all at home, while Mr. Z took the photo of his Google Meets screen from his Room 3 classroom.

The actual home-view of distance education is illustrated by the bottom photos of the Woods’ sisters with trusty Chromebooks (laptops/computers), making it into a cooperative family affair (of course, these photos were staged).

With our temporary transition plan, this will remain the half-day Friday routine, to insure we are ready to go back home should infection-spread rises in our County. Which serves as a good reminder that we are in this together: stay vigilant with social distancing, face masks, and frequent sanitation of hands and surfaces all the time and everywhere.

Story – Aedan P; Woods photos courtesy of Mrs. W.



As in most everything, student opinion on distance learning sits on the range between the two poles between like and distain – probably the same for the adults too.

One 8th-grader reports that even with the effort by teachers to do all the procedures the same, “there are too many programs being use to keep things straight!” Though, the same student did admit that the shorter school day was a favorite thing about it.

The one complication of distance education shared by all is CONNECTION, and that does not, of course, involve only the human connection. It’s the internet connection, whether because of household location, service provider, or power interruptions, we have all experienced one of these, including the SCS network in the building!

ATHLETICS

Story: Courtney C and Pyeper W



We have some exciting news for parents and student athletes! Conditioning for the sports seasons started on September 21. During that initial week, the conditioning session was for high school-level students only. The following week phased in middle school students. The sessions are outside and we will follow social distancing guidelines, initially under the supervision of Mr. Lewis, this year's Athletics Director and Trainer Joe.

While some schools in Central Oregon and in the far eastern region, have developed Season 1 inter-school competitions, the Big Sky Conference has no current plans for inter-school scrimmaging. Therefore, it is up to each of the schools to come up with plans to keep athletes engaged through the OSAA Season 1 which runs until the end of December.

"Mr. Lewis has been busting his butt trying to figure out a plan of action that keeps students safe, yet allows them to have some semblance of normalcy. I am so excited that our students get an opportunity to work out together in preparation for our irregular sports season ahead! Everyone should do it." exclaimed Health/PE teacher Mrs. Miller

Superintendent Mr. Owens expressed his excitement of the partial return to on-campus activities as well. "After six months working through a pandemic, Sherman County School is excited to bring back students in grade phases starting on September 21, 2020, which will include the start of our Season 1 Fall Conditioning/Connections for student athletes. The goal of our conditioning camp is to prepare students for the upcoming sports seasons. More importantly the camp is providing an opportunity for students to connect in person and bring normalcy to their lives during this unusual time." The initial week of conditioning camp saw between 6-9 student athletes taking advantage of this opportunity which does require the student and family to fill out the school participation documents online, have a current physical on record, and evidence of insurance. Mr. Lewis noted that when the upper grades return to campus, then individual sport skill practices will likely be arranged that will help prepare athletes for the shortened seasons that begins with basketball after the first of the year.

Mrs. Miller is also organizing an activity challenge to promote fitness and being in physical shape for the Elementary grades with four teams: K-2, 3-4, 5-6, and Staff. Each team member reports their walking, jogging, running, or biking activity in times or miles, which is then credited to their team's total. Currently, walking is the primary activity being reported, with the K-2 group leading the way; however, on the strength of Mrs. R-Smith's efforts, Mrs. M reports that the Staff has been hanging in at second place.

Mrs. M hopes to continue the competition throughout the year and 'liven it up' with reports on how the team mileages advance across the distance of the country or globe as well as perhaps adding a winning prize, like special t-shirts.



AND CO-CURRICULAR – THE FAIR AND FFA

Photos: Kaelex P; Story: Maddie B



With over 40 members, the SCS chapter of FFA is by far the largest co-curricular club. Co-curricular means that there is a direct connection between the club and courses SCS offers. While extra-curricular refers to those school-sponsored activities that do not have a direct connection to classes offered, as is the case with the sports program. And, while there was no official 4-H or FFA involvement at the County Fair this year owing to CoVid restrictions, the county was still able to provide a Youth Livestock Show and Sale component of fair this past August as illustrated in the photos here. Above, the Peters sisters prepare their goats for showing. At right, in-coming senior, Patrick R assists a younger generation in admiring his steer. At bottom, is a portion of the goat showing competition.



Patrick remains the chapter president this year and is joined by Joseph R, Vice-president; Cali J, Secretary; Will J, Treasurer; Aurora B, Reporter; and, Harmany B, Sentinel. The regular monthly meeting is the first Monday of the month. The chapter has been meeting virtually since this past spring, but it hopes to move to in-person meetings now that in-school education is once again possible. The leadership team also hopes to once again provide additional in-person opportunities for socializing, ag. education, fund-raising and services projects as local guidelines permit. The FFA also competes against other chapters in its District and State, but those are currently on hold until after at least January 1, 2021. Should competitions resume after that, it is hoped that a full range – Soils, Sales, Tractor Driving, Ag Mechanics, Parli-Pro, and Livestock Judging – could be squeezed into the final two-thirds of the year.

Also disappointing, Advisor Swenson noted, was that this year falls on the cycle when the chapter planned to send delegates to the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis. While FFA members can earn a trip to national convention through qualifying through State competitions to compete at Nations, local chapters can also pay for members to go as individuals or groups, and this was the year that the SCS prepares ahead of time to afford to send delegates. However, the national leadership determined this past summer to make the 2020 event, held the last week of October, a virtual program utilizing a host of communication modes. As Mr. S added, the virtual meeting allows some three-quarters of a million students across the country the opportunity to 'attend' the national convention this year for free. He plans on using this opportunity to incorporate convention events and meetings into his classroom curriculum that would not be possible otherwise.

The State Convention is held at the Redmond, Oregon, Expo Center and occurs during the first weekend of Spring Break, so there is hope that an in-person experience can happen in 2021. In-coming freshman who need to know more about FFA programs and benefits to students – call, email or go see Mr. S at the end of the high school hallway.



Safe, Respectful and Responsible in Action - PBIS

The one major change that in-school education will produce is behavioral management. Behavior management has remained the parents' job during distance education, but that began to change with the return of K-3 students on September 21.

While there is a protocol of discipline at SCS, our efforts in pre-emptive and positive behavior role-modeling and rewards continues. This system is called PBIS, Positive Behavior Intervention System. This program is directed by Mrs. R-Smith and involves an emphasis on recognizing students for the good job that they do in being safe, respectful, and responsible. Respectful includes their student work effort, which is a way of not only showing respect for themselves but for the community at-large whose tax contributions makes their education possible.

Teachers distribute 'Husky Tickets' like the one seen at top-right as they witness students engaging in kind, safe, respectful ways. Even as SCS went to a distance education format last spring, proper Google Meets etiquette, educational engagement, and work productivity were rewarded with digital tickets that could be emailed on the Mrs. R-S. The purpose of forwarding on their tickets is that it enters them into the prize drawings that occur on Fridays. Prizes are drawn at elementary, middle school, and high school, with even the addition of a Staff category this fall.

Teachers in their classrooms and grade-level divisions also maintain a rewards menu. In the past, grade-level groups have been able to 'purchase' after-school activities by combining their tickets. That option will not currently be available in its same format, but stay tuned as the staff and Mrs. R-S put their creative minds together. Individual teachers often maintain their own interesting items for purchase, as in the case where students can turn their tickets in for a handmade bow-tie or hair-bow.

A final note on PBIS that was begun by the SCS staff last spring: the Pack of Excellence and the Husky of Excellence recognition and scholarship.

These recognitions are made to graduating seniors whose body of work and character in attitude, work ethic, compassion, commitment, diligence, role modeling, discipline, team work, and integrity are at the highest level as voted on by the entire staff and administration.

The individual receiving the highest staff/admin approval is as Deemed that class's Husky of Excellence and the recipient of a \$1000 scholarship grant. The award certificates for this honor are displayed at right. Last spring's honorees were Jordan B, Tyler B, Owen C, Darian D, Angel O, Catherine R, And Emma W with the Scholarship and highest honor going to Owen. Congratulations to all, and let this be a reminder for all current students of SCS – will you too become a Husky of Excellence?

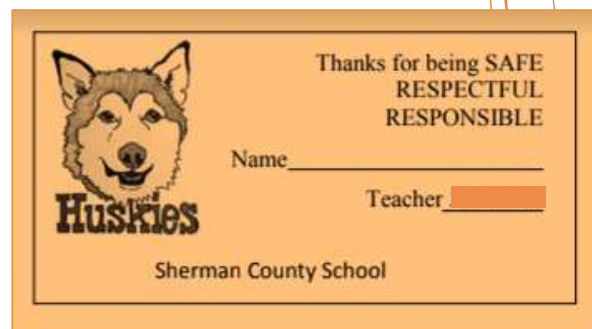
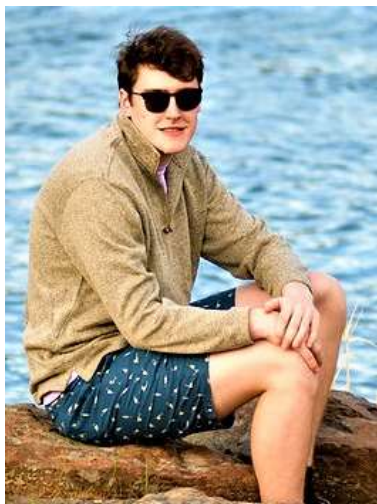


Photo of Owen at left courtesy of Jeremy Lanthorn. The Husky ticket and Excellence Award Certifications above are the result of design contributions by Kristin Stuart.

Rewards for Reading



In a strange coincidence of the times, our last published issue presented Emma G and Chloe S as the respective winners 4-6 and K-3 of the Masonic Lodge Wasco #15 Bike-Reading raffle for semester 1 of '19-20. Well, here are first semester of '20-21 bikes waiting in the Library lobby, who is reading and earning tickets that will go into this semester's raffle?

Explore the World?



The immediate future in our immediate era is a bit uncertain it is true. However, goals were never achieved without a vision to look ahead. Hence, we share this latest brochure to cross the Media's desk. Study abroad opportunity as an exchange student to German – checkout www.USAGermanyScholarship.org

SCS Board of Directors



New Staff or Staffing Arrangements



While there has been so much change in 2020, the one surprising amount of consistency is in the instructional staff at SCS. That does not mean there were no changes, however. The above photos, clockwise, represent the 'new' certified staff for '20-21. Ms. Kerslake comes to SCS via Corbett, Oregon, and Eastern Oregon State University. She will fill the Special Services position from the North Central ESD that was held by Mrs. K-B last year. Mrs. Cranston is by no means new, as she is seen in a community role last year honoring SCS teachers during the annual appreciation week and has taught several grade-levels and subjects at SCS in years past, but after staying home for a few years, she's back taking over the 1st grade classroom.

Filling the 'biggest shoes' probably literally is Mrs. Waggoner filling the Principal position upon the departure of Mr. Somnis. With a background in special services and mental health, she is ideally suited to continue a tradition of excellence in leadership at SCS. As seen from the family photo, as before her, the principalship will be a family affair, with children over a range of grades and a spouse working in agriculture but able to substitute teach as well. With the late summer departure of Mrs. Slay, Mrs. Mobley has moved to that position from her half-time sharing of 4th graders; that group now gets Mrs. King fulltime! The new faces and arrangements among our support will be covered in next month's edition.

Sherman County School District
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Back Row: Chair, Kristie Coelsch,
 Paul Bish, V-Chair, Jesse Stutzman



Front Row: Scott Susi; Jeremy Lanthorn