

Sunnyside Christian School Newsletter

August 27, 2026

Calendar

Thursday, August 27	- H.S. Retreat at Camp Ghormley
Monday, August 31	- 5 th -8 th Grade MAP Reading Test – 8:40-10:05 a.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 1	- 5 th -8 th Grade MAP Math Test– 8:40-10:05 a.m. - Elementary Library Begins
Wednesday, Sept. 2	- 1 st -4 th Grade MAP Reading Test – 8:40-10:20 a.m. - HS Fall Sports Photos – 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 3	- 1 st -4 th Grade MAP Math Test – 8:40-10:20 a.m. - H.S. Volleyball vs. White Swan @ White Swan - J.V. Girls 5:00 p.m., Var. Girls 6:15 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 4	- H.S. Football vs. Waitsburg @ Waitsburg – 7:00 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 7	- No School- Labor Day
Tuesday, Sept. 8	- 1 st Day of 3-year-old Preschool - ELEM. HOT LUNCH – Pepperoni Pizza - <u>\$TBD/slice</u> - H.S. Volleyball vs. Walla Walla Valley Academy - Home - J.V. Girls 5:00 p.m., Var. Girls 6:15 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 9	- ELEM. HOT LUNCH- Hot dogs, Nachos, Nuggets- <u>\$TBD each</u> - 1 st Day of 4-year-old Preschool
Thursday, Sept. 10	- H.S. Volleyball vs. Liberty Christian @ College Pl. - J.V. Girls 5:00 p.m., Var. Girls 6:15 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 11	- ELEM. HOT LUNCH – Cheese Pizza - <u>\$TBD/slice</u> - H.S. Football vs. Dayton @ Sunnyside HS – 7:00 p.m.

Advance Calendar

September 14	- Building & Grounds Comm. Mtg. – Elem. Rm. #12 – 5:30 p.m. - Promotion Comm. Mtg. – Elem. Admin. Office – 5:30 p.m. - Board Meeting – Elem. Rm. #12 – 7:00 p.m.
September 17	- Pre-3 & K - 12 th Grade Individual Student Photos

2026-2027 School Theme – “Living Sacrifices”

August Theme – Living Sacrifices

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.” Romans 12:1

WELCOME TO SUNNYSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL'S 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR

We are so glad to have each one of you as a part of our school family.

May God be with us and bless us as we work together to educate and guide our students to live a life for Christ. To God be the Glory!

Welcome to New Staff - In case you missed the information, we are welcoming several new staff members. **Tessa Klebaum** will be teaching 5th grade; **Drew Van Kemseke** will be teaching 6th grade and serving as our junior high Athletic Director; **Angelica Salinas** will be teaching junior high math and providing academic support for 5th-8th grades, **Aaron Nix** will be teaching 5th-12th choir and 5th-8th band, **Sadie and Whitney Beckman** will be teaching K-4th music; and **Melissa Rodriguez** will be our School Safety Officer.

Safety & Security Reminder: As part of our ongoing commitment to student safety, and with an increased security presence at school, please adhere to the visitor check-in process at the elementary school. All visitors are asked to sign in at the front office and wear a visitor badge before entering the hallways or other areas of the elementary school. If you are in the building without a visitor badge, our safety personnel will ask you to return to the office to complete the check-in process and obtain a visitor badge. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and secure environment for our students and staff.

Bus Routes: Keep in mind that pick-up and drop-off times may still fluctuate in the first few weeks of school. **Please be patient with our staff and bus drivers as we navigate through these routes. If you are in the neighborhood, please stop by school and pick-up or drop-off your child(ren). If we all work together the buses will save time, miles, and fuel.**

After school student Bus/pickup changes: If you have an end of the day change in plan for your child, please email your child's teacher (firstname.lastname@sunnysidechristianschool.org) or text the teacher, if they have provided a cell number, to indicate your change. If it is a last minute change, please make sure to call the elementary office at 509-837-3044.

K-8th STUDENT DROP-OFF GUIDELINES: In order to help prevent student/traffic congestion, we are continuing the plan established for students as they arrive at school in the mornings:

- The north parking lot is for **BUS USE ONLY** from 8:00-8:30. Students who ride the bus to school will be using the front entry for admittance into the school building.
- Students who are dropped off at school by parents or others will use the east parking lot and will be entering the building through the courtyard.
- For drop off and pick up enter off of N. 9th street and exit onto North Avenue only.

Pre-School Classes begin on September 8th

- Our three-year-old classes will begin on Tuesday, September 8
 - First Class = 8:30-10:30 a.m.
 - Second Class = 10:40 a.m.-12:40 p.m.
- Our four-year-old classes will begin on Wednesday, September 9
 - AM Class = 8:30-11:00 a.m.
 - PM Class = 12:30-3:00 p.m.

At this time, we have limited openings in the 10:40 a.m.-12:40 p.m. 3-year-old preschool class and in the afternoon session of 4-year-old preschool. Contact the office (509-837-3044) today for more information and an application!

Our World's Finest Chocolate Sale for students in grades 5-8 is underway. We are again selling chocolate almond bars for \$2.00 each, and chocolate covered almonds, chocolate caramels, and chocolate mints for \$5.00 each. Many dollars are raised for our Student Activity Fund through this major fundraiser. **Thanks for your support!**

IMPORTANT BEGINNING of the YEAR PAPERS

The following forms will be sent home with your youngest child next week: Milk Order Form, Federal Grant Form, Chrome Book Agreement, school insurance form, etc. Please take the time to complete the forms and return them to school ASAP. If you need additional forms or information, please call the school office at 837-3044.

Bell Times

Kindergarten through 8th Grades, please note the following bell times. The first bell rings at 8:30 a.m.; the tardy bell rings at 8:33 a.m. Please plan your morning accordingly. If your children do not ride the bus, please drop them off between 8:15-8:25 a.m. Please have your students here early enough so they have time to get organized and in their classrooms BEFORE the tardy bell. Dismissal time is 3:06 p.m.

High School - 9th-12th Grades, please note the following bell times. The first bell rings at 8:22 a.m.; the tardy bell rings at 8:25 a.m.! You are required to sign in/out in the office anytime you arrive late or leave during the school day. If you arrive after school has started for Periods One (1) and Six (6), you will need an admittance slip from Mrs. Driesen to be admitted to class. If you need to leave in the middle of class, visit Mrs. Driesen BEFOREHAND with your note and get an excuse slip to leave. Dismissal time is 3:15 p.m.

Sports physicals are required for all 6th graders, junior high, and senior high students (grades 6-12) participating in interscholastic activities. You must have your physical form turned in before you can participate in practice. Jr. High students- turn your completed physical forms into the office. High School students- turn your completed physical forms into your coach or the high school office. **Please take care of getting a physical now.** NOTE- WIAA rules make your sports physical good for TWO YEARS.

Have you submitted your 2025-2026 Service Hours? If not, please do so by Monday, August 31. Hours can be submitted through your parent portal or on paper form. Lost your form? Stop at the elementary office for a new one. Questions? Call the elementary office at 509-837-3044

HOT LUNCHES: Each year the SCHS Junior Class offers hot lunches for students to purchase on specified days. The profit then benefits their class trip to Washington D.C. This year they will once again offer pepperoni pizza on Tuesdays and cheese pizza on Fridays for grades K-8th grades. The high school students may also purchase pepperoni pizza on Tuesdays and Fridays. On Wednesday's hot dog, nachos, or chicken nuggets are available for purchase for K-8th grades only. Prices are still being determined. Also available, for high school students only, is Senior Hot Lunch. This fundraiser supports the Senior Class Trip and is available for purchase on Thursdays for \$6.00 per plate. See the high school announcements for the meal provided that week. **Hot Lunches will begin on Tuesday, September 8.**

With Hot Lunches starting up we will continue implementing the order/payment system through your FACTS parent portal. You, the parents, can prepay through the financial tab. Cash at the time of ordering will still be accepted, but we would like to try and move away from cash payments for hot lunch. Hot lunch orders can be placed directly through the lunch tab in your parent portal or the lunch icon through the school app. With your permission, your child may place their order at school with their teacher, and the teacher can enter the order online. Parents of high schoolers can place orders online too. High School students who have online orders will need to follow instructions that are listed in the daily announcements.

Newsletters: A weekly school newsletter goes home with the youngest student in each family on Thursdays. We also send an e-mail version of this newsletter to families who requested correspondence in enrollment. If you have a family member/friend who would like to stay informed of current school happenings and information, we would be happy to add them to our e-mail list. Simply call the elementary office and provide us with their e-mail address.

Please submit school activity information to be included in the newsletter no later than Wednesday morning prior to the Thursday publication. Call 509-837-3044 or email the information to sheryl.duim@sunnysidechristianschool.org.

STUDENT PICTURES: Individual student pictures will be taken for all students on Thursday, September 17, 3 year old Preschool and Kindergarten thru 12th grade. Student retakes and photos for 4 year old preschoolers will be taken on Friday, October 16.

ELEMENTARY PARENTS: We ask that you please review the following school policies. These policies are enforced for the safety of our students and to reduce the number of interruptions in the classrooms.

1. Please keep the front parking area open before and after school for the bus fleet.
2. **Please do not drop students off at the elementary campus before 8:00 a.m.** Teachers are in meetings or are getting ready for the school day until that time.
3. Please use the front main entrance during the school day, 8:33 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
4. If you drop off your student after the tardy bell (8:33 a.m.) or pick students up during the school day **STOP AT THE OFFICE TO SIGN THEM IN/OUT. PLEASE DO NOT GO DIRECTLY TO THE CLASSROOM.** It is less disruptive for the classes to have students brought to the classroom or called out by the office.
5. **If your child's plans after school are different than usual, PLEASE SEND A NOTE WITH YOUR CHILD(REN)!** Students will be put on their regular bus unless we have a note giving different instructions. It is NOT enough for a student to say, "I think Mom is coming."
6. After school plans should be made before students leave home in the morning. Don't call with new plans/instructions unless absolutely necessary. Not only is it disruptive to the classroom to give messages, but also it is often difficult to connect with students at the end of the day. We understand when emergencies arise, but please do not make it a habit.
7. Students will not be allowed to call home to make a change in after school plans unless absolutely necessary. If they want to stay to watch a sports activity or make plans to go home with someone else, those plans need to be made before they get to school.
8. **If you pick up your children after school, please take all of them. Do not send some on the bus if you are here anyway. This saves the bus route time, miles, and fuel.**

The SCHS Cheer Squad is selling Mums!! The Tri-colored (a combination of yellow, pink & orange) mums come in a 12-inch container. Each pot sells for \$25.00. Delivery date is around mid to late September! Pick up will be at the high school. You may purchase mums through a current Cheerleader, or you may purchase from Coach Kerri through email or text. SCHScheergroup@gmail.com or 509-830-4050. Please see the digitally attached flyer.



VOLLEYBALL FANS - Order your t-shirt to cheer on and support the Lady Knights volleyball team! T-shirts are \$15 or \$20 with a name on the back. Text Laura Eisenga at 509-830-1894 to order your shirt. A larger photo of the t-shirt is attached in the email portion of the newsletter. Orders close on Monday, August 31.



Elementary School Store: There are several lunch items and snacks available for purchase at the school store, including but not limited to burritos, pizza pockets, and corn dogs. The school store takes cash only. A price list was sent home with students today. The school store is now open!

AAU Basketball Starts Soon!

Parents of 1st–8th grade boys and 2nd–8th grade girls, we’re excited to share that AAU basketball is gearing up for another great season. Practices will begin the week of **September 28**, and Saturday games (six total for the Fall session) will start on **October 17**.

If your child is already committed to a Fall sport that conflicts with AAU, they are welcome to join the **Winter session** beginning in January. If that applies to your family, please email Christine to let her know.

To prepare, we need to register players, teams, and coaches soon. **Please respond no later than Friday, September 12**. If your child is interested in playing—or if you’re interested in coaching—please visit the “General Information” and “Registration” tabs in the Google doc:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1DZqJ7CW--yRcTK-JHg7WNT8AtBG9h5SFVpfd_u6VkQA/edit?usp=sharing

(Accessing the link through the newsletter email or the SCS app will be easiest.)

You **do not** need to purchase an AAU card until teams have been finalized.

If you have any questions, call or text Christine at **509-638-3223** or email **aau.sunnysidechristian@gmail.com**. Once we have a full list of interested players and coaches, we’ll determine which teams can be formed and move forward with registration.

Costs:

- AAU card: \$22
- Player registration: \$40
- Jersey: \$35/Shorts: \$15

Thrift Shop News

Would you like your student to get his/her service hours completed? High school students may complete service hours without parental supervision. Grade school children must have a parent or guardian with them in order to work a shift at SC Thrift Shop. This is a wonderful opportunity for your child/children to serve our community.

We currently have loads of laundry ready for pick up; this is a great way to get your service hours done from the comfort of your own home. One basket of laundry equals one service hour.

Stay Connected with SCS Sunnyside Christian School offers many convenient ways for families to stay informed about school events, important information, and documents. Please take advantage of these resources — many of your questions can be answered through the information shared in our newsletter and other communication platforms.

School Newsletter Our school newsletter is an important source of information and is shared regularly with SCS families. The newsletter is uploaded to the school website www.sunnysidechristianschool.org and your **FACTS Family Portal** under **Resource Documents**, along with school supply lists, sports schedules, and other important documents. Be sure to read the newsletter each time it is published!

Social Media Follow us on social media for updates, reminders, announcements, and school happenings:

- **Facebook:** Sunnyside Christian School
- **Instagram:** Sunnyside Christian School

SCS App Our school app provides a convenient, one-stop place to access important school information. The app gives parents, students, faculty, and our community quick access to news, announcements, events, schedules, and more.

The SCS App includes:

- Newsletters
- Calendar events
- Important FACTS Family Portal links
- Lunch ordering
- Grades
- Classroom information
- Service hours
- Athletics
- Directory
- Enrollment
- Giving
- Social media links
- Fundraisers (Appeals)
- And more!

Download the app to keep all of your SCS information in one convenient place and stay up to date on the most important news, announcements, and events.

High School Daily Announcements Sunnyside Christian High School posts its daily announcements on the school website. To find them, visit www.sunnysidechristianschool.org and select **Quick Links > SCHS Daily Announcements**.

We encourage all SCS families to use these resources regularly, so you never miss important information!