



Good Shepherd Charger News

"Be Brave" Deuteronomy 31:6

All School Newsletter
September 5, 2025

Charger Headlines...

Calendar of Events

Friday, September 5

- Baseball @ Edwardsville 4:30 p.m.
- Volleyball 7th Gr. Zion Belleville Tournament TBA

Saturday, September 6

- Girls PeeWee Basketball 9:00-10:00
- Volleyball 7th Gr. Zion Belleville Tournament TBA

Sunday, September 7

- 5th and 6th Grades sing in 10:30 a.m. church service
- 7th and 8th Gr. sing in 8:00 a.m. church service

Tuesday, September 9

- Volleyball BD Home vs Litchfield 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 10

- Chapel Service Gr. 3-8, 8:25 a.m.
- Chapel Service PK-Gr 2 8:55 a.m.
- Baseball @ Zion Belleville 4:30 p.m.
- Picture Retakes

Friday, September 12

- Baseball @ Edwardsville 4:30 p.m.
- Volleyball A Team Belleville Tournament TBA

For more information:
gslcs.org/calendars



Picture Retake Day & Fall Sports Pictures

School pictures were taken this week. We hope everyone is pleased with their pictures and were in school, but if not, Picture Retake Day will be **Wednesday, October 10th**. Fall sports pictures (baseball, cross country, and volleyball) will also be taken on **Wednesday, October 10th**.

FRIENDZY

Good Shepherd is increasing whole-child learning and biblical friendship with the FRIENDZY school-wide program. This program teaches friendship skills and emotional intelligence with a focus on cultivating a safe and Christ-centered school community. Please see Mr. Mayhew's letter following this newsletter for more information and tips for you to incorporate at home.

Auction Committee Meeting

There will be an informational auction planning meeting for all who would like to help plan this year's auction. This meeting is scheduled for **Monday, September 15th at 6:30 pm** in the school library. Any questions about planning the auction can be emailed to gs.auctioncommittee@gmail.com. Thank you!!

Pastor's Corner -

This Sunday we see a man who was deaf and therefore also had an impediment in his speech was brought to Jesus (Mark 7:31-37). In the same way, all are by nature deaf toward God and therefore also unable to confess the faith rightly. For "faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ" (Rom. 10:9-17). Jesus put His fingers into the man's ears, and He spat and touched His tongue. Even so in Holy Baptism, water sanctified by the words of Jesus' mouth is applied to us; and the finger of God, that is, the life-giving Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 3:4-11) is put into our ears in the hearing of the baptismal Gospel. Jesus' sighing "Ephphatha" opened the man's ears, and his tongue was loosed to speak plainly as Isaiah prophesied of the Messiah, "In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book" (Is. 29:18-24) So also, He who sighed and breathed His last on the cross for us has given us to hear and believe in Him and has opened our lips that our mouths may declare His praise.

In Our Prayers This Week

Each week this school year, the faculty will be praying for the students and their families. Next week we will be praying for Owen C., Logan C., Lola F., Lena G., Andi H., Emma J., and Rylee M. Please join us in prayer.



FRIENDZY OVERVIEW ///

We live in a climate and culture where students are more technologically connected, but more socially disconnected than ever before. This is contributing to higher levels of anxiety, depression, and relational challenges.

Students crave connection; they crave friendship. This year we are continuing to proactively equip students with skills to build strong relationships with a biblically-based curriculum called Friendzy. Each week your student will learn God's design for healthy relationships, and be introduced to core competencies and skills that develop self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, social awareness, and relationship skills. Stronger relationships lead to stronger communities.

Research has shown that by combining these lessons with academic development, it improves academic performance, attitudes, relationships with peers, and reduces behavior challenges, depression, anxiety, and social isolation. This will continue to improve our campus culture, benefit your students and our communities for a lifetime.

You will have the opportunity to engage with your student on Friendzy topics through monthly Friendzy email updates, parent discussion in the Friendzy student workbooks, and fun conversation cards that will be sent home (similar to table topics).

STARTING STRONG ///

We kick off our first Friendzy Unit. For a whole month, we will be discussing the idea that **WE ARE ONE**. As a class (and as families) we can accomplish more together as a community than any of us could alone. God designed us to exist in community together. It is key to flourishing individually and collectively. This month's Catchphrase and Key Verses are listed below.

Catchphrase (Main point for students to catch on to):

"We Are One"

Key Verses (Biblical anchor points):

John 17:20-21a

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one."

1 Corinthians 12:20

"As it is, there are many parts, yet one body."

Continue the Friendly Conversation

1. **We are all connected.** We are all connected and each thrive individually when we thrive collectively. When one person wins, we all win. When one person is sad or worried, we all feel the sadness and worry. As a class we are one in Christ.
2. **There is only one you.** You play a very important role. You have specific and unique traits and strengths that make you who you are. You are important to people.
3. **We need each other.** Each person has a role to play in life. Our family, friends/peers and even pets are really important to us because they are special to us. They make us who we are! Together we can do more than we could on our own.

HELP YOUR STUDENT DO THIS ///

Over the next few weeks, the goal is for every student to begin using the unit's Catchphrase: "**We Are One**" in their everyday life. You can help them by beginning to use this in your conversations at home. This is the main point that students will catch onto and remember and use over and over.

FRIENDZY IN ACTION ///

In this unit, students will explore both self-awareness and social awareness. Self-awareness involves looking inward to learn about and understand yourself; social awareness is looking outward to learn about and appreciate others. This unit explores these two key components of social-emotional character development through the idea that **We Are One**.

THANK YOU ///

Thank you for partnering in the Friendly with us! It is a joy for us to teach students the skills to have healthy friendships. Please let us know if you have any questions or celebrations to report as we move through the Friendly curriculum.

When kids learn friendship, they learn it for life!

Blessings,
Mr. Mayhew
