School Overview

Sherman Middle School is dedicated to educating the whole child. Our school is not a typical junior high or middle school. We have excellent teachers, flexible scheduling within teams, include all students in our classrooms, and work hard to build positive relationships. Our school has three academic teams at each grade level with the addition of a Dual Language Immersion team. Most teams consist of three teachers. We use blended roles, which means while one of those teachers is a special education case manager, all of the teachers work closely to ensure that student needs are being met. Most students on a team do not know which teacher is the case manager. There is also one team at each grade level that includes a bilingual resource teacher. This teacher is much like a case manager, but he or she specifically tailors instruction to those students who are learning English as a second language.

In addition to our academic teams, we also have the exploratory team. This includes physical education, art, computers, Spanish, French, AVID, Read 180/System 44, orchestra, general music, and band. These teachers also work closely with case managers and bilingual resource teachers to ensure that all students receive the support they need in order to be successful.

Through a combination of community building activities, Academic and Career Planning and Social Emotional Learning, PBS Cool Tools, and Sherman special events, we build positive relationships with students, families, and communities members. We have a few highly anticipated events throughout the year which include socials, family fun nights, the Sherman Olympics (alternating years), Sherman Talent Show (years opposite the Olympics), Battle of the Books, BOSS Fun Run, SOARS Anti-Bullying Conference, and the 8th grade promotion ceremonies. Since students spend a large part of their time with their academic teams, many of the relationships are centered around collaborative learning projects.

We strive to enhance students’ character development and social responsibility, increase every student’s level of academic achievement, and involve families and community members as partners in the learning process.

Telephone
OFFICE: (608) 204-2100
FAX: (608) 204-0501
ATTENDANCE / SAFE ARRIVAL: (608) 204-2110

Address
1610 Ruskin St
Madison, WI 53704

Web address
https://sherman.madison.k12.wi.us
facebook.com/MMSDSherman
School Mission Statement
Sherman Middle School is a diverse, fully inclusive learning community.

We respect the dignity of every member of the Sherman community and value positive relationships as central to building and maintaining a safe learning environment.

We hold high expectations, academically and behaviorally, for all students which are clearly communicated, consistently modeled, and positively reinforced.

We support every student in achieving their potential and preparing for future opportunities and active citizenship.

We offer a standards-based curriculum that is student-centered, culturally responsive, integrated, and relevant.

We model teamwork, collaboration, collegiality, democratic governance, and a commitment to lifelong learning.

We partner with families and community stakeholders to nurture the intellectual, social, and emotional development of our students.

School calendar
See all upcoming events at https://sherman.madison.k12.wi.us/calendar

Key Policies and Guidelines

Childcare/after-school information
Sherman has an after-school program that offers a variety of opportunities for our students. Again this year students will have the opportunity to attend grade-level academic centers that offer tutoring provided by the Urban League and MSCR staff. As long as your child attends either the academic center or is working with a Sherman staff member, they will have the opportunity to participate in clubs, intramurals or to attend the drop-in center from 3:30-5:00. At the drop-in center, we offer a variety of activities including basketball, jump rope, various games, music, movies, field trips, and much more. At 5:00 p.m., a late bus arrives to take the students home.

The Youth Resource Center (YRC) is free and is open Monday-Thursday when school is in session. Permission slips will be available at registration and in the office once school begins and need to be completed by a parent/guardian and returned before your child may attend the YRC. After the permission slip is turned in, parents will receive a handbook with information including how to reach your child after school in case of an emergency.

Traffic safety
If you are dropping off/picking up your student, please do not stop in front of the school or in the Sherman parking lot as this area is reserved for the buses. Rather, pull up Ruskin St and stop by the playground/field area to let your student out. You can also wait for students on the side streets that feed into Ruskin St.
Transportation
Students that live too far from the school to walk can take the Sherman designated Metro Bus. These buses make stops around the neighborhoods. Students must purchase a bus pass in order to ride the Metro Bus; however, if a student meets certain financial qualifications, they are given a bus pass for free. Madison Metro’s EZ Rider passes can be purchased through the mail (free shipping on all orders) and at Metro’s Administration Office located on the second floor at 1245 E. Washington Ave. Passes will no longer be sold at registration.

Supervision of the building and grounds
The building is supervised from 7:25 - 3:00. Students are allowed in the building each morning at 7:25. Students have the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities and clubs after the bell rings at 2:47. However, students must be under the supervision of an adult or take part in our after-school program if they are going to be in the building after school.

School fees
Along with the district fees ($62), incoming Sherman students need to purchase a student planner ($7) and 2 locks ($5/lock). Students are encouraged to keep their lock over the summer as they are able to use it throughout their time at Sherman. Therefore, if your child is going into 7th or 8th grade and has kept their lock, they will not need to purchase a new one. Students also have the option of purchasing a yearbook for $15.

Field trips
Students at all grade levels will go on field trips throughout the year which are relevant to the curriculum they are studying.

School breakfast/lunch
Sherman is one of several schools across the district that was selected to receive a grant that allows all students at Sherman Middle School to receive a free breakfast and free lunch. Students will eat breakfast in their homeroom each day. Students will be offered a choice of up to 4 lunch meals daily, and they will encouraged to take a fruit and/or vegetable and milk.

Releasing children from school during the day
When a student has to leave school during the day, the parent/guardian will need to contact the school office via telephone, a note or email stating the time the student is leaving, who will be picking the student up and where the student is going. Students will only be released to the parent/guardian or another adult if they have been designated as an emergency contact or non-household relation in Infinite Campus. Parent/guardian must enter the building and sign their student out in order for a student to be released.

Anti-bullying
The Madison Metropolitan School District strives to provide an environment where every student feels safe, respected and welcomed and where every staff member can serve students in an atmosphere that is free from significant disruptions and obstacles that impede learning and performance. Bullying can have a harmful social, physical, psychological and/or academic impact on students who are the victims of bullying behaviors, students who engage in bullying behaviors and bystanders that observe acts of bullying. The school district does not allow bullying behavior toward or by students, school employees or volunteers on school/district grounds, at school/district-sponsored activities or on transportation to and from school or school/district-sponsored activities.

Dress code
Sherman’s dress code states that clothing should not “disrupt, hinder or interfere with education.” Specifically, any attire that is considered revealing is not permitted. This includes the following; t-shirt/top straps must be at least 2 fingers wide, shorts/skirts need to be at least to the tip of your fingers, hats and other headware must be removed when entering the building, coats and jackets will not be worn in class, and undergarments should not be exposed.
Parent/teacher conferences
Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences are held in November and March.

Family engagement
Families and community members are essential partners in Sherman’s success. We have and will continue to work hard to engage our families and community members. When schools engage with parents and communities in authentic and mutually-supportive ways, parents and communities will be equipped to ask questions, make decisions and expect the best from their schools for their children and all children. When we align our efforts and everyone has a charge – educators, parents and community members alike – children will benefit. We will do this through building a respectful inclusive school community.

Electronic devices
Students are to keep all cell phones and other electronic devices in their locked locker throughout the day. If a staff member sees or hears a student’s device during the school day, s/he will ask the student to relinquish it and will turn it into the office. The first time this occurs, the phone is returned at the end of the day. After the first offense, a parent must come to school to retrieve the phone or electronic device. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones or electronic devices.

Student personal property
Each student is assigned a hall locker near their teaching team. This locker is intended for storage of outer clothing, hats, books, backpacks and needed school supplies. The teaching team assigns these lockers. In addition, the Physical Education teacher assigns each student a locker. Students should keep both lockers locked at all times. Students should purchase 2 school-issued locks ($5 per lock) at registration. Students should keep their lockers locked at all times.

Find more information about the topics covered here in the district policy guide, found at www.mmsd.org/policy-guide.