

## **Events**

Community Event: Gathering and strengthening the Sherman community is the main purpose of community events. The goal for Sherman PTSA is to have free entry for everyone at community events.

Fundraiser: Raising money to fulfill the Sherman PTSA mission of supporting the education, health and welfare of students.

General Meeting: Gathering open to all members of the Sherman community where important school updates are shared, upcoming events are discussed, and members vote on decisions such as budgets, updated bylaws, etc.

Board Meeting: Elected officers and committee chairs meet to plan upcoming events, review finances, discuss ongoing projects, and make recommendations for the general membership to vote on. General members do not attend board meetings.

Committee Meeting: Focused working sessions scheduled on an as-needed basis. Committee meetings keep larger events and projects on track.

Tea & Tissues: On the first day of school for TK and Kindergarten, parents are invited to gather in the Makerspace right after drop-off. They can enjoy coffee, tea, and a chance to connect with one another as well as hear from the Principal and PTSA.

National Walk to School Day: Usually held in early October, Walk to School Day is an annual event that encourages families to walk to school. Sherman families gather at Jane Clark Park where the fire and/or police department interact with kids until it's time for them to escort everyone to school. It is an amazing sight to see the large gathering take over the street as they make their way to Sherman.

STEAM Open House: This is Sherman's "Back to School" night. Families are invited to come see the school and their children's classrooms. The teachers from each grade level set up a fun STEAM activity for students to participate in.

Round Table Takeover: Once a year Sherman takes over the Westgate Round Table Pizza. Families are encouraged to dine in or take out on the designated evening. Round Table donates a percentage of their profits to the Sherman PTSA. Parents and staff volunteer to run pizzas, bus tables and wash dishes during the event.

Masquerade: This festive community event is free and takes place in late October and brings together students and families for an evening of fun and celebration. Everyone is invited to come in costume and enjoy the “trunk or treat,” where volunteers decorate their vehicles and share goodies. A DJ keeps the energy high with music for dancing and laughter all around.

Read-a-thon: One of Sherman PTSA’s biggest annual fundraisers, the Read-a-thon inspires students to dive into books while supporting our school community. Students have a personal webpage to track both their reading minutes and donations. Over the three-week event, excitement builds as students share their reading adventures, cheer each other on, and celebrate their progress. Prizes are awarded for both minutes read and funds raised – but the true reward is seeing our students’ love of reading grow.

Book Fair: Twice a year families are invited to come shop for books at the school library. Traditionally hosted via Scholastic Books, Sherman is looking into hosting these events with local bookstores moving forward. A percentage of sales are given to the PTSA.

Books & Breakfast: This event happens during the book fair. Students invite grandparents or other loved ones to join them for a small bite to eat and then shop for books.

Talent Show: Sherman students take the spotlight at this fun-filled community event! Hosted on the cafeteria stage, students perform solo or in groups, sharing their creativity, confidence, and hard work with family and friends.

Night Market: Launched in 2024, this special event gives students a chance to showcase their creativity and entrepreneurial spirit. Students design and craft their own products, set prices, and create signage to sell their goods at the market – all while connecting with the community and learning real-world business skills.

STEAM Fair: Sherman's version of the traditional science fair invites families to an inspiring evening in the gymnasium, where students present their projects and discoveries. Each grade level works from guiding questions, and students choose how to demonstrate their ideas and research through the principles of STEAM.

Auction: Sherman's biggest fundraiser of the year is a special evening held off-site, where parents come together to enjoy dinner, good company, and spirited bidding – all in support of our school. It's a wonderful night of community connection and generosity that directly benefits Sherman students.

Junior Daffodil Parade: Sherman families come together each year to walk in this beloved parade, proudly representing our school spirit and community. The parade typically takes place in late April.

Theater: Every year 3rd-5th graders have the opportunity to participate in the Sherman performance. Practices typically start in January and the performance is usually in May at a local high school auditorium.

National Bike to School Day: Usually held in May, Bike to School Day is an annual event that encourages families to bike to school. Sherman families gather at Puget Park where the police department interacts with kids until it's time for them to escort everyone to school. It is an amazing sight to see the large gathering take over the street as they make their way to Sherman.

Night at the Rainiers: Every spring the Sherman Community joins the Tacoma Public School (TPS) night at Cheney Stadium to cheer on the Rainiers.

Tiger Trot: Toward the end of the school year, typically in June, the students participate in the school wide activity of walking/running the track. This event is during the school day and lasts about 30 minutes with popsicles at the end. Depending on how fundraising goes in the beginning of the year, the PTSA may use this event to raise money if needed.

Carnival: This event takes place on a Friday close to the end of the School year. There is a bouncy house, carnival games, concessions, and fun music. Parents can buy punch cards to participate in the various games and activities.

Field Day: Typically during the last week of the school year the students get to engage in fun activities outside during the school day.

## **PTSA Roles**

Room Parent: Each year at least one parent volunteers to be the room parent for a class. This job varies depending on what a teacher's needs are in the classroom. Some may want weekly volunteers, while others might need the occasional help in or out of the classroom.

Finance Committee: This group meets quarterly to go over the PTSA budget and ensure the spending continues to fall in line with the organizations mission,

Inclusion & Belonging Committee: This committee meets every other month and works to ensure the families at Sherman feel a sense of community. Meeting topics might include but are not limited to: ensuring the equity lens is being utilized for all PTSA events; discussion of what multicultural events to showcase at the school; how to create equitable access for students to PTSA meetings and events; and providing post event surveys to ensure needs are being met.

Auction Committee: The Annual Auction is one of our biggest fundraisers. It takes place in the early Spring and is an adult only event. Typically hosted off campus at a local venue, the evening consists of a dinner, silent auction, live auction, wine grab, and dessert dash. This is a fun event that supports many of the PTSA goals.

## **Other**

Tiger Wear: The Sherman spirit wear is ordered through a local vendor, Puget Sound Screen Printing. There are traditionally two order windows throughout the year, one at the beginning of the school year in the fall and one in the late winter or early spring.

Supply Fee: Our teachers receive a wonderful discount when they order supplies so Sherman asks that each student pay a Supply Fee. This can be paid through the schools website (not a PTSA thing).

<https://sherman.tacomaschools.org/about/school-supply-list>

Background Check: When volunteering with any direct contact with students during the school day, it is required for individuals to complete a background check. There are forms on the school website, PTSA website and in the main office. Please bring your photo ID and a completed form to the main office at least two weeks before you plan to volunteer.

Membership: The Sherman PTSA falls under the Washington State Parent Teacher Association (WSPTA) and in order to be a voting member, you must pay \$15 per person. This gets you access to many wonderful resources and a vote at all General meetings.

Makerspace: Sherman's Makerspace is certainly one of the busiest rooms in the school. Housed within its walls are six pages of alphabetical inventory, cataloged by type of item and location. One can find things from different types of paint, brushes and palettes to erosion kits, catapults and tools of every kind. Thanks to our PTSA funded in-house art resident, Mrs. Ross, students can let their creative juices flow in numerous hands-on projects throughout the year.

Testing Snacks: Our students test throughout the year and the PTSA provides snacks and gum to get them through the weeks.

Rain Garden: Sherman is a Project Based Learning (PBL) school which allows our students to do a multitude of projects and lessons out of the classroom. Specifically, the PTSA supports the 1st Grade Rain Garden located on the back side of school, directly to the west of the Kindergarten playground area. Our first grade caretakers learn how to tend a garden from start to finish. Students plant, weed, and water all year long. " In collaboration with Orcas Love Rain Gardens, students learn how important healthy gardens are for our environment and living creatures.

Link to Student Handbook: <https://sherman.tacomaschools.org/about/handbook>

