

# Shrewsbury Public Schools



*Professional Status Reception*

*Monday, October 24, 2016*

*Cyprian Keyes Golf Club  
Boylston, Massachusetts*

## Evening's Events

### Welcome

Barbara A. Malone  
Director, Human Resources

### Speakers

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer  
Superintendent of Schools

Sandra M. Fryc  
Chairperson, School Committee

Ms. Lori Blasioli  
Co-President, SEA  
Mr. Gary Chalmers  
Co-President, SEA  
Ms. Victoria McCarthy  
Vice President, SEA

### Recognition of Honorees

Building Principals  
Department Directors  
SEA Representatives  
Parent Group Representatives

## Shrewsbury School Committee

Sandra M. Fryc  
Chairperson

Dr. B. Dale Magee  
Vice Chairperson

Jon Wensky  
Secretary

Erin Canzano

John R. Samia

The Shrewsbury Public Schools,  
in partnership with the community,  
will provide the students with the skills  
and knowledge for the 21<sup>st</sup> century,  
an appreciation of our democratic tradition,  
and the desire to continue to learn throughout life.

## **Parker Road Preschool**

### Amanda Park

Ms. Amanda Park, a graduate of Southern Illinois University, earned a Bachelor of Science in psychology. Upon graduation, Ms. Park traveled overseas to South Korea where she was a kindergarten teacher for two years. Upon returning from South Korea Ms. Park attended the University of Massachusetts, Boston, as a graduate student. She earned her Master's degree in psychology.

In her three years at Parker Road Preschool, Ms. Park has sparked several important initiatives that have positively impacted student learning in the domains of social and emotional, early literacy and numeracy learning. Ms. Park pursued a social thinking curriculum specific to prekindergarten and garnered teacher and specialist support for the implementation of this program. As a lead member of our Early Intervention Team, Ms. Park introduced a standardized progress-monitoring tool to measure student knowledge and progress in early literacy and numeracy. These assessments drive our Response to Intervention (RTI) and classroom instruction. As the Early Intervention Coordinator, Ms. Park meets with families of children referred, prior to their third birthday, to SPS for an initial special education evaluation. This role is vital to building positive and trusting relationships from the very beginning of a child's educational journey in the Shrewsbury Public Schools. Ms. Park is a very valuable asset to Parker Road Preschool's parents, students, staff, and to the Shrewsbury School District and community at large.

## **Beal Early Childhood Center**

### Chris Girardi

Chris Girardi was named principal of the Beal Early Childhood Center in 2013 after a meticulous search process involving the staff and parent community. Prior to coming to Shrewsbury, Chris began his education career in 2002 as a music teacher at the Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School in Worcester, where he subsequently was promoted to the music department head and then to assistant principal of the elementary school there. At Beal, Chris quickly became known for his thoughtful approach to working with young students and their families, and for his support of staff members in creating an early childhood learning experience with high expectations for learning while also engaging students in age-appropriate ways that cultivate a love of school. His strong commitment to his work and his significant expertise in instructional practices, combined with his skillful approach to leadership, have made him a successful principal for Beal and an important contributor to the school district. Chris holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from Wesleyan University and a master's degree in Leadership and Educational Administration from Worcester State University. Thanks to his core values and leadership skill, the students, families, and staff of the Beal Early Childhood Center benefit greatly from having Chris as their principal.

## Beal Early Childhood Center

### Melissa Barrett

Melissa Barrett is an enthusiastic and dedicated Kindergarten teacher at Beal Early Childhood Center. Melissa received her Bachelor's Degree in Human Services and Master's Degree in Education from Lesley University. Melissa began her career in the Shrewsbury Public School in 1999 first as a Child Specific Aide and then as an ABA Technician from 2000 through 2012. In 2012, Melissa moved on to a Kindergarten teacher position in the Waltham Public Schools before returning to the Beal Staff in the fall of 2013 as a half day Kindergarten teacher.

Melissa is a kind, caring, creative teacher who passionately works to develop the whole child, even in the time-sensitive environment of half day Kindergarten. Melissa collaborates with the half day Kindergarten teachers and families to develop learning experiences that are multi-disciplinary, life-connected, and presented in a way that allows students to access the same materials as full day students while developing a love of learning. Melissa is not afraid to take risks. She is one of two Kindergarten classrooms at Beal that is piloting a 1:2 iPad experience, and her work in using these tools to appropriately support the academic, social, and emotional growth of five year olds has been exceptional. Melissa and her husband Matt enjoy spending time with their two children, son Collin and daughter Clara, along with their cat Ernie.

### Emily Chaves

Emily Chaves is a versatile Early Childhood Educator who brings great energy and excitement to her classroom. Emily is a graduate of Worcester State University with a degree in Early Childhood Education with a double major in Sociology. Shortly after graduation, Emily started her career at Beal as a Program Aide in January of 2013 where she quickly made her mark as a hard worker who naturally connects with children. Later that fall Emily became a half day Kindergarten teacher teaching both morning and afternoon sessions, where her energy and passion made her a great fit for working with forty Kindergarten students and families every day.

Emily moved to Grade 1 in the fall of 2014 where she continues to teach. Emily has a knack of reaching all types of learners by tapping into their interests and skills, and has a true talent for connecting with students with and without disabilities. Mrs. Chaves works closely with her team of educators to address areas where students succeed and struggle and is willing to take risks to create environments where all students can grow. After wrapping up her school day, Emily makes her way to the high school to follow her other passion as Assistant Cheering Coach. Emily and her husband Jay, along with pets Meadow, Marley, and Milton, are preparing for 'baby Chaves' in March.

### Lisa McKiernan

Lisa McKiernan is a true professional who cares deeply for her students and fellow co-workers. Lisa is a graduate of Fitchburg State University with a Major in Sociology and received her Master's in Education from Anna Maria College. Lisa joined the Beal faculty in the fall of 2013 as a Kindergarten teacher and then moved to Grade 1 when the grade level returned to Beal in the fall of 2014. Lisa has previous experience as a Kindergarten teacher in Westborough and Sterling prior to coming to Shrewsbury, as well as successes in a range of positions from Pre-K through Grade 5.

Lisa relishes in the opportunity to work with all children, and has thrived in environments that include students requiring various levels of ELL support, moderate special education needs, and severe special education needs. Lisa is known for her 'Mama Bear' personality of advocating for her students and makes sure that all staff working in her classroom are prepared and welcome. This warm, caring, committed approach to her classroom has made for great experiences for all families. Outside of school, Lisa enjoys spending time with her husband Mike, and visiting her two sons, Michael and Brendan, in college.

## Beal Early Childhood Center

### Lynn Pinto

Lynn Pinto is a consummate team player who works very hard to bring a love of learning to her students and fellow educators. Lynn received her Master's Degree in Education from Monmouth University in 2009 and her Bachelor's Degree in Communications with a minor in Marketing from Fairfield University in 2005. Prior to becoming a Kindergarten teacher at Beal in the fall of 2013, Lynn was a Pre-k and Kindergarten teacher in New Jersey and Program Aide in the Shrewsbury Public Schools.

Lynn's willingness to take on new roles and responsibilities has been truly valuable to the Beal School Community. Lynn began teaching Kindergarten in the fall of 2013, and then moved to Grade 1 when the grade level returned to Beal in the fall of 2014. This fall Lynn moved back to teaching Kindergarten, where her perspective on the range of learning between the two grade levels has fostered great discussions and connectivity at team meetings. Regardless of what grade she teaches, Lynn maintains a calm, safe, and supportive environment for students to take risks and grow. Lynn has also become a strong voice within the Beal professional community, where she has served on the Faculty Advisory Committee for the past two years, represented Beal on the Volunteer Committee, and worked with the PTO to beautify the school grounds. Outside of school Lynn enjoys spending her time with son Joey, daughter Ellie, and Sadie the family dog.

## Walter J. Paton Elementary

### Wendy Bell

Wendy Bell was named principal of the Walter J. Paton School in 2013 with very strong support from both the staff and parent community. Wendy began teaching in Shrewsbury as a daily substitute in 1999, and was then hired in 2000 as a teacher at Paton, where she taught third and then fourth grade until her promotion to principal. As a teacher, Wendy was known for her excellent instruction and strong relationships with students and families, and she earned the Shrewsbury Education Foundation's John P. Collins Award for Excellence for her many contributions. Her strong interpersonal and communication skills, her outstanding expertise in best practices in elementary education, and her high expectations for Paton's students and staff have resulted in her success as principal. Her strong work ethic and her passion for providing all students with an excellent education contribute significantly to the success of Paton and our school district. Wendy holds an undergraduate degree with a double major in Elementary Education and General Science from Eastern Nazarene College, and a master's degree in Elementary Education from Fitchburg State University; she also completed her school administrator licensure through the Commonwealth Leadership Academy. Paton School is fortunate to have a principal with the strong character and considerable skill that Wendy demonstrates as a school leader.

## Calvin Coolidge Elementary School

### Linda McQuade

Mrs. Linda McQuade has a Bachelor's degree in Marketing from Southeastern Massachusetts University and a Master's of Education degree from the University of Massachusetts. When Mrs. McQuade was hired as a new teacher on the first grade team, she arrived with experience in Shrewsbury. Linda came to our school by way of Paton, where she had abundant experience as a fourth grade teacher before raising her family and serving as a literacy tutor. We're very glad she ended up with us! Although Reading is undoubtedly Mrs. McQuade's first love, she is a skillful teacher across the board. Importantly, she is also a kind and thoughtful colleague, a generous spirit, an incredibly hard worker and a lifelong learner. Her dual degree and her determination to reach every child make Mrs. McQuade a terrific support for our first graders and an asset to our school community as a whole. Congratulations *again*, Mrs. McQuade!

## Calvin Coolidge Elementary School

### Erin Pickett

It's my pleasure to extend yet another 'Congratulations!' to Mrs. Erin Pickett as well. Erin was hired at Coolidge in 2013 following a first career at Floral Street School. First in her role as a Title 1 tutor and then as part of our Special Education team, Erin has made consistent contributions to our intervention efforts since her arrival. Her ability to see children from multiple perspectives helps her to match the right strategy to each student. Mrs. Pickett certainly puts the fun in Foundations. Further, her commitment to excellence and her work ethic inspire confidence with parents and colleagues alike. Her determination to support inclusive practices has helped to raise expectations. Her calm confidence inspires trust and motivates everyone to make positive contributions. Mrs. Pickett has Bachelor's degree in Elementary & Special Education from Providence College and a Master's degree in Literacy & Language from Framingham State University.

## Sherwood Middle School

### Meg Dagon

Meg Dagon earned her Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education with a minor in English in 2103 at Ithaca College. Currently, Meg is pursuing her M.M. in Music Education at the University of Hartford, Hartt School of Music, and expects her degree to be conferred in 2017. Meg initiated the grades 5 and 6 string players performance groups that perform at Sherwood Middle School Community Meetings and has greatly increased the numbers of students participating in the strings program at Sherwood since her arrival three years ago. Meg has taken over 30 high school students to the MMEA Central District and All-State programs and works as a coach with the Worcester Youth Orchestras. She performs with the Metro West Orchestra, the Massachusetts Symphony Orchestra in Worcester, and the New England Symphony Orchestra in Clinton. In her spare time Meg enjoys hiking, practicing yoga and baking.

Meg thoroughly prepares instruction for students, as she has in-depth knowledge of her students' strengths and challenges. She provides students with many opportunities to practice, while receiving individualized attention and instruction from her. Meg maintains a calm, purposeful, and focused learning environment. Her students respond well to her routines and teaching techniques. The ongoing modeling, guided practice, informal assessment, and targeted instruction that consistently take place in her lessons are exceptional. Meg consistently defines high expectations for the quality of student work and the perseverance and effort required to produce it. She routinely provides exemplars, rubrics, and guided practice to her students. She engages students by involving them in their learning and expects them to actively participate. Meg has established a strong rapport with her students. They are engaged and motivated to learn.

## Sherwood Middle School

### Karen Goudreau

Karen consistently assesses students to help them determine their own strengths and area of challenge. She guides, encourages and gently, and effectively, pushes students to become better learners and better people.

Karen is an active and contributing participant in grade level curriculum and department meetings, as well as in team, parent, IEP, and professional development meetings. She works diligently to familiarize herself with the grade level curriculum, in order that she can effectively assess, plan, and re-assess student understanding of the skills and knowledge that they need to learn during this school year. Karen's focus on performance-based projects and assessments is motivating to students and further engages them in the content being studied.

Karen clearly communicates and enforces specific standards for student work and effort. She models ways in which students can master challenging material. Karen clearly communicates the effort and reading behaviors students must use to be successful and ensures that students are meeting these high standards. Her reflective thinking and professional sharing allow her to consistently strengthen her teaching practice. She consistently seeks opportunities to learn from her colleagues. Karen collaborates extremely well with her team and grade level colleagues, as well as teachers throughout the school, as she is an educator who cares deeply about her students and seeks to provide them with challenging and engaging learning opportunities. Her level of organization and attention to detail is extremely strong. Karen's planning is thoughtful and thorough, as evident in both formal and informal observations of her teaching practice. Karen has a Bachelor's degree in History and a Master's degree in Education, both from Simmons College.

### Megan Graham

Ms. Megan Graham is an enthusiastic and creative educator who makes purposeful and positive contributions to the Sherwood Middle School community. She has taken an active role in the district's project based learning initiative by serving as a member of the Innovation Team. Megan is one of two 5th grade mathematics and science teachers who volunteered to pilot the new science standards. She utilizes her professional learning by exploring authentic problem solving with her students, while making real life connections. Her hands-on approach to teaching and learning results in students who are motivated to learn.

Megan's belief that by engaging students in critical thinking and process skills, they will develop a deeper understanding of the curriculum, results in student growth. She conveys a remarkable enthusiasm for investigating and implementing ways to develop a passion for learning in her students, and she readily shares new found knowledge and expertise with her colleagues. She is often called upon to lead workshops for her colleagues, particularly in the area of technology. Megan has built a kind, caring community with her teammate and demonstrates a strong rapport with parents. Movement breaks are a common practice on this team, as she and her partner understand the need for middle schoolers to have movement embedded within their school day. Megan has demonstrated a strong ability to engage students at high levels in authentic learning experiences and she consistently strives to improve her practice in this area. Her can do attitude helps to inspire her colleagues to try new things. Megan is a wonderful addition to our school!

Megan has a Bachelor's degree in Communications from the University of Massachusetts and a Master's degree in Education from Salem State College.



## Sherwood Middle School

### Aaron Gritter

Dr. Aaron Gritter serves as both School Psychologist at Sherwood Middle School, as well as the Lead School Psychologist for the Shrewsbury Public Schools. He has a superior knowledge of student evaluation and aptly shares highly technical information with parents and colleagues in a clear, concise, and respectful manner. Dr. Gritter is often sought out by colleagues for assistance and consult on a variety of evaluation matters and happily and enthusiastically obliges.

Dr. Gritter is a contributing member of the school's Building Leadership and Crisis Management Teams. He frequently volunteers to assist with intensive student behaviors, and spends the end of each school day in the gymnasium participating in sports activities with students who worked hard to earn the privilege of *gym time with Dr. Gritter!* Dr. Gritter actively extends offers to assist others wherever needed, both within Sherwood and district-wide. His suggestions and ideas of ways in which to implement a variety of strategies in the classroom and school-wide result in improved student behavior and increased student confidence with navigating learning and other routines within the school. Dr. Gritter is always ready and willing to help in any way (even when he is extremely busy, which is often)!

Dr. Gritter has a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Calvin College. He has also earned a Master's degree in School Psychology and a Doctoral degree in Psychology, both from the University of Southern Maine.

### Karen Gutekanst

Ms. Karen Gutekanst is a compassionate, empathetic, knowledgeable, dedicated and wise leader who works diligently to develop strong and trusting relationships with students, faculty and families. She understands the needs of middle level learners and addresses their needs with determination, conviction, and kindness. Over the past three years, Karen has successfully increased the numbers of students and faculty mentors who are involved in SMS's Support One Student (SOS) program. She coordinates an extensive After School Activities Program (ASAP), which is attended by hundreds of students during the school year.

Since becoming Assistant Principal at SMS in 2013, Karen has facilitated after school book clubs for educators, initiated meaningful service endeavors including Andy's Closet, an SMS outreach effort focused on collecting new and gently used clothing to share with children of middle school age (grades 5-8) in our local community, and facilitated numerous meaningful professional development opportunities for faculty.

Karen positively influences the school community in a multitude of ways. Her attention to detail is amazing. Her willingness to initiate service endeavors and find ways to strengthen our community of learners by building trusting relationships with students, colleagues, and families is valued and appreciated!

Karen has a Bachelor's degree in Foreign Language from Holy Cross and a Master's degree in Education from Western Connecticut State University.

## Sherwood Middle School

### Laurie Krueger

Ms. Laurie Krueger is a structured reading teacher who is involved in the development of her role. She interacts well with her students and engages them in the learning process. The students are familiar with classroom routines and closely follow her instructions, resulting in consistent growth in the area of reading fluency and reading comprehension. Laurie arrives to school each day with a positive attitude and a willingness to support her students and colleagues. She frequently seeks insight and guidance from colleagues within the school, as well as outside the school, to improve her practice and strengthen her students' skills and knowledge.

Observations of Ms. Krueger's teaching demonstrate that she is well planned and prepared for daily lessons and activities. During the past school year, Ms. Krueger initiated collaboration with the Intensive Learning Center at SMS; providing direct service to students as well as strong collaboration with a new teacher in the area of reading instruction. She has been instrumental in getting the reading portion of the program up and running smoothly. Laurie traveled with three colleagues to Beijing China this past summer to teach in a summer school for Chinese students, while also providing professional development to teachers. She is to be commended for her strong level of collaboration and effectiveness in the area of reading instruction. Laurie has a Bachelor's degree in Special Education from the University of Central Oklahoma and a Master's degree in Reading from Worcester State University.

### Laura Macchi

During the past three years, Laura has become an active and positive contributor to the SMS community in significant ways. Laura's calm and reassuring presence helps to guide students and encourages them to meet and exceed their goals. Her lessons are carefully orchestrated to provide meaningful transitions from one learning experience to the next. She quickly became involved in collaboration opportunities and offered her support of the school, serving on School Council and Student Voice, while also hosting several visitors interested in technology integration into her classroom. She works collaboratively with faculty and families to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn at high levels and share their learning with others. Laura invites families into her classroom to showcase student learning on various occasions during the school year. She celebrates student success during opportunities including the *Poetry Slam* designed to provide students with opportunities to share their writing in a rehearsed and professional way.

Laura is a consistent and respectful contributor to pod and department meetings. She has been commended for sharing her insights in a humble and reassuring manner that moves the entire department forward. Laura has demonstrated that she is a continual learner who advocates for resources that support student learning in and out of the classroom. She is always willing to take on an extra responsibility or opportunity to strengthen her practice, as evidenced by sharing best practice at Ed Camps. Laura was accepted into the PBS Learning Media Digital Innovator Program due to the creativity and innovation that is embedded into her teaching practices. She is truly a model of innovation. Laura has a Bachelor's degree in Education from Framingham State University and a Master's degree in Literacy from Lesley College.

## Sherwood Middle School

### Kelley Maguire

Kelley has created a learning environment in her health education classes that is engaging and positive for student learning. She develops creative lessons that help our students learn the skills they need to make healthy choices throughout their lifetime. Kelley is reflective about her practice, and continues to strive to develop well-structured lessons that meet the needs of all students. She works diligently to build trusting relationships with students and collaborates exceptionally well with colleagues. Kelley has been instrumental in the development of new Wellness classes at SMS. Though she is not teaching these classes, she has provided members of her department with tools and resources they need for this new program. Kelley has been appropriately credited for contributing to the success of these courses, which have been designed to allow students with knowledge regarding the skills and strategies needed to mitigate stress.

Kelley is involved in many school related activities that occur outside of the school day. Some of these involve facilitating the SMS Student Voice's Health and Wellness Crew, assisting with the after school Ceramics courses, as well as teaching in the Middle School Summer Extensions program. Kelley has a Bachelor's degree in Health Education from Bridgewater State College.

### Paige Quinn

Ms. Paige Quinn is an outstanding educator and valued colleague at Sherwood Middle School. She effectively differentiates instruction to meet the needs of all of her students-spending a significant amount of time planning meaningful lessons. Paige is poised, calm, patient, intuitive and hardworking. She has a consistently positive attitude and is highly regarded by her colleagues. Paige is extremely well-organized and prepared at all times, despite a significant and involved caseload of students. Formal and informal observations indicate that Paige establishes a positive and trusting rapport with each student and motivates students to do well by persevering and utilizing the resources available to them.

The adults with whom Paige works closely commend her for maximizing time on learning and providing highly structured and appropriate support to students, while fostering increased levels of student independence. Paige demonstrates an in-depth understanding of her student's backgrounds and profiles, which drives her instruction and allows her to engage with students' families in meaningful ways. Paige works well with colleagues, parents, students, and administrators. Paige has a Bachelor's degree in Communication from Lynchburg College and a Master's degree in Special Education from Assumption College.

## Sherwood Middle School

### Alicia Tinsley

Alicia is a kind, caring, insightful, and hard-working educator who strives to provide students with the academic and social tools, resources, and experiences they need to be contributing members of the classroom community. She initiated movement breaks into her classroom routines and presented these to faculty in an effort to share her practice with others. Alicia strategically designs lessons to focus students on achieving specific objectives. Students on her team are consistently able to share these objectives with visitors to the classroom and clearly articulate why they are learning what they are learning. Alicia has established a calm, purposeful, and kind learning environment. She engages students through appropriate pacing, varied learning experiences (including active hands on learning), and effective questioning. She provides clear expectations for the quality of work and effort, and she provides models and exemplars to help students know the targets for learning. Alicia affirms students' questions, responses and ideas in a calm, caring, and kind manner, all of which contributes to the positive and safe learning environment that she provides to her team community.

Alicia builds trusting relationships with families, as she communicates effectively and respectfully with students' parents and caretakers. Her consistent and timely phone calls to parents and conferences with them indicate that she is responsive to the needs of students and seeks to address parent questions and concerns. Alicia reflects thoughtfully on her professional practice by carefully reviewing student progress and adjusting her practice to best meet the needs of all students. She seeks additional resources on her own and utilizes the suggestions of colleagues to expand her repertoire of strategies, tools, and resources to plan engaging, effective lessons. Alicia develops meticulous well-planned lessons that make learning accessible to her students through methodical step-by-step acquisition of rigorous skills and concepts. She provides modeling, guided practice, exemplars, and appropriate resource materials as needed. In addition, she incorporates a variety of activities, materials, and technology that enhance learning and engage students. Alicia has a Bachelor's degree in Education from Merrimack College.

## Oak Middle School

### Matthew Amdur

Matt is a proud member of Shrewsbury High School's class of 2002! Matt began his undergraduate degree at Fitchburg State University and then moved west to California where he attended Santa Monica College. Between 2004 and 2010 Matt worked in the video gaming industry while touring as a musician. He returned to the east coast and resumed his coursework at Worcester State University where he earned his BA in English with a concentration in Middle School Education. Matt is currently pursuing his M.Ed. at Fitchburg State University. Matt is grateful to be back in Shrewsbury working with the very teachers who inspired him, and giving back to the community in which he grew up.

### Colleen Connolly

Colleen Connolly has been a member of the Shrewsbury Public Schools Community since 2006, starting out as a substitute teacher. She has taught a myriad of subjects from Math to ELA and Science. Additionally, she served as a long-term substitute teacher for Math and Science at Oak Middle, as well a Ceramics teacher at SHS.

Colleen earned her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in Fine Arts Education with a minor in Graphic Design. She continued her studies earning a Master's Degree in Visual Arts and Art Education from Anna Maria College.

As the visual art teacher at Oak Middle, Colleen has worked very hard to establish strong community relations with the students and staff. She fosters an inclusive learning environment with a focus on creativity, problem-solving, critical thinking, and the development of innovative learning. Working collaboratively with her colleagues, she delivers a sequential curriculum, preparing her art students for the high school. Colleen encourages her students to be open-minded, take risks and develop a life-long appreciation for art.

## Oak Middle School

### Sarah Powers

Sarah is a proud member of Shrewsbury High School's class of 2005! She received her BA in marketing from Worcester State College in 2009 and struggled to find a position she loved in the volatile business job market. Although she excelled at her part time position as a florist at Stop n' Shop, on Tom Kennedy's advice, she began working as an instructional aide at Oak Middle School. She has been there ever since! She received her M.Ed. in moderate special needs from American International College and has found her calling working in special education. Sarah says that she loves teaching because it's constantly changing and every day is different. She believes there are always new ways to help children learn and grow to better their futures and that is wonderful thing to be a part of.

### Serenity Sullivan-Jaques

Serenity grew up in the Worcester area and received her BA in accounting and Spanish in 2002. In 2010 after years of accounting work for a Worcester non-profit, Serenity consulted her former high school principal who helped start her career in teaching. She returned to Worcester State and earned an M.Ed. in secondary education and Spanish. Serenity taught both accounting and Spanish at St. Peter-Marian High School before becoming the Foreign Language Department Director there. Serenity says that the best thing about teaching Spanish is being able to bring the Spanish/Latino cultures to her students. She enjoys the opportunity to build relationships with her students and learn their stories.

### Kate Tinsley

Kate grew up in Paxton and, in 2013, received a BA in mathematics and education from St. Anselm College. Kate's only teaching experience before coming to teach at OMS was her student teaching at Bedford Middle School in New Hampshire. However, teaching is all Kate ever wanted to do. She was inspired by her grandmother, a long time elementary school teacher, with whom she had a special connection. She is currently working on her M.Ed. in middle school math at Lesley University while she begins a new chapter in her life with her new husband in the Boston area. Kate says that the best thing about teaching is seeing her students smile. She also loves watching them grow in the knowledge of mathematical concepts and learn that math is so much more than just a set of procedures.

## Shrewsbury High School

### Tracy Calabresi

Tracy Calabresi graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a bachelor's degree in Engineering Physics and then went on to Boston University for her juris doctor degree. After working as a patent attorney for 17 years, Tracy decided to become a teacher in the instructional technology department at Shrewsbury High School. She is currently working on her master's degree in instructional technology. Tracy teaches courses in Web Design, Multimedia, and Computer Programming. Tracy is committed to sharing her passion for computer science with all students, whether or not they are enrolled in her courses. Last year Tracy collaborated with other members of her department to organize a school-wide "Hour of Code" event at SHS. Tracy advises a student computer club whose goal is to teach programming to middle school students. She is currently working with students from her computer club to organize a Hackathon event at SHS. Tracy has a growth mindset, which she effectively models for her students. She is always willing to take on new challenges.

## Shrewsbury High School

### Kurt Gustafson

Kurt is a special kind of physical education teacher. Not only is he a graduate of Shrewsbury Public Schools, but his grandmother is a retired Northborough educator and both his mother (Kristine) and wife (Sarah) are current Shrewsbury educators. With this mix Kurt, naturally exemplifies our core values of being a collaborative team member committed to high standards and expectations. Kurt thinks both deeply and broadly, and is able to take into account multiple perspectives. He often talks about the importance of giving back to the community through athletics, physical education and being a positive role model. Kurt is a graduate of the University of Connecticut with a major in Kinesiology. He completed additional educator course work through Bridgewater State University. Kurt is an excellent physical education teacher and coach who specializes in track and field, strength and conditioning, outdoor activities like mountain biking and snowshoeing.

### Erin Hickey Burtnyk

Erin brings more to teaching and learning than expertise in health education curriculum and instruction to Shrewsbury. She also brings an understanding of the social, academic and emotional variables that impact our students. Erin came to Shrewsbury as a licensed dietitian graduating from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Her expertise in nutrition has been an invaluable asset within the department and among our students as we promote health literacy. Erin is always willing to lend a helping hand by supporting our students and assisting with athletic events and department needs. We are fortunate to have Erin as part of the Shrewsbury team!

### Jessica Rigberg

Jessica Rigberg graduated from Siena College with a Bachelor's degree in American Studies and received her Masters degree in Education from Lesley University. Since joining the SHS Social Sciences faculty in 2013, Ms. Rigberg has consistently demonstrated her ability to reflect on and analyze the teaching and learning that occurs in her World Civilizations and US History II classes. Ms. Rigberg has been commended by her colleagues for her ability to support struggling students while still holding them to high expectations. Her colleagues have also noted Ms. Rigberg's ability to design and implement lessons with high levels of student engagement as well as multiple opportunities for them to show their learning. As a result of her ability to collaborate with others, Ms. Rigberg has provided valuable insights and contributions to the department's work on common assessments and curriculum alignment. Ms. Rigberg models life long learning by continuously enrolling in graduate level course work as well as being open and receptive to feedback.

### Tim Scheer

Timothy Scheer earned both his Bachelor's degree in History and Education as well as his Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Connecticut. Since joining the SHS Social Sciences faculty in 2013, Mr. Scheer has consistently designed and implemented lessons in his World Civilizations, US History I and America and the World Today classes that have high levels of student engagement, provide students opportunities to think critically as well as take personal responsibility for their learning. Mr. Scheer has impressed his colleagues with his balanced and thoughtful approach to incorporating technology and primary sources into his lessons. Mr. Scheer's colleagues have also commended him for his willingness to support others as they try innovative approaches in their classrooms. Mr. Scheer effectively collaborates with others by asking insightful questions and respectfully challenging his colleagues to think differently about Social Science education.

## District

### Sara Honig

Sara Honig has completed three successful years as the 6-12 Director of World Languages. During her short tenure, Sara has worked with her department to explore the reasons why some students struggle in foreign language classes. She then took steps to remedy or change situations that have been found to contribute to these struggles. Included in this effort has been the revision of the SHS foreign language program of studies, the monitoring students who receive low grades, and a focus on appropriate placement into courses. Sara holds a strong value around equity and ensuring that all students succeed within her department. Sara should also be recognized for being a leader who supports and advocates for her team and upholds our district's commitment to respectful, collaborative problem solving.

Sara has a Bachelor's degree in Latin & Classical Humanities from Barnard College. She also has a Master's degree in Latin & Classical Humanities from the University of Massachusetts and a second Master's degree in Education from Boston University.



## *Acknowledgements & Thank You....*

To the Parent Teacher Organizations  
and the Shrewsbury Education Association for their  
continued support and participation  
in this important event.

We would also like to recognize and thank  
the following business partner  
for graciously donating the floral arrangements this  
evening's festivities.

*Danielson*  
F • L • O • W • E • R • S