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## Superintendent's Corner Acting with class

DR. JOSEPH M. SAWYER  
SUPERINTENDENT

The following remarks were given by Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools, at the Shrewsbury High School Class of 2016 Commencement on Thursday, June 2, 2016.

Class, I think, is an interesting and important word. Of course, this evening it refers to you, our graduates, who for the rest of your lives will be members of the Shrewsbury High School Class of 2016. Educationally, class refers to a course of study over a semester or school year, and you all have earned the right to be here by successfully completing the requirements of the classes you took over the past four years. Of course, class also means a single, daily meeting of a course, as in "I was a rock star in class today because I studied so hard last night," or, conversely, "I didn't have a clue in class today because I binge-watched eight episodes of *Grey's Anatomy* on Netflix last night".

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Pictured above are participants from the SHS Student Innovation Team Soccer Clinic. See "Design Thinking" story on page 7.

## “One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world.”

~ Malala Yousafzai ~



Class Marshal Michael Wackell (front), motions to the SHS Class of 2016 as class officers and speakers look on from the stage at the graduation ceremony that took place on June 2, 2016. (From left: Jaehyun Lee, Class Secretary; Walsh Kang, Class Treasurer; Richard Peng, Class Vice President; Emma Aulenback, Class President; Yutong Liu, Class Valedictorian; Allison Ross, Class Salutatorian; Casey Boudreau & Erin Shields, Faculty Recognition Speakers).

## The benefits of strong public education

MS. SANDRA FRYC  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE CHAIR

This past school year, two significant events occurred for the School Committee. The first important event was the approval of the School Department budget request at the annual Town Meeting on May 16, 2016. Town Meeting Members approved the School Department's fiscal year 2017 budget request of \$60,407,383, which is a 3.34% increase over the fiscal year 2016 budget. The road to presenting the School Department budget at Town Meeting began in January of this year and involved a careful assessment of the needs of the district, thorough vetting of all areas of potential revenue and expenses, as well as working with the Town Manager and other town boards.

In January, at the direction of the School Committee, Dr. Sawyer presented a level service budget recommendation that retained all education programs and staff on a status quo basis. Our purpose for requesting

a level service budget included issues of full disclosure and transparency as we believe it is important for the community to have a clear understanding of the cost of maintaining our strong public education for fiscal year 2017 that sustains current level of personnel and programing, meet mandates in cost-effective ways, and advances School Committee strategic priorities.

The gap between the School Department level service budget and the Town Manager's initial budget projection was \$3,334,144. Our work turned to closing the gap in light of the available limited resources. The focus of our work included a careful and targeted approach to minimizing the negative impact of reductions on programs and staff and the use of updated information at the local and state level.

The decrease of the gap included reduction in curriculum and supply budgets; staff reduction through attrition or layoff of 8.5 FTEs (full time equivalents), and reduction in paraprofessional work schedules.

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## Superintendent's Corner

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Class can also refer to one's economic standing relative to others in society. Most of you are fortunate to have been raised in a family that has had enough money to provide you not only with the basic necessities, but also niceties that have made your standard of living truly remarkable when compared to previous generations, and unthinkable for the hundreds of millions of young people in our nation and around the globe who live in poverty. I hope you have a sense of gratitude for the circumstances into which you were born, which allowed you to grow up and attend school in a community that has provided you with an education that, by many measures, truly is world class. You are clearly well prepared

***"I am referring to the class that reflects the substance of one's character."***

academically, but I also hope that the opportunity you had to attend school with classmates from different economic classes, not to mention different racial, ethnic, religious, cultural, and personal backgrounds, has given you a real-world perspective that has enabled understanding, respect, compassion, and empathy. These relate to the definition of class I want to focus on this evening - that is, class as a personal attribute that you develop, not something that you are born with, and certainly not something that depends on how much wealth you inherit or earn. I am referring to the class that reflects the substance of one's character. This is the type of class that each of us has full control over attaining, as it is a measure of our actions:

- How we treat our family and friends.
- How we act towards people we don't know personally or who can't do anything for us - especially those who have less

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## Shrewsbury School Journal

The non-profit Shrewsbury School Journal is published three times a year and reaches every household in the diverse and growing town of Shrewsbury. It is published by the central office of the Shrewsbury Public Schools with the help and expertise of many individuals. The mission of the Shrewsbury School Journal is to provide an accurate source of information about our school system and the town in which we live. We hope to foster a community of continuous learners.

**Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer**  
Superintendent

**Kimberlee Cantin**  
**Elizabeth McCollum**  
Project Coordinators

**Tara Gauthier**  
Designer

## Retirees recognized for their service

**BARBARA MALONE**  
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Nineteen educators recently ended their education careers at Shrewsbury Public Schools with a well-deserved retirement. In combination, they have served the students of Shrewsbury for 361.5 years, which represents an average of 19 years of service in Shrewsbury. Each of these talented educators was recognized for their commitment and dedication to the children of Shrewsbury at the School Committee meeting on June 15, 2016. Listed below are their names, positions, schools and years of service to Shrewsbury. We wish them a healthy, happy and fun retirement!

### Teachers:

Ms. Karen Catalanotti served 37 years as an educator, with 35 of those years here in Shrewsbury. She retired as a First Grade Teacher from the Walter J. Paton Elementary School.

Ms. Pamela Catino served 35 years as an educator, with all of those years here in Shrewsbury. She retired as the Reading Specialist Teacher from Sherwood Middle School.

Ms. Mary Cipro served 28 years as an educator, with 25 of those years here in Shrewsbury. She retired as a Kindergarten Teacher from the Beal Early Childhood Center.

Ms. Susan Conley served 37 years as an educator, with 36 of those years here in Shrewsbury. She retired as the Curriculum Coordinator and Instructional Coach from the Calvin Coolidge Elementary School.

Ms. Barbara Connolly served 35 years as an educator, with 23 of those years here in Shrewsbury. She retired as a Second Grade Teacher from the Walter J. Paton Elementary School.

Ms. Gail Flanagan served 21 years as an educator, with 16 of those years here in Shrewsbury. She retired as the Instructional Technology Specialist Teacher from Sherwood Middle School.

Ms. Susan Lane served 23 years as an educator, with all of those years here in Shrewsbury. She retired as a Third Grade Teacher from the Calvin Coolidge Elementary School.

Ms. Moira Lumley-Chan served 5.5 years as an educator, with all

of those years here in Shrewsbury. She retired as a Science Teacher from Shrewsbury High School.

Ms. "Meme" Middlesworth served 31 years as an educator, with 15 of those years here in Shrewsbury. She retired as a Kindergarten Teacher from the Beal Early Childhood Center.

Ms. Elaine Morgan served 26 years as an educator, with 16 of those years here in Shrewsbury. She retired as a Fourth Grade Teacher from Floral Street School.

Ms. Ellen O'Leary served 16 years as an educator, with all of those years here in Shrewsbury. She retired as a Speech Language Pathologist from Floral Street School.

Ms. Sandra Siegman served 22 years as an educator, with all of those years here in Shrewsbury. She retired as a Math and Science Teacher from Sherwood Middle School.

Ms. Sharon Theoharides served 16 years as an educator, with 10 of those years here in Shrewsbury. She retired as an Inclusion Teacher from Sherwood Middle School.

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## Wisdom for the Class of 2016

*The following remarks were given by Ms. Colleen Hall, English Teacher, at the Shrewsbury High School Class of 2016 Commemoration on Tuesday, May 31, 2016.*

I feel honored to speak to you all tonight because, while at times I feel eons older than you, in reality, I know a lot of what you're going through, or will go through, when you venture out into the world, and I have some little nuggets of wisdom to pass on to you. These nug-

gets have either been passed on to me, or I've learned through trial and error. So without further ado, here are some of Ms. Hall's "words to live by" (soon to be trademarked and sold on t-shirts, where available):

1. Be kind. Now, this may seem obvious, but it has more layers than you think, because sometimes people often confuse being kind with being nice, and I want to stress the former, not that latter. In my mind, being kind is harder. You know why?

Because being kind requires you to take the extra step. Let me give you an example - when I was college, I broke my collarbone and had reconstructive surgery. Long story short, it was terrible, and I don't wish it on my worst enemy. But what I learned from that ordeal is the difference between being nice and being kind. During that time, many people were nice - people posted on my Facebook wall asking how I was or sent me a sympathetic text message - but only a few were kind, only a few came to my dorm room and listened to me talk about all the complications I was having, only a few offered to carry my bags to and from class, and only a few helped me get my jacket on after class was over and packed my bag for me. What I'm trying to show you is that being kind involves actions in addition to just words. It involves reaching out, doing something more, helping someone else instead of yourself, and that is incredibly difficult in this day and age. It's easy to be nice, it's harder to be kind. But being kind makes you feel better, makes you feel fulfilled. As Maya Angelou once



*Pictured above is Ms. Colleen Hall giving the Commemoration Speech at Mechanics Hall to the Class of 2016.*

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# Road Scholars Race & Fun Run

MICHELLE BISCOTTI &  
KATHLEEN KEOHANE  
COORDINATORS OF VOLUNTEER  
ACTIVITIES & DEVELOPMENT

We had another amazing day at the races! Our 9th Annual Road Scholars Road Race was held on April 10th on the grounds of Oak Middle School. The day dawned bright and chilly, but we still had 380 runners and walkers of all ages who participated in the 1 mile and the 5k races.

This year, we promoted a family-friendly and health-focused event. While waiting for the medals ceremony, families visited our table vendors who shared

information about proper stretching techniques, massages and good nutrition. Throughout the day and while the 5k was in progress, children were kept entertained (and active!) with jump ropes, bubbles and Frisbees. After the races were done, medals were handed out to the top 3 male/female winners of each age group and participation medals were given to all children who completed the 1 mile race.

Through sponsorships and registrations, we were able to raise \$6330 for the Colonial Fund, which supports important projects and initiatives that are not supported in the current school budget. Recently, our district has been evaluating how to expand

project-based learning in the Shrewsbury Public Schools, through investigative trips to schools that have already implemented this type of learning. Colonial Fund dollars will help us continue this evaluation and take steps towards this important goal. Please visit <http://schools.shrewsbury.ma.gov/future> for more information about the Colonial Fund.

A special thank you to Andrea Johnson from Synergy Health and Wellness who emceed our event and led the pre-race warm-ups. We would also like to thank the Shrewsbury Police Department for providing a police detail to help ensure our runners and walkers remained safe.

We would like to thank the following people and businesses for their sponsorship of our race:



Pictured in the photos above are participants of the Road Scholars 5K Race & Fun Run.

To view photos from the race day, please visit our website <http://shrewsburyroadscholars.org>. Also, please LIKE our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ShrewsburyRoadScholars/> for important reminders and updates for next year's race. If you or your business would like to sponsor next year's race, please contact us at [development@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:development@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us). We will be planning a very exciting event for our 10th anniversary!

## Gold Sponsors

Dunkin Donuts  
Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union

## Silver Sponsors

Representative Hannah Kane  
National Facility Services, Inc  
Avidia Bank

## Bronze Sponsors

Synergy Health & Wellness  
CrossFit 1727  
Price Chopper

## Table Sponsors

Greendale Physical Therapy  
All Access Physical Therapy  
Shrewsbury Athletic Club

## In-Kind Sponsors

Race Banner - Lakeway Business District  
Water - Polar Beverages  
Fruit & Granola Bars - Wegmans  
Protein Bars - Raw Revolution  
Emergency services - Massachusetts Emergency Care  
Training Academy

## Superintendent's Corner

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power, or less education, or fewer resources or opportunities than we do.

- How we serve our own community, and the larger world.
- How we communicate our thoughts and beliefs to others - especially when we disagree - and how we respond to others' thoughts and beliefs that are different than our own.
- How we deal with success, and how we handle adversity.

It's not about whether you will act, it is about how you act.

***“Class has everything to do with how you choose to act...”***

Unfortunately, at this moment in our society, it seems to be much easier to find examples of what is crass than what exemplifies class. One simple definition of crass is “being rude and insensitive.” I’m concerned about how rude and insensitive behavior has become more prevalent in politics and the media, especially social media, and how our culture has become more tolerant of it. I urge you to rise above and set a higher standard for yourselves. I want you to recognize that even if you are well educated, have great talent, or have achieved material success, these have no bearing on whether you possess class. Class has everything to do with how you choose to act - whether you behave in ways that demonstrate respect and kindness. As a much wiser school leader than I, Hogwarts Headmaster Albus Dumbledore, once said to Harry Potter, “It is our choices that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities.”

Members of the Class of 2016, I know you have the abilities, skills, and knowledge to build prosperous lives, but, more importantly, I hope that you make choices and act in ways that cause those who know you to say, “Now there’s a class act.”

On behalf of everyone in the Shrewsbury Public Schools, please accept my very best wishes for bright futures lived with true class. Congratulations.

# Building the water cycle

DANIEL CAMPBELL  
WALTER J. PATON SCHOOL  
GRADE 3 TEACHER

It took a month, but at the end of May, Mr. Campbell's third grade class was cheering as their project was tested and was a success. This month long project began with an idea: “How can we teach others about the water cycle?” This small question evolved into what is now a large functioning water cycle table in the middle of their third grade classroom.

Each group was given a different stage of the water cycle to teach others about. This quickly turned into the students having the idea of each group building their stage and working together to create the water cycle in their classroom. As the groups began planning, the energy in the room was contagious and quickly more people began helping. Donations from parents and local plumbers and Water Department members came in to help the students' vision become a reality.



Pictured in the photo from left to right are Samar Hirkewal, Landon McKeon, and Ayaan Razaque.

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## Benefits

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Revenue was raised by increases in athletic and bus fees as well as the re-introduction of limited school choice seats. By April the remaining budget gap was \$1,295,238 and after discussion with the Finance Committee, the Board of Selectman and the Town Manager, the additional funding needed to fill the remaining gap was provided to the School Department. We are extremely grateful for this funding and the trust placed in us by the other town boards and the Town Meeting Members, and the acknowledgment that the fiscal year 2017 budget request is fiscally responsible and will provide education services in the most cost efficient and effective manner possible. However, it is important to note that the fiscal year 2017 school budget is not without impact to program and services. There will be fewer student experiences in some special subjects such as health and art, reduced access to social and mental health services, and reduced access to reading support at Sherwood Middle School.

Public education is expensive; however, relatively flat state funding, flat revenues and often unpredictable increases in special education costs creates issues that must be addressed during each annual budget process. The core of school budget funding comes from town-appropriated dollars, as well as grants and fees. The rest is from the state, but the level of support from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is below the current rate of inflation, so the task of sustaining educational services is basically impossible in light of increased costs. The Proposition 2.5 override in 2014 provided much needed revenue to stem the erosion of educational services. However, it was neither implied nor stated to be the solution to education funding. Shrewsbury, like most other cities and towns in Massachusetts, continues to deal with the structural issue of funding public education. The issue of future funding to meet the educational needs of our school district remains a primary concern for the School Committee.

The second important event was the Shrewsbury High School Class of 2016 graduation ceremony that took place on June 2nd. It is gratifying to witness the graduates receive their diplomas and know they are leaving the Shrewsbury Public Schools with the tools they need to be successful. As School Committee Members, one of our duties is to ensure that students are provided with an education that prepares them for the future. This includes providing funding for education, good school facilities and teaching staff. Our school district provides students with challenging, diverse learning opportunities that promote creative and independent thinking. Shrewsbury Public School students achieve remarkable results, as evidenced by state, regional, and national recognition for academic strength. The graduates of the Class of 2016 continue the tradition of excellence in academic achievement.

One of the highlights of the Class

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# State Champion Speech & Debate Team!



SHS 2015-2016 Speech & Debate Team

BY CHARLENE &  
MARC RISCHITELLI  
SPEECH AND DEBATE  
TEAM COACHES

The Shrewsbury High School Speech and Debate Team was comprised of 75 members for its 2015 – 2016 season. The team begins its regular practices during the first week of school and continues throughout the school year with local tournaments beginning in October and continuing through State Championship tournaments in April and then on to national championship tournaments in May and June. The ongoing dedication and hard work of these students reaped many rewards

for the team this year.

The team competed at 15 locally held tournaments this year placing in the top four schools at each of the nine tournaments where team awards are presented. Of Shrewsbury's nine team awards, five of them were FIRST PLACE! This is a great testament to the talent and commitment of the team's membership overall!

Two tournaments were hosted at Shrewsbury High School this year: the National Catholic Forensic League national qualifier tournament for the Boston and Worcester Dioceses, and the 23rd Annual SHS Mardi Gras Tournament which attracted more entries

than ever before in its long history - over 1000 people and almost 800 entries from more than 50 schools making it the largest local tournament in Massachusetts this year.

Members of the team also competed at travel tournaments held at Yale University, St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Harvard University, and George Mason University near Washington, D.C. In addition, continuing the drive of individual competitors to seek out unique and rigorous national competitions, Debate Captain, Lindsay Mahowald and her partner/brother, incoming Debate Captain, Seth Mahowald earned the right to compete at

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## Sherwood Middle School welcomes Beijing Elementary

MICHELLE BISCOTTI &  
KATHLEEN KEOHANE  
COORDINATORS OF VOLUNTEER  
ACTIVITIES & DEVELOPMENT

This past March, Sherwood Middle School (SMS) welcomed 29 Chinese students from Beijing Elementary School – Daxing Branch, along with their principal and teachers, for a 10-day stay in the Shrewsbury/New England area. Thanks to the generosity of our Sherwood families, these students were housed in the homes of Sherwood students and able to experience a few days in the life of their American counterparts.

During their time here, our Chinese visitors attended classes at SMS and toured many well-known sites like Harvard University, MIT and the Boston Museum of Sci-

ence. They also spent two days in New York City with their teachers. Our host families kept them busy locally with visits to Hebert Candies, a day at Old Sturbridge Village and, a rare treat, playing in the snow! Host families also met for fun times together at AMF, Sky Zone and LaserCraze.

***“It was fun to have another member to join the family and it was very rewarding for the kids to help each other understand and do things together.”***

Shrewsbury's participation in this type of exchange program is reflective of our district's commitment to develop students who can contribute and feel comfortable with their responsibilities as global citizens. The capac-

ity to understand cultural differences, communicate in another language and to collaborate with global peers are all skills that are becoming increasingly important in our digital and interconnected world. “Only knowing your little part of the world will not yield the creative solutions we need to solve the world's complex problems.” ~ Lynne Mitchell

This exchange was the initial venture into what is anticipated to be a long-term collaboration between our two schools. If you have a 5th or 6th grade student at Sherwood next year, we hope you will consider becoming a host family and supporting this important exchange. Our host families agree it can be a very rewarding experience for all.

# SHS television students inspired by conference

GWEN KERRIGAN  
SHREWSBURY HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 2017

In March 2016, a group of ten students from the Educational Television Studio (ETS) of Shrewsbury High School traveled with their teacher, Maggie Korab, to the Student Television Network's annual convention, located in Atlanta, Georgia.

Atlanta, Georgia took in over two thousand aspiring young filmmakers and broadcasters, all showcasing their skills to members of the industry, in hope of making an impression. The competitions set off first thing in the morning, and suddenly the city was overrun with teenagers holding cameras, tripods, microphones, and anything that would help them achieve the perfect shot. From March 9th to March 13th, the Marriott Marquis housed not only competitions but also guest speakers, college booths, and nightly events for the attendees. Students of the Shrewsbury High School Educational Television Studio were among the eager filmmaking prospects, traveling to the competition for the first time. Led by their teacher and ETS director, Maggie Korab, the students competed in a total of five different contests that tested their editing, filming, writing, and reporting skills. ETS students attending this convention included sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

The Student Television Network is an organization created by communications and film teachers across the United States. Their main objective is to provide unity among broadcasting and film students, while providing light competition for the students involved. The different contests are judged based on a criteria created by teachers and professionals from the industry. Guest speakers included Kyra Phillips of CNN, Faraz Ahmed, Les Rose, Dave Davis, and dozens more. They provided insight and advice to the aspiring journalists and directors, as well as giving the opportunity for the students to have their work critiqued by a professional.



Pictured above are students from Ms. Korab's Television Production class that attended the Students Television Network Conference in Atlanta, GA. From left to right are Tim Schwab, Reilly Brenner, Gabby Troisi, Lindsey Canavan, Gwen Kerrigan, Jack Frederick, Ethan Evers, and Ryan Denval. In front are Noah Juair and Ryan Morgera.

"I learned so much by going to the conference, it was honestly such a cool experience to see what other kids my age were doing and what other kids around the country are learning. I thought it was so cool to see that there are other students in the country who do TV production, and see that other kids have the same interest as I do," said Jack Frederick, a junior at Shrewsbury High School. He went on to explain that by attending the conference he now realizes he wants to go into this field and now knows the path he wants to follow in college:

"It was really eye-opening for me. I'm really glad I went and met people from the field and other kids I might get to work

with in the future."

Students who attended the conference also expressed that by going, they were able to build a stronger bond with their fellow students in the ETS. Ms. Korab expressed the difference in teamwork and attitude she has witnessed following the conference,

"The convention was incredible. The students in the television studio are really energized and have so many new ideas. They made a lot of great connections with students from all over the country. It was an experience none of us will ever forget."



Pictured above are Reilly Brenner and Tim Schwab editing a video at the conference.

## Speech & Debate

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the prestigious Tournament of Champions at the University of Kentucky. The team also had several members compete in our first on-line national tournament which resulted in six finalists.

As the culmination of the team's exciting local competition year, the team advanced over 20 entries to elimination rounds in all 14 categories at the Massachusetts State Speech Finals and quenched a 30+ year drought becoming STATE CHAMPIONS! Although the team has previously received national recognition, the state championship has eluded us for many years. The team had four individual State Champions: Hari Kumar (this year's team President) in Impromptu Speaking, Prisha Singh in Declamation and Declan Quinn and Taha Saeed in Duo Interpretation.

After so much local success, 30 members of the team enthusiastically traveled to the National Catholic Forensic League's National Championship Tournament held in Sacramento, California over Memorial Day weekend. This two-day tournament brings over 2500 high school students from more than 500 schools from across the country. The team exemplified the very best Shrewsbury has to offer, capturing thirteen individual awards including a sixth place finish in Oral Interpretation of Literature by Speech Captain, Kylie Donovan and freshman, Prisha Singh becoming the NATIONAL CHAMPION in Oratorical Declamation! Each category has over 225 entries. Shrewsbury's two national finalists, a senior and a freshman, represent our strong history and bright future.

In June, the year drew to a close with eight team members competing the prestigious National Speech and Debate Association's National Speech and Debate Tournament in Salt Lake City, Utah, where they all competed admirably by advancing several rounds against national competition.

Also of note, through competition in speech and debate, students earn membership and advanced degrees in the National Forensic League. The NFL is the nation's oldest and largest speech and debate national honor society. It was established in 1925 with SHS being the founding member of the New England District in the 1950s. This year, we are proud to have 25 new NFL members, plus 100 advanced degrees earned.

Although the team is competing two to three weekends a month, they also find time to participate in community activities such as marching as clowns

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## Benefits

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of 2016 is their commitment to community service. Part of the Shrewsbury High School Mission Statement says that students should be empowered to become capable, caring and active contributors to the “world in which they live.” This year the Class of 2016 performed 4,749 service hours and a total of 19,065 service hours over their four years at SHS. The Class of 2016 essentially doubled their four-year goal of 10,000 community service hours. The education they received is important, but I believe it is those intangible characteristics they gained through activities outside the classroom that will serve them well in the years to come. The number of service hours performed is very impressive, but more importantly the activities performed and the good they brought into the lives of others can’t be measured. The time students took to perform community service, while maintaining their studies and co-curricular activities, were selfless acts that prove they understand what it means to be good community members.

The School Committee looks forward to continued dialogue with the other Town Boards, the Town Manager, and the public in order to address the ongoing challenge of school funding and maintaining a cost effective educational program for the students of Shrewsbury. The Class of 2016 is proof of the benefits of strong public education, one that values excellent instruction as well as ensuring students become caring and capable individuals who understand the importance of community service and giving back to the world in which they live.

## Water cycle

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As the students researched and learned more about the water cycle their ideas grew.

In the end the students were able to learn about the water cycle in a way they will never forget. The table shows each stage of the water cycle. At first some ideas were not successful, but in the end the students built a large water table in the middle of the room. This table included a shower head disguised as a cloud to show precipitation and condensation, a mountain where the water landed to show run off, a sink disguised as a lake to show collection, and the whole table was run by a pump and piped through clear tubes up back into the clouds to show evaporation. This process was not a simple one, and the students consulted with local professionals from the community, who gave advice on how to make the table operate and how to make each group’s project work with one another to operate as one. The class became very engaged in the project and went above and beyond. They disguised the mountain and made the base of the table look like a colonial village to tie it into what they are learning about in social studies. Also, they decorated a lamp to look like the sun to help simulate evaporation.

The students were very proud of their accomplishment. As one said, “Seeing the table work showed how hard we worked!”

# Extended learning in the summertime

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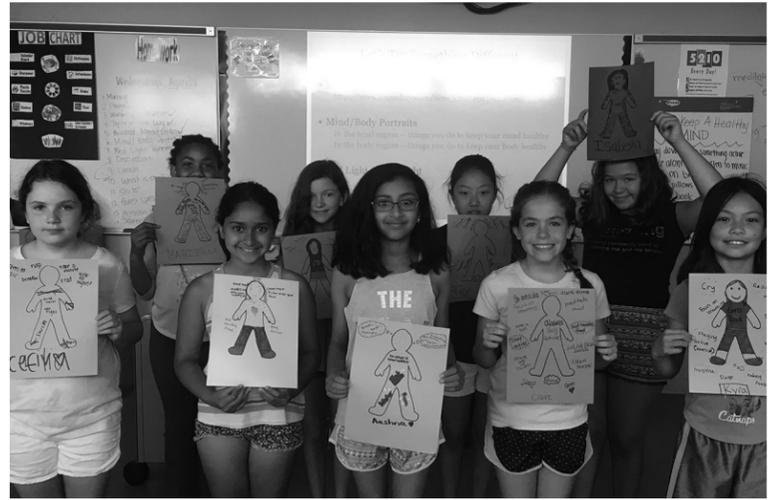
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KRISTEN MINIO  
MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER  
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Students at the middle and high school levels experienced several productive and fun-filled weeks, as students in grades five through twelve participated in summer programs housed at Sherwood Middle School. The Middle School Summer Extensions Program ran for four weeks during the month of July. Course offerings included *Money Matters*; *Film, Fiction and Fun*; *Crime Solving With Science*; *Think on Your Feet*; *Design Squad: Challenge, Design and Build*; *Sporty Fun*; *Tennis Skills*; *Learn to Program with Python*; *Making Connections: Moving on to High School*; and a variety of summer reading and creative writing workshops to name just a few. This year, approximately three hundred and thirty-five families participated in the four-week enrichment program and ninety-five courses were offered throughout the month of July. There were also twenty-six high school volunteers that participated over the course of the program, providing mentoring and their expertise in the content areas to the middle school students who participated in the program. Additionally, students worked with teachers and paraprofessionals to strengthen



*You Go, Girl!* participants

mathematics and literacy skills, while also focusing on problem solving, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration.

### High School and Oak ELC Programs:



Field trip to the Donahue Rowing Center

Programming for incoming and current high school students included literary discussions and extension activities based on the nonfiction book written by Daniel James Brown, *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*. The book follows the lives of nine young men from the Pacific Northwest as they train to become the American gold medal rowing team at the 1936 Olympics. The book was selected, not only because it aligned with the summer program’s Olympic theme, but also because it is a story about perseverance, overcoming obstacles, teamwork, trust, friendship, passion, and the importance of following your dreams. Related activities included individual research projects, oral presentations and a team boat building competition. An exciting culmination of the unit was a visit to the Donahue

Rowing Center. With help from Linda Guida, QRC President, students were able to tour the rowing center and learn about rowing from an Olympic Champion, Fred Borchelt, who won a silver medal in the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, rowing in a men’s eight (crew boat), the same kind of boat as the young men in the book!

Another highlight of the summer program was the annual “Lemonade War”. Over the past 4 years this event has raised more than \$502.50 for local charities including The Worcester Animal Rescue League, Horizons for Homeless Children and Wounded Warriors Project. All proceeds from this year’s war, “The Gatorade Challenge”, went to Vested Interest in K9’s Inc., a nonprofit providing bullet proof vests to police dogs around the country.

Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services (SYFS) also offered two popular classes including, *You Go, Girl!* and *Way To Go, Guys! You Go Girl!* ran for all four weeks, with a different theme each week. The wonderful young ladies who attended participated in activities that helped to enhance self-esteem, social awareness, confidence, and cooperation. The girls also heard from strong and successful women in the community, and new friendships emerged. Each week, the girls went home with a different reminder of their time in the program, but creating and filling compliment boxes was one popular activity. *Way to Go, Guys!* (Epic Team Challenge) ran for one half-day course, and the guys had lots of fun with the daily challenges and teamwork activities. They even created their own team t-shirts.

Extended School Care provides additional programming until 6:00PM each day, allowing students of working parents greater opportunity to participate in the enrichment program. Approximately 40 students per week took advantage of the extended day option. Students enjoyed a wide variety of projects, crafts, games, and indoor and outdoor activities at a low cost. This summer’s highlights included weekly engineering challenges, “minute-to-win-it” games, and a weekly Jeopardy game.



*Way to Go Guys! (Epic Team Challenge)* participants

# Design thinking at SHS

TARA GAUTHIER  
INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY  
SPECIALIST

The Shrewsbury High Student Innovation Team ended the school year with their Individual Learning Endeavor (ILE) Presentations. ILE's are a project in which students spend 20% of their class time to learn about a topic of interest. All projects are personalized for each individual student's interests and will vary from student to student. ILE's follow the S.M.A.R.T. Goals:

1. Specifics- the who, what, when, where, why and how of the ILE
2. Measurable- their plan for measuring progress and milestones towards achieving the goal
3. Attainable- analysis of how difficult the ILE will be to achieve
4. Realistic- an evaluation of the time frame, skills and resources needed and the student's willingness to commit to the project
5. Timely & Tangible- a specific start and end time and a description of the final product that will be presented

ILE topic and presentations vary by student. Some students chose to research and learn about the stock market and pro-

gramming while others pushed the envelope to learn about a topic and bring it out of school into the community.

One example is Kevin Murphy, Class of 2017, who chose a topic that was not only something he enjoyed, but something that would have an impact on the community. During Kevin's transition from town soccer to high school soccer, he noticed a big leap and wanted to make a difference to those coming up. That being said, Kevin decided to organize and run a Soccer Clinic that would allow high school players to interact with the younger players. The overall goal was to motivate youth players to continue to stick with soccer and play at the high school level to fill the spots that the seniors leave as they go off to college.

One of the biggest challenges Kevin faced was trying to find a date to run the clinic. Not only did the soccer field need to be available, but it needed to be a date that worked for all involved.

The second biggest challenge was getting the word out about the clinic and having children sign up. Kevin contacted the elementary school principals to see if they could include the information about his clinic in their List Servs along with the Rec Department asking them to tweet out about the clinic. The registration process started out slowly. However, when the first registered

student came in, it finally made the clinic seem like a reality.

Throughout the process Kevin spent a lot of time communicating with people and learning how to write formal emails to have professional back and forth conversations. He had to pay attention to detail, proof-read what he wrote, and make points clear. To make the clinic look professional he needed to be professional with the advertising and emailing he did.

***"For a first attempt, I thought the whole process came together pretty well."***

In the end, all of Kevin's hard work and promoting paid off with the clinic being a success. The money raised from registrations were able to pay for all t-shirts purchased and still have some left over to put into the SHS Soccer program and the Leo Murray Foundation.

## Speech & Debate

CONTINUED from page 5

in the Spirit of Shrewsbury parade and providing readers for the town's Memorial Day festivities.

The coaching staff is led by Marc Rischitelli and includes, Charlene Rischitelli, Scott Caron, Hannah Rosen, Peter Collins, Gabriel Hopkins, Lindsay Donovan, Sean Lambert, Craig Powers and Vivian Powers in addition to a broad network of volunteer alumni who continue to give back to their team. Shrewsbury is also lucky to have the dedication of Vivian Powers and Christina Manos who coach the "farm league" that are the Shrewsbury Middle School teams at Sherwood and Oak.

As we close out the season, the coaching staff wishes all the best to this year's 19 graduating seniors. They have left their mark on the history of the team. They will be missed and we hope to see them return to coach and judge the next generation. This fall selected new members will fill the roster and continue the team's legacy.

The team looks forward to a continuation of this season's success in the next school year!



2016 Student Innovation Team Soccer Clinic participants and volunteers

## Wisdom

CONTINUED from page 2

insightfully observed "people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." And if I were to ask one of your friends how you make them feel, what would they say? Would they say you lift them up? Or push them down? Make them feel like they matter? Or make them feel like nothing? Be kind.

2. Have empathy. This one can be deceptively tough because in order to be empathetic, you have to meet someone where they are, wherever that is, and connect with them on more than just a superficial level. To see this in action, we need only to look to literature. Which piece of literature you ask, Ms. Hall? That's right, I'm talking about the seminal classic, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Atticus Finch anyone? In the novel, Atticus Finch reminds his daughter Scout to never judge someone until she's walked in their shoes, and this advice I believe is more powerful, more important now than ever before. With the onslaught of social media and the internet, I find it's difficult to be empathetic. It's hard to see the person on the other side of the screen, or see the person behind the post. It's easy now-a-days to see people in pain or struggling in this world and dismiss it, move on, and never think about it again. So I implore you, have empathy. Start

by reaching out and listening to your peers when they're having problems. Try to understand and relate to the pain or joy that someone is going through – walk a mile in their shoes before you judge them. It'll make you a much better person because of it. So be kind and have empathy.

3. (Last one, promise!) Seek perspective.

This one will be the most challenging of all, but I beseech you – seek perspective. Perspective, as all you English scholars know, can be a point of view or true understanding. And, in my opinion, in order to have perspective you first and foremost have to read. And when I mean read, I mean read anything! Read the news, read literature, read magazines, read bumper-stickers for goodness sake – just read! See what's going on in the world through words, and you will see what the world is like. You don't need to travel to gain a sense of understanding, words can take you there. Furthermore, take everything with a grain of salt, especially social media. Social media is a Snapchat – whoops! I mean snapshot of someone's life – but, I want to be very clear – it is not someone's whole life. Social media is a presentation of your best, most constructed self – and if you constantly compare that version to your real life self, you'll never gain the confidence you need to take on the world. So, seek

perspective. Know there are different ways to look at the same problem. And of course, since I want to keep the good vibes going – Try to look on the bright side. See the positive along with the negative. See the strengths someone has to offer rather than the shortcomings. See the good, rather than the bad – it will make for a much more authentic experience, and it will make you a better person. Abraham Lincoln once said, "we can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses."

So, beautiful butterflies, to recap this entire speech, and to send you all on your way into the great big world, remember these three things: Be kind, have empathy and seek perspective.

It has been a true honor and privilege to teach you all these past four years. You've left an indelible mark on this school, and I can't wait to see what incredibly kind and brilliant individuals you all become. Thank you for making this job effortless, entertaining, and above all, enjoyable.

Now, to be as corny as possible, Class of 2016, my most beautiful butterflies, it is time to fly!

Congratulations and good luck!



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# Retirees

CONTINUED from page 2

## Administrative Assistants/Secretaries:

**Jennifer Koch** served 10 years in education, with all of those years here in Shrewsbury. She will retire as the Special Education Department Administrative Assistant/Secretary from Shrewsbury High School in the fall of 2016.

## Paraprofessionals:

**Karen Helmstadter** served 20 years in education, with 12 of those years here in Shrewsbury. She retired as an ABA Technician from Oak Middle School.

**Theresa Landers** served 24 years in education, with all of those years here in Shrewsbury. She retired as an Instructional Aide from the Beal Early Childhood Center.

**Gay MacLean** served 40 years in education, with 5 of those years here in Shrewsbury. She retired as an Instructional Aide from Parker Road Preschool.

**Lisa Manley-O'Brien** served 20 years in education, with 16 of those years here in Shrewsbury. She retired as an ABA Technician from Spring Street Elementary School.

**Dawn Vigliatura** served 17 years as an educator, with all of those years here in Shrewsbury. She will retire in the fall of 2016 as the Library and Media Paraprofessional from Shrewsbury High School.



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**SUPERINTENDENT'S PAGE:** <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dr-Joseph-M-Sawyer/185507388294562>

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**DISTRICT ACCOUNT:** <https://twitter.com/ShrewsburyPS>

**SUPERINTENDENT'S BLOG:**  
<http://shrewsburysuperintendent.blogspot.com/>

**Statement of Non-discrimination**

Shrewsbury Public Schools is required by the Massachusetts Department of Education to publish an annual statement of non-discrimination. This notice serves to meet that requirement. The Massachusetts Equal Educational Opportunity statute, General Laws Chapter 76, § 5, ensures that all students have the right to equal educational opportunities in the public schools. The Shrewsbury Public School District is committed to ensuring equal educational opportunities for all students, and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability. The Shrewsbury Public Schools are in compliance with state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination and harassment. The following laws apply: Massachusetts General Law Chapter 76, § 5, which states, "No person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in the admission to a public school or in obtaining the advantages, privileges, and course of study of such public school on account of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation." Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 is a Federal statute which states, in part, "No person in the United States shall on the basis of sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program receiving federal assistance." This requirement not to discriminate in educational programs and activities also extends to employment. Ms. Barb Malone, is the Title IX Coordinator, Director of Human Resources at (508) 841-8400. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, provides that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Title VI provided for equal access and prohibits discrimination in the assignment of students to classes. It also prohibits discrimination in ability grouping or tracking students. The Shrewsbury School Committee's Policies #316 and #645 deal directly with the issues of harassment. Copies of these policies are available in the Principal's Office at each school or through the Superintendent's Office, located at 100 Maple Avenue, Shrewsbury, MA 01545. Further information may be obtained by contacting Ms. Barb Malone, Director of Human Resources @ 508 841-8400. The following grievance procedure, which was approved by the Shrewsbury School Committee, is to be used for all issues relating to harassment or discrimination involving student and/or staff: 1. The Shrewsbury Public Schools does not and will not knowingly discriminate against any student or employee on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability. All reports of harassment or discrimination will be taken seriously and investigated in a timely fashion. Reports will be held in the utmost confidence. Any individual who believes he/she has been the subject of harassment or discrimination should immediately report the incident, either verbally or in writing to an administrator, adjustment counselor, guidance counselor, or teacher. The principal must be notified in all cases of harassment or discrimination. All cases of harassment involving a staff member will be reported to the Director of Human Resources. An administrator will first meet with the parties involved in an attempt to resolve the issue informally. If the complainant is unable to meet with the alleged harasser, the administrator, teacher, or counselor may assist the complainant in drafting a letter clearly describing the incident (behavior, where and when it occurred), how the complainant felt, and a request that the behavior stop immediately. Any letter should be signed by the complainant, sent to the alleged harasser and is kept on file by the school administrator. The alleged harasser may be encouraged to apologize, personally or by letter or to write a letter refuting the allegations. In cases of alleged harassment requiring formal investigations, the following shall be implemented. The complainant shall have the support of a staff member of his/her choice

and the alleged harasser will also have the opportunity to select representation (union representative, attorney, teacher, etc.). An administrator from the appropriate level will complete an investigation promptly and make a decision regarding the allegations. In serious cases, where alleged harassment does not stop following a warning, appropriate disciplinary sanction may be imposed, up to and including suspension or dismissal. If the conduct violates the law, the incident will be reported to the appropriate authorities by the school administration. Retaliation or threats of retaliation are unlawful and will not be tolerated. In all cases of harassment or discrimination, the investigating administrator will make a final disposition and issue a written report, which will be maintained in the school files. If the complainant cannot utilize the procedure detailed above because the alleged harasser is involved in the procedure, the complainant should contact the Superintendent of Schools. Complaints about the Superintendent of Schools should be made to the Chairperson of the School Committee. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a federal statute which states, in part, "No otherwise qualified individual, shall solely on the basis of handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance." This requirement not to discriminate in educational programs and activities also extends to employment. Each school has a designated Section 504 Coordinator. Initial inquiries relating to Section 504 should be directed to the building-based Section 504 Coordinator who can be contacted through the principal's office. Further information may be requested by contacting Ms. Melissa Maguire, Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel, the district's Section 504 Coordinator at (508) 841-8400. The following grievance procedure should be used to report discrimination under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Acts of 1973: To fulfill its obligation under Section 504, the Shrewsbury Public Schools recognizes a responsibility to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding personnel and students. No discrimination against a person with a disability will knowingly be permitted in any of the programs or activities of the Shrewsbury Public Schools. The school district has a specific requirement under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which includes the responsibility to identify, evaluate and if the child is determined to be eligible under Section 504, to afford access to free and appropriate educational services. Questions about eligibility or services should be first directed to the building-based coordinator. If a parent or guardian disagrees with the determination made by the professional staff of the school, he/she has a right to a hearing, first with the district's Section 504 Coordinator, and secondly with an impartial hearing officer. The district's Section 504 Coordinator can be reached at 100 Maple Avenue, Shrewsbury, MA 01545 or by phone at (508) 841-8400. The Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel, the district's Section 504 Coordinator, who will provide a written report of the district's findings, will hear all grievances in a timely manner. If a parent or guardian is unsatisfied with the results of the review, they may contact one of the agencies listed below. For grievances not resolved at the Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel level, a review by an impartial hearing officer may be scheduled. Individuals with grievances are not required to use the Shrewsbury Public School's grievance procedure. Written complaints may be filed with the following agencies: Massachusetts Department of Education, 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148, (781) 338-3000; United States Department of Education Region 1 - Office of Civil Rights, 8th Floor, 5 Post Office Square, Boston, MA 02203 (800) 368-1019; Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, John F. Kennedy Federal Building, 475 Government Center, Boston, MA 02203 (800) 669-4000; Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, One Ashburton Place, Room 601, Boston, MA 02108 (617) 994-6000.