



*Shrewsbury High
School
Parent Handbook*

64 Holden Street, Shrewsbury, MA 01545
Main Office ~ 508-841-8800
Attendance Office ~ 508-841-8809
<http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/department/index.php?fDD=2-0>

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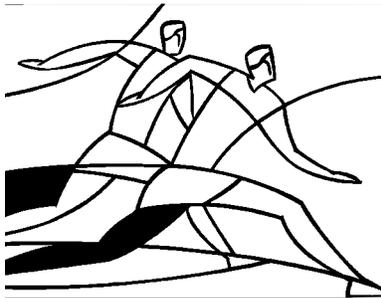
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Shrewsbury High School Parent to Parent Handbook 2011-2012

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PREFACE

If you are new to Shrewsbury High School (SHS), welcome. If you are returning, welcome back. Members of the Parent Forum first compiled this handbook in 2000 as a reference tool for parents. We have also included the Student Handbook, which is filled with invaluable information and is referenced many times in the Parent to Parent Handbook. We hope the information is helpful as your student journeys through Shrewsbury High School.

Parent Forum is a group that works directly with the principal to coordinate or support events for the staff, students and parents. Parent Forum is basically the high school version of a PTO. One difference is that the Parent Forum does not do fundraising, which at the high school level is conducted by the dozens of sports teams, clubs and other activities. We typically sponsor a welcome back breakfast, holiday treats and an appreciation luncheon for the faculty and staff. We also sponsor donut and bagel sales during midterms and finals for students. We provide refreshments for parents at freshman orientation and curriculum night, and sponsor periodic informational or educational events for parents. We meet the second Monday of each month with the principal at 9:00 a.m. at SHS to plan our events and keep the lines of communication open between the administration and parents. All are welcome to join us.

Parents can be involved in the life of the high school in many ways:

- A survey will be available at Curriculum Night and online, which you can complete to volunteer for a variety of activities throughout the high school.
- If you are interested in helping to organize an event or in making a onetime commitment, email us at shsparentforum@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us and someone will get back to you.
- Attend Principal Roundtables, which are informal gatherings held periodically with the principal to discuss what's going on at the high school. The agenda is open and parents are welcome to come and discuss any topic. The roundtables alternate between morning and evening meeting times.
- Attend events featuring guest speakers, sponsored by Parent Forum.

CONTACTS

MAIN OFFICE 508-841-8800
ATTENDANCE 508-841-8809
NURSE 508-841-8822
GUIDANCE 508-841-8813

Attendance Phone 508-841-8809

- **Absences:** Parent or guardian should call before 7:35 a.m. to inform the school of a student's absence. Upon returning to school, the student should give the Attendance Office a note stating the reason and date(s) of absence(s) and be signed by a parent/guardian. Parents must keep a log of days absent/tardy.
- **Early Dismissal:** Students should bring a note including the parent's signature and phone number to the attendance office before the start of the school day to receive a dismissal pass.
- **Tardy:** Upon arrival, students should report to the attendance office with a note, which includes the parent's signature and phone number. A student marked tardy four times in a semester will receive an unexcused absence in that class.
- Students have to arrive at school before 11:00 a.m. or be dismissed after 11:00 a.m. to be eligible for **participation in after-school activities.**

Complete attendance details are available in the Student Handbook, a copy of which is included in the next section of this planner, and which is available on the SHS website.

STAFF CONTACTS

Many staff members prefer to be contacted by email. The school website lists all staff emails. A staffer's email address consists of the first letter of his/her first name, followed by the last name @shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Assistant Principals

- **Class of 2012**
PJ O'Connell goconnell@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us
- **Class of 2013**
Maureen Monopoli mmonopoli@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us
- **Class of 2014**
PJ O'Connell goconnell@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us
- **Class of 2015**
Greg Nevader gnevader@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Clinical Psychologists

Two full-time clinical psychologists, Marc Spisto and Beth Neiman, are on staff and available for consultation and counseling support for students and/or parents. They can be reached by email at: mspisto@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us or bneiman@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Resource Officer

Police Officer Mark Hester can be reached at: mhester@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us or 508-841-8800, ext. 2007. If you feel that your child has or could become a victim or perpetrator of any kind of violent act, or has been involved in drinking or drug use, please contact the assistant principal (see next bullet) for help in dealing with the issue.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Assistant Principals ▪ Class Advisors ▪ Class Colors

Assistant Principals stay with the same class all four years. That is, the Assistant Principal for Grade 9 becomes the Assistant Principal for Grade 10 when students move up, and so on. Similarly, each class is assigned a color, which they wear on Field Day in the fall, and that color is the class color for all four years. T-shirts with class colors can be purchased at the school store.

- **Class of 2012 - red**
Assistant Principal: PJ O'Connell, ext. 8814
Advisors: Erin Sparrow, Monica Charest, Erica Mulryan, Robert Arnold
- **Class of 2013 – purple**
Assistant Principal: Maureen Monopoli, ext. 8811
Advisors: Greta Gray, Matthew Brown, Susan Eriole, Lisa Kuczinski

○ **Class of 2014 - green**

Assistant Principal: PJ O'Connell, ext. 8814

Advisors: Lori Blasioli, Pam Krause, Jen Steinberg, Paula Toti

○ **Class of 2015 - blue**

Assistant Principal: Greg Nevader, ext. 8817

Advisors: To Be Announced

Cell phones, iPods and other electronic devices

Personal electronic devices, including but not limited to cell phones, iPods, CD/DVD players, cameras and games, must be turned off and out of sight during the school day (7:35 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.). If students are found using one of these devices, it will be taken from them and parents will have to retrieve it. Repeat offenders may be subject to disciplinary action including Saturday detention. Students who refuse to hand over one of these items when asked to do so will face suspension for insubordination.

School Store

The school store is open daily after school from 1:45 p.m. to 2:25 p.m. Candy bars, granola bars and drinks are sold, as well as some school supplies, T-shirts with the class colors (\$8), sweatshirts and other clothing with the school name or Colonials logo.

High School Meals to Go

Students staying late after school or heading to a sporting event may order a bagged meal from the cafeteria. The order must be in by 8:00 a.m. of the day the meal is requested. Bagged meals cost is \$4. Order forms are available at the school store, the cafeteria, and in the serving area. The lunch can be paid for with cash or a check payable to School Lunch Program. Lunch tickets are not accepted.

ACADEMICS

Summer Reading

In high school, students are required to read the book(s) required by the English class level for which they are registered for next year. Reading lists are provided by the SHS English Department. Students may need to annotate for literary elements, as required for each class, in addition this may prove useful for summer reading assessments. The English Department reading list is available on the high school website.

Schedules

Class schedules are handed out to students on the first day of school, except for freshmen, who receive their schedules at Freshmen Orientation.

Course selection

Course selection starts in February/March. Parents must sign a course selection sheet - make sure you are aware of the courses your student is considering. The Program of Studies is available on the high school website. Required credits for graduation are available in the Program of Studies booklet and in the Student Handbook, which is included in the next section of this planner and is online. Students should verify that they are on track to meet graduation requirements by checking both the number of credits and the required courses.

Midterms & Finals

During midterms and finals, the school day runs from 7:35 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Students do not have to come to school during periods when they do not have an exam.

Make-up work

Students are responsible for making up all work they miss while absent, *including work in physical education classes.*

Summer School

Any student who fails a semester of class can make up the work in summer school with the permission of a grade administrator. One class in summer school makes up one semester of a class. Letters are sent home at the beginning of the second semester for students who failed a class in the first semester. The Guidance staff meets with students to remind them of this make-up option. After school lets out at the end of the year, guidance counselors will call home and encourage anyone who failed in second semester to sign up for summer school.

Honor Roll

Guidelines are in the Student Handbook, which is included in the next section of this planner and is online. The Honor Roll is printed on the school website and is posted at school.

National Honor Society (NHS)

Juniors who qualify are invited to apply to the National Honor Society based on their grades. In order to be accepted, they must also demonstrate leadership, character and service.

Selection Procedures:

- Juniors, who have a cumulative GPA (from freshman year through first semester of junior year) of at least 4.00 on the school 5.00 scale, will receive an invitation to apply to NHS following the release of first semester grades. These letters of candidacy and application typically are distributed in school.
- Students fill out an information sheet to demonstrate how they fulfill the requirements of leadership, character, and service. These may include class and club offices, team captain positions, service learning projects, and volunteering.
- All faculty members and coaches are invited to comment on the list of NHS candidates.
- A faculty advisory committee selects a final list of NHS candidates after reviewing student-submitted information sheets and faculty comment sheets. Students' names are removed from these sheets so that the staffers do not know what student they are reviewing.
- NHS finalists are notified and invited to an induction ceremony in May at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. At 6:30 p.m. there is a reception in the Commons where very nice appetizers and desserts are served. Boys dress in shirts and ties and girls wear skirts or dresses.
- Unselected candidates can inquire about reasons they were not selected and are given an opportunity to write a letter of appeal, which is again reviewed by the faculty advisory committee and principal. Students have an additional opportunity to reapply in the fall of their senior year.

National Honor Society Membership Responsibilities:

- Mandatory attendance at monthly meetings.
- Four hours of service per month, one of which is devoted to a group service project as selected by the entire Shrewsbury National Honor Society chapter.
- Participation in the annual Coffeehouse, the group's largest fundraiser, which features high school rock musicians performing in the Commons, usually in March.

- Help prepare for the reception and induction ceremony for new members in May.
- Continued demonstration of scholarship, leadership, service, and character throughout the remainder of their time at Shrewsbury High.

Curriculum Night

In September, a curriculum night is held for parents. You will follow your student's daily schedule, visiting each classroom for a brief presentation by the teacher. Note what "day" on the schedule is being followed – Day 1, Day 2, etc. If you have more than one child at the school, it's best to get the schedules ahead of time and map out a strategy so you can visit as many classrooms as possible. During classroom visits, you can sign up for conferences if you wish to talk to the teacher one-on-one, but there is no longer a designated parent conference day at the high school.

PSAT/SAT/ACT

Dates and other information are available on the SHS website, on the College Board website, www.collegeboard.com, and the ACT website, www.actstudent.org.

- The PSAT (a practice SAT) is open to all sophomores and all juniors. All college-bound students in 10th and 11th grade are encouraged to take the PSAT, which is offered in October every year.
- The SAT is taken by most students in their junior year (January, March, and/or June) as well as in the fall of their senior year (October or November).
- Many students take SAT prep classes in the spring of junior year, through private companies or tutors, or through the high school. The high school SAT prep course information is available on the Guidance website.
- The ACT, which is accepted by many colleges in the country, is an alternative to the SAT's. Although not yet offered at SHS, the ACT is administered to students in the Spring of junior year as well as the Fall of senior year. To determine which test is most appropriate for your son or daughter, please consult his or her guidance counselor.
- Approximately 40-50 colleges in the country also require students to submit SAT Subject Tests. Students who do not plan on attending one of these 40-50 colleges do not need to take the subject tests, which are offered on the same dates as the SAT.

Senior Exhibition

Senior Exhibition is a full credit, year-long, independent study geared toward students with a special talent, hobby, musical skill or career aspiration. Students are required to demonstrate competence through the creation of a portfolio, exhibition (half-hour oral presentation to at least 20 people), and a reflective essay. Students apply at the start of the fourth quarter of junior year.

Virtual High School

Virtual High School is a national program for delivering high caliber, nontraditional curriculum over the Internet. Juniors and seniors may apply to the coordinator. See the Program of Studies under Departments/Special Programs on the SHS website.

Senior Advanced Career Exploration (ACE) Internship Program

The ACE internship program allows students to hold internships in the final quarter of senior year instead of attending classes. Students apply at the start of senior year. AP courses must still be attended.

Academic Awards Night

Students receiving awards are notified about two weeks in advance of this May event. Parents, family and friends are invited to attend. Students sit on the stage of the auditorium and are expected to dress nicely – shirt and tie for boys; dress, skirt or dress pants for girls.

Advanced Placement

- Juniors and seniors are eligible to apply for AP classes with teacher recommendation.
- AP classes require significant summer work and agreement to take the exam, fee required.
- Exams are held in May, usually off campus. Some colleges award credits if scores are high enough.

Media Center

- Open 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Research passwords are available from the Media Center and on the Media Center website under “Subject and Periodical Databases.”
- Students (except seniors) need a pass to visit the Media Center during school hours. No pass is necessary from 7:00 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The pass policy is in the Student Handbook, which is included in the next section of this planner and is online.

Shrewsbury Public Library

- Tutoring Service: Homework help is available every day from 4 to 10 p.m. at <http://shrewsbury-ma.gov/library>, go to Reference & Research tab.
- Books can be reserved, renewed or checked for availability online at <http://cmars.cwmars.org/patroninfo~S201>
- For information on volunteer opportunities, contact young adult librarian, Dan Barbour, 508-842-0081, ext. 5, or dbarbour@cwmar.org

GUIDANCE

Parents are encouraged to sign up for the Guidance Listserv, which can be accessed from the Guidance website. Important reminders are distributed via the listserv.

Encourage your child to make an appointment to get to know his/her guidance counselor starting in freshman year. Freshmen meet with their counselors as a group and receive access to Naviance, a comprehensive software program that assists students with postsecondary planning. All students are encouraged to meet regularly with their guidance counselor to create a four-year plan and for one-on-one time to develop a rapport with the counselor. It is important for the counselors to personally know students so that they can:

- Guide them in their course selection at SHS.
- Guide them in their postsecondary plans.
- Write a meaningful college recommendation letter.
- **Course selection** starts in February/March. Parents must sign a course selection sheet - make sure you are aware of the courses your student is considering. The Program of Studies is available online.
- **Class Rank:** Students can obtain their percentile rank from their guidance counselor after the first semester of Junior year has been completed.

- **College**
 - **Juniors:**
 - A College and Career Planning Portfolio is given to juniors to help organize their college search and application process.
 - September – SHS hosts over 100 college admissions officers during September, October, and November. A complete listing can be found on the Guidance website.
 - College Visits – both off site and on campus. See the Guidance website for college visit guidelines. When taking a day off from school to visit a college, make sure to get a letter from the college for an excused absence.
 - College Fair in Boston in April – day-long field trip.
 - **Seniors:**
 - October – College applications for Early Decision/Early Action are due
 - October – Processing of college applications from October to March
 - December – Early Decision/Early Action, acceptance, rejection and deferral letters mailed by colleges and universities
 - January – regular admission applications due
 - April – decision letters mailed by colleges and universities
 - May – students must choose their college and pay a deposit

Guidance Department Meetings

The Guidance Department holds meetings throughout the year. For seniors there is Nuts and Bolts Nights in September and Financial Aid Night in November. College Planning Night for juniors is in March, and there are breakfast meetings for freshman parents on various topics throughout the year. Check the Guidance website for details.

STUDENTS

First Day

- The school provides locks and lockers for all students. Make sure your student writes the combination in a safe place so the number will not be forgotten. Lost locks must be repurchased in the main office. Locks that are not school-issued will be removed.
- A Student Handbook and Planner is given to all students. Lost planners can be replaced for a fee in the attendance office.

Freshman Orientation

Freshman Orientation for parents and students is held the week before school starts. It includes a tour of the school and a meeting with the principal and upper class mentors. Freshmen receive class schedules and have refreshments. The students are given a Super-fan t-shirt, which they can wear throughout their high school years.

Work Permits

Guidelines regarding work permits, which all students must obtain from the school if they are employed, are available in the Student Planner, which is included in the next section of this planner and is available online.

Parking

Parking is plentiful at Shrewsbury High School and there is no fee to park. Students must register their cars at the Attendance Office. Students can park in the yellow-lined spaces. In the upper lot the first section is reserved for teachers (white-lined spaces) and seniors (yellow-lined spaces),

juniors can park in the far upper lot. Juniors and seniors can both park in the yellow-lined spaces by the Field House.

TRADITIONS

Homecoming Game and Dance are held in September

Spirit of Shrewsbury is usually the last weekend in September. The band, many sports teams, and school groups participate in the parade and other Spirit of Shrewsbury events.

Spirit Week is the week leading up to Field Day in October. Each day has a theme such as Crazy Hat Day or '50s Day.

Field Day is in October on the last day of spirit week. Students typically wear Blue and Gold. **Class color t-shirts available at the school store for \$8.**

Blue & Gold Days: Periodically the students dress in the school colors. These days are announced throughout the year.

Senior Skip Day is unofficial and takes place in March. It is NOT sanctioned by the school.

Powder Puff Football Game featuring junior girls vs. senior girls, coached by the boys, is held at the end of football season at Dean Park. This event is NOT sanctioned by the school.

School Rings

- Information is sent out in late spring of sophomore year to order with Balfour. Students can use the website to create different ring styles to find the one they like the best.
- Rings are presented at an evening pizza party, and during lunch periods, in fall of junior year.

ATHLETICS

Information is available under “Athletics” on the school website. All schedules are at www.highschoolsports.net

Sports sign-ups are done online in June for the fall season, in November for the winter season, and in March for the spring season. Don't forget to pay your fees. Details are available at on the website. Financial help with fees is available; for guidelines and information, contact Athletic Director, Jay Costa at jcosta@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us.

Physicals must be up-to-date before the start of each season. If forms are not complete, the athlete will not be allowed to participate in try-outs. Athletic participation forms are available at on the website. If it is not possible to obtain your own physical exam, exams will be offered by the school in August. Physicals are valid for 13 months.

Try-outs: Fall sports try-outs start the second Thursday preceding Labor Day (August 25, 2011) except for football, which may start three days earlier (August 22, 2011). Winter sports try-outs start the first Monday after Thanksgiving. Spring sports try-outs start the third Monday in March. Try-outs for all high schools in the state start on the same day. The governing body of high school sports is the MIAA (www.miaa.net). An online handbook contains a complete set of rules.

Captain's practices, which are not sanctioned by the school and are student run, may be held throughout the summer and fall for fall and winter sports respectively (if you are not competing in a fall and winter sports). This is a way for team members to be better prepared for the season. All team members are supposed to be contacted, but because the practices are student-run, often this does not happen. A student may need to be proactive to find out about captain's practices. A first step would be to obtain the captains' names and contact information from Athletic Director Jay Costa jcosta@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us.

Pasta parties: Many teams have pasta parties the night before contests at an athlete's home or at a local restaurant. These are good bonding and morale boosting events.

Competition Day Dress: Many teams require their athletes to dress up for school on competition days. Make sure your son has a shirt and tie, and your daughter has a nice outfit (skirt and top or casual dress). Sometimes the teams all decide to dress in their Super-fan shirts, their uniforms or in goofy outfits.

Team Clothing: Clothing such as sweatshirts is usually ordered during the season. The cost is not covered by the athletic fee. It is not mandatory to purchase the clothing. Parents usually can order clothing for themselves as well. Don't forget to ask your athlete if clothing is being ordered – if they forget to tell you, they might miss the order deadline.

Sports Awards Nights At the end of each season, a sports awards night is held. Varsity athletes, all seniors, and their parents are invited to attend. Dress nicely.

Banquets: Many teams have an end-of-season banquet, which may be at a restaurant, or potluck at SHS. Often money is collected for a coach's gift. Usually, seniors are honored by the coach and the underclass athletes.

Athletic Boosters Club

The Shrewsbury High School Athletic Boosters Association is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to encourage support for athletics through sales of Gold Cards, a golf tournament, and membership fees. The group meets on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 pm in the media center. More information is on the website, or contact Athletic Director Jay Costa at jcosta@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us.

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Clubs start in September, but most accept members through the year.

- A limited list of clubs is on the SHS website. Contact Richard Marchand at rmarchand@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us for more information.
- Students should keep their ears open for sign-ups. Auditions for fall plays are in September and auditions for the spring musical are in December.
- "PS Daily Bulletin SHS" on the SHS homepage lists the daily meeting schedule. It is also posted outside the main office.
- Students interested in starting a new club should contact the assistant principal assigned to this task (TBD). An adult advisor is required, and must be CORI checked.
- Most clubs do fundraising.
- To attend overnight trips, students must be academically eligible.
- Class Elections are held in May.

- There is a one time activity fee. For details see the Student Handbook included in the next section of this planner and online.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community service is encouraged, but not required, for all Shrewsbury High School students. Each spring an awards social is held for students who have completed 50 or more hours of community service over the past year.

Submitting Community Service Hours

- Forms are available from the Coordinator Mrs. Mulryan in room B306.
- Many clubs are service-oriented, for example: Service Learning, ELNA (Education and Leadership for a Non-violent Age), Dream Team, Habitat for Humanity, Fashion for Charity

MUSIC & DRAMA

Music Drive in September – Parents drive music students around town for door-to-door sales of season tickets to all high school concerts (scheduled for September 10, 2011).

Band – Participation in pep band required, along with 3 annual concerts, which means football games on Friday nights and basketball games on Tuesday and Friday nights. The band website is accessible from the SHS homepage. Participation in Jazz Band and Wind Ensemble is by previous spring audition only.

Orchestra – In addition to 3 annual concerts, the Orchestra plays at commemoration and graduation (minus the seniors).

Chorus – There are 3 annual concerts. Groups include: Freshman Chorus, Mixed Choir, Women's Chorus and A Cappella Choir. Women's Chorus and A Cappella Choir spots are earned by previous spring placement auditions. A Cappella Choir sponsors an annual Variety Show (scheduled for October 27, 2011, 7pm).

Trips – Large trips are held periodically for all instrumental and choral groups. A trip to Portugal has been approved for a Festival Choir, made up of choir members in grades 10-12 for the April 2012 vacation week.

MMEA Festivals – Musicians who qualify may wish to try out for Central District ensembles. From there, some musicians qualify for All-State and beyond. The music department informs students of dates and audition pieces.

SSMA - Shrewsbury Schools Music Association – Their website is accessible on the district homepage under the parents tab. The music and drama department calendar can also be found here. The SSMA is a group of teachers and parents of past and present students who support the K-12 music and drama program. They are an active group and anyone is welcome to join. They meet generally the first Tuesday of each month at 7:15pm – new members are welcome!

Music & Drama Awards – The SSMA hosts Music & Drama Awards each May (5/10/12). If your student is receiving an award an invitation is mailed to your home. Students should dress nicely, but ties and dresses are not necessary. Light refreshments are served.

Fall Play auditions are held in September (9/6 and 9/7) for performances in November (11/11, 11/12). This is a full length play. Students in grades 9-12 are eligible.

Spring Musical auditions are held in November (11/14 or 11/15) for performances in the spring (3/29-4/1/12). Students in grades 9-12 are eligible. Please note that every effort will be made to accommodate student participation in sports and music/drama.

Competition Play auditions are held in November (11/14 or 11/15) for competitive performances in the spring. (March 2012) Students in grades 9-12 are eligible.

Tri-M Music Honor Society – Students in grades 10-12 who are currently enrolled in the music program, maintain a 3.0 GPA, and demonstrate leadership, service and character are eligible to apply for Tri-M. Those accepted are inducted in October, (scheduled for October 12, 2011) and expected to participate in the meetings and community service events throughout the year. This group sponsors an annual Composer Night. Website: <http://www.menc.org/resources/view/tri-music-honor-society>

ART

An **Art Festival** is held at the high school in May. Advanced Art students exhibit their individual portfolios at a reception. Selected Art from all classes is displayed, followed by an awards ceremony and induction of new members to The National Art Honor Society.

Art Awards, Competitions & Displays. An art awards ceremony is held in May at SHS. Student work is submitted to the Boston Globe Scholastic Art Awards Statewide Contest in January. US Congressional Art Competition – James McGovern –Submission in May and displayed at a school in Massachusetts. Each year, student artwork is displayed at various locations in town and surrounding venues such as: school department offices at Town Hall and Worcester Art Museum during Youth Art Month in April

National Art Honor Society – Students in grades 10-12 are eligible to apply if they are currently enrolled in an art class, maintain a 3.0 GPA, have taken two semesters of art and maintain good attendance. Those accepted are inducted in May and are expected to complete six community service projects throughout the year.

DANCES

- **Dance Tickets** for dances can be purchased during lunch periods from student representatives at a designated location in the cafeteria prior to the event.
- **School IDs** or Picture IDs are required for all who attend.
- **Semiformal** means cocktail length dresses for girls; suits for boys.
- **Formal** means gowns for girls; tuxedos for boys. Tuxes should be rented several weeks prior to the dance and usually must be picked up 2 days prior to the dance.
- **Pictures:** At the Sophomore Semi, Junior and Senior Proms, professional pictures are available. This is optional. Students must pay when the picture is taken, with cash or check, or with a credit card online prior to the dance. Each pose (i.e., couple, group of friends, sports teams) requires a separate payment.
- **Flowers:** corsages and boutonnieres should be ordered at least a week ahead. Florists can use a sample of the dress to choose flowers and ribbon colors.

- **Middle school age students** are not allowed. High school age guests are allowed at the Winter Ball, Sophomore Semi, Junior Prom and Senior Prom. A permission slip and picture ID are required for all non-SHS students. Guests over 21 must speak with the grade administrator and agree to follow all SHS dance rules.
- **Homecoming Dance**, in September, is casual and for all high school students.
- **Winter Ball** is held in January at SHS for all grades. Tickets are limited, however, and should be purchased as soon as they go on sale. Guests are allowed. Dress is semi-formal.
- **Sophomore Semi-Formal** is held at SHS in April. Guests are allowed.
- **Junior Prom** is formal, held in May, usually at the DCU Center or the Sheraton Tara in Framingham. Some students rent limousines. Guests are allowed. Professional pictures are available. Prom is followed by a parent-run **After Prom Party** that goes until 5 a.m., usually at the Boroughs Y or Team Works in Northborough. Students do not have to attend the prom to attend the party. Dress is casual. Parents should realize that students will be up all night, and make arrangements for safe transportation home.
- **Senior Prom** is formal, held in May. In 2012 it will be held at Union Station in Worcester. Guests are allowed. Professional pictures are available. Students can leave the prom before it ends.

SENIORS

Senior Pictures

- Shrewsbury High School has entered into a photography contract with a new vendor for the 2011-2012 school years. Lifetouch will photograph all underclass students (grades 9-11) and will take senior headshots for the yearbook. Please note that families are NOT required to purchase senior portrait packages from Lifetouch. You may use any photographer that you choose; however, the yearbook headshot must be taken by Lifetouch.
- A modest donation is requested from each senior. There is a no-cost option for this that will be explained in a mailing that you should receive from Lifetouch/Prestige over the summer. Lifetouch operates a “mobile studio.” For your convenience, senior photos (yearbook headshots AND portrait packages) will be taken this summer at the high school.

Senior Cookout: Scheduled during Spirit week in the fall, this event is held before a SHS sporting event. Students bought tickets to a BBQ and socializing event; many students brought Frisbees, footballs, cameras, and just hung out and ate and chatted, before attending the sporting event as a class.

Class Picnic

- Usually held at Dean Park, organized by parent volunteers.
- Buses transport seniors back and forth to the school -they cannot drive.
- A modest donation is requested from each senior to cover the costs of this event.

Academic Awards Night

- May ceremony held in the auditorium for scholarships and academic awards/certificates
- An invitation will be mailed to your home if your child is receiving an award
- Boys wear shirts and ties; girls wear dresses or dressy outfits
- Students sit on the stage of the auditorium
- Parents, family and friends are invited

Senior Prom is a formal event, held in May. In 2012 it will be held at Union Station in Worcester. Professional pictures are available. Students are allowed to leave before the prom is over, if they so choose.

Commemoration

- The evening features a review of the students' high school years with a video, the thanking of the school staff, a speech by an invited guest, and distribution of yearbooks.
- Takes place the Tuesday night before graduation
- Each family gets two guest tickets
- Girls typically wear a white dress (cocktail length); boys typically wear a white shirt, tie, and jacket.
- Dads usually wear a shirt and tie but no jacket, though others are more casual; moms wear nice casual but dressy outfits.

Faculty/Senior Dinner

- Held off-site on the Wednesday night before graduation
- Seniors must buy tickets (reasonably priced)
- Students bring their yearbooks to have everyone sign
- Girls wear cocktail dresses; boys wear dress pants, shirt and tie.

Graduation

- Held in the field house on a Thursday night. Seating is on folding chairs and on the bleachers. It's a good idea to bring along your own stadium seats or cushions.
- In the past, each family has received 5 guest tickets (this does not include the graduate). This number may change depending on number of graduates.
- Girls wear a white dress under their white gown (often the same dress worn at commemoration).
- Boys wear a white shirt and tie (no jacket) under their blue gowns and they must wear long pants, shoes, and socks.
- Students keep their caps and gowns after graduation.
- A professional photographer takes pictures of each student receiving his/her diploma. Order forms are sent home ahead of time and must be turned in before the ceremony.
- Graduation gets hot – dress appropriately. Most dads wear shirt, tie and jacket; moms wear dressy outfits.

PARENTS

Help is always available! SHS guidance, teachers, administrators, and school psychologists expect and welcome calls or e-mails from parents anytime of year.

SHS Colonial Update is a School Newsletter posted on the website, ideally several times a year. It contains timely information for parents and will answer many questions about upcoming events. The status of this publication is TBD at press time.

Student Handbook is included in the next section of this planner and is also available online. It contains a wealth of information.

Principal Roundtables are held periodically throughout the year, alternating between morning and evening meeting times. The agenda is wide open and all parents are welcome to attend.

Meetings: The **Parent Forum** may sponsor several educational meetings during the year. Topics vary, but in the past have included test-taking, homework management, and substance abuse. The **Guidance Department** holds meetings throughout the year. For seniors there is Nuts and Bolts Nights in September and Financial Aid Night in November. College Planning Night for juniors is in March, and there are breakfast meetings for freshman parents on various topics throughout the year. Check the Guidance website for details.

OTHER

Serving Alcohol to persons under 21 years of age: It is illegal for anyone over 21 to buy alcohol for someone under 21, unless their relationship is that of parent and child, or husband and wife. Violation of this section may result in a fine of \$2000, 6 months imprisonment, or both. M.G.L.c.138, #34.

Social Host Law: Under Massachusetts law, a host of a party may be held liable for the injuries suffered by others if the host knew or should have known that a guest was drunk and nevertheless gave/permitted the guest to take an alcoholic drink and thereafter, because of the guest's intoxication, the guest negligently caused injury to others. If the guest who causes an injury is a minor, the host who served the alcohol or permitted alcohol to be served to the minor might be held liable to others even if the minor was already intoxicated when the minor was served alcohol.

Driving Driving schools are not affiliated with SHS. Contact private schools for information. Students 15 years and 9 months can start taking the classroom classes, but students must have a permit for driving lessons. In addition to the required classroom and on-road classes, many students take skid school. Updated Junior Operator Laws and the Driver's Manual needed for the permit exam are available online at: <http://www.mass.gov/rmv/jol/index.htm>. Young drivers now are required to have 12 hours of training behind the wheel, plus 40 hours of parent-supervised training. Parents/guardians must take a two-hour class on driving skills and rules.

SETV Channel 29 School Committee meetings, sporting events, music events, senior events and other school happenings are aired on Shrewsbury Community Cable. The schedule is available online. From the Town of Shrewsbury homepage select "Departments/Shrewsbury Media Connection/SETV Channel 29."

Long weekend in January There is no school the third Monday of the month for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. It is tempting to go away, but be aware that midterms are scheduled around this time and sports teams continue to compete.

April Vacation Often school trips for language, clubs, and music take place during this vacation weeks. Students participating in sports or other activities need to make sure there is not a conflict.

Shrewsbury Education Foundation (SEF) A nonprofit organization that is separate from the school system, SEF was founded in 1992 to pay for creative curriculum initiatives and educational programs that cannot be funded by the school budget. Teachers submit proposals to the foundation, which awards grants in amounts up to \$1,500. Typically, a total of \$8,000 to \$12,000 in grants is awarded annually. Parents are encouraged to make donations to the education foundation.

**Shrewsbury High School Calendar of Events (Some Dates Subject to Change)
2011-2012**

August

24 Freshman Orientation (6:30 p.m.)
30 School Opens

September

1 & 2 Underclassmen Photos (grades 9 – 11)
5 Labor Day - Closed
22 Nuts and Bolts Night for Juniors (7:00 p.m. – Auditorium)
22 Curriculum Night (7:00 p.m.)
26-30 Spirit Week

October

1 SAT Test Date
1 Homecoming Dance (7:00 p.m. –11:00 p.m.)
3 & 4 Senior Photos 2:30 - 8pm
10 Columbus Day – Closed
12 Picture Retake Day - Underclassmen
12 Tri-M Induction
15 PSAT Test Date
18 Fall Concert (7:30 p.m. – Auditorium)
20 Fall Concert (7:30 p.m. – Auditorium)
22 Hypnotist Show (7:00 p.m. – Auditorium)
27 Variety Show (7:00 p.m. – Auditorium)

November

1 Professional Development Day – Closed
5 SAT Test Date
8 Senior Photos 2:30 - 8pm
9 Fall Play Rehearsal/ Senior Citizen Show
11 Veteran’s Day – Closed
11-12 Fall Plays (7:00 p.m. – Auditorium)
15 Financial Aid Information Night (7:00 p.m. – Auditorium)
23-27 Thanksgiving Break – Closed

December

13 Holiday Concert (7:30pm – Auditorium)
15 Holiday Concert (7:30pm – Auditorium)
24-1/2 December vacation – Closed

January

7 Winter Ball (7:00 p.m. – Commons / Snow Date 1-22)
13-19 Semester Exams (subject to change, due to snow days)
16 MLK, Jr. Day – Closed
21 All State Auditions
23 Second Semester Begins

February

7	College Planning Night (6:30pm)
9	Tri-M Composer Night
11	Speech and Debate Tournament
20-24	February Vacation – Closed

March

1	Grade 8 Curriculum Night
3	Speech and Debate Mardi Gras Tournament
9	NHS Coffee House (7:00 p.m. – Commons)
10	SAT Test Date
15	50-Day Breakfast for Seniors (Commons)
20	MCAS – ELA Long Composition (Grade 10)
21 & 22	MCAS – ELA (Grade 10)
23	State Math Meet
24	Sophomore Semiformal (7:00 - 11:00 p.m. – Commons)
28	Spring Musical Dress Rehearsal/Senior Citizen Show
29, 30 & 31	Spring Musical (7:00 pm)

April

1	Spring Musical (2:00 p.m.)
3	MEFA Financial Aid Night (6:30 pm)
6	Asian Culture Night (6:00pm – Commons/Auditorium)
11	Jazz Night (7:00 p.m. – Auditorium)
16-20	April Vacation – Closed
27	Minute to Beat ‘Em Fundraiser (7:00 pm)

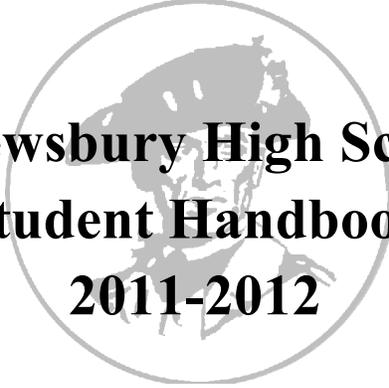
May

1	Spring Concert (7:30 p.m. – Auditorium)
3	Spring Concert (7:30 p.m. – Auditorium)
2	Spanish Honor Society Induction (6:30 pm)
8	Spring Concert (7:30 p.m. – Auditorium)
5	SAT Test Date
10	Music Department Awards Night (7:00 p.m. – Commons)
12	Junior Prom Mechanics Hall (7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.)
15	MCAS – Math (Grade 10)
16	NHS Induction (7:00 p.m. – Auditorium)
17	Art Department Festival and Awards Night (6:30 p.m. – Presentation Room)
18	SHS Has Talent (7:00 pm)
22	Academic Awards Night (7:00 p.m. – Auditorium)
21-24	Senior Exams
25	Seniors Last Day
25	Senior Picnic (Dean Park)
26	Senior Prom Union Station (7:00 – 11:00 p.m.)
28	Memorial Day – Closed
29	Commemoration (7:00 p.m.)
30	Senior/Faculty Dinner (6:00 p.m.)
31	Graduation (7:00 p.m. – Field House)

Note: AP Exams during the weeks of 5/6 & 5/13

June

2	SAT Test Day
5 & 6	MCAS Science (Grades 9 and 10)
11	Last Day (Assuming No Snow Days)



**Shrewsbury High School
Student Handbook
2011-2012**