



Shrewsbury Public Schools

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BUILDING GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Expanding Opportunities for Shrewsbury Students to Develop as Global Citizens

Primary Source, Shrewsbury's partner in developing global competencies for our students, offers the following definition of global education:

A global education is one that incorporates learning about the cultures, geographies, histories, and current issues of all the world's regions. It emphasizes the interconnectedness and diversity of peoples and histories. Global education develops students' skills to engage with their global peers and highlights actions students can take as citizens of the world.

www.primarysource.org

Did you know?

According to the U.N. Population Division, for every 100 people who live on the planet, 60% live in Asia, 15% in Africa, 11% in Europe, 9 % in Latin America and the Caribbean, 1% in Oceania, and 5% in North America.

With the objective of developing culturally sensitive and skillful "citizens of the world", students from the Shrewsbury Public Schools have had two different opportunities during the 2015-16 school year to interact and collaborate with Chinese students, their teachers, and their families.

SHERWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTNERS WITH BEIJING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

This past March, Sherwood Middle School welcomed 29 Chinese students, along with their principal and teachers, for a 10 day stay in the Shrewsbury/New England area. Thanks to the efforts of our Coordinators of Development and Volunteer Activities, Michelle Biscotti and Kathleen Keohane, 29 Sherwood Middle School host families were found to house these young students from Beijing Elementary School - Daxing Branch. This exchange was the initial venture into what is anticipated to be a long term collaboration between the two schools. The trip itinerary and a FAQ document for host families are included at the end of this report.

This summer, four teachers from Sherwood Middle School, Laura Ryan, Laurie Krueger, Liz McGandy, and Paula Carney, have been invited to travel to China and teach in the Daxing School District. A flyer outline the details of this program is also located at the end of this report.

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

SHREWSBURY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TRAVEL TO BEIJING, CHINA TO VISIT SISTER SCHOOL, DONGZHIMEN HIGH SCHOOL

During April Vacation, 23 Shrewsbury High School students traveled to China and had the opportunity to live with Chinese host families during the course of their visit. 21 of these students are currently enrolled in Chinese language classes at SHS, and 2 of the students studied this language through their junior year. Our students were accompanied by their talented and dedicated Chinese teachers, Yan Lui and ChinHuei Yeh.

This exchange enabled our students to experience a different culture by integrating into Chinese homes, many of which had multi-generations of family members living under the same roof. Shrewsbury students also had the opportunity to attend classes at Dongzhimen High School. Along with opportunities for language and cultural learning, our students also gained practical experience around the complexities and planning that must be attended to when traveling internationally. An itinerary of the visit is included at the end of this report.

This latest visit is part of an extended relationship that has existed between Shrewsbury High School and Dongzhimen High School for close to ten years. The whole of SHS benefits from this partnership when the Chinese students visit Shrewsbury and integrate into the culture and activities of our high school.

The capacity 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. Shrewsbury's participation in these exchange programs is reflective of our district's commitment to develop students who can contribute and feel comfortable with their responsibilities as global citizens.



