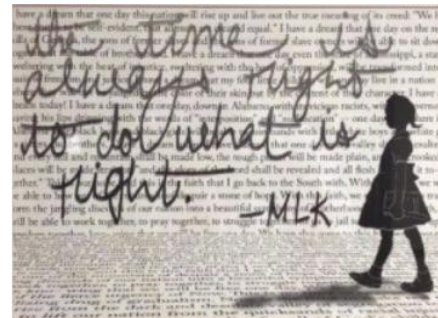




## SHS Alumni News

### A Powerful Message

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Joe Sawyer sent a powerful letter to the Shrewsbury school community saying "we need to do more and we need to do better" in response to the killing of George Floyd and "the crisis our nation is experiencing."



"There are many things that we already do in our schools to teach our students about racism... But as a school community... we need to do more and we need to do better..."

"It is my hope that in our schools our students will not only learn about the history of racism and understand its impact on our society, but that they will also develop the character and will to do what is right, both now and when they become adults. It is my hope that whatever their future roles may be... they act in ways that create a more equitable society for everyone, one that lives up to our American aspirations for liberty and justice for all."

Dr. Sawyer concluded his message by saying "I hope that together, we will find the wisdom - and the will - to do what is right."

Click [here](#) to read the full text of Dr. Sawyer's letter.

*Note: The graphic used here and in Dr. Sawyer's letter to the community is by Layla Nayfeh, SHS Class of 2019. It was the winning entry in the SHS Black History Month art competition a few years ago.*



### A Graduation Week Unlike Any Other

The 501 members of the Class of 2020 are now SHS alumni and it happened in an unusual but spectacular fashion. SHS administrators, teachers and staff delivered an amazing array of creative [activities](#) to celebrate this class and to replace

some of the very special moments they lost due to the COVID 19 shutdown.

Highlights included a "flyover" with an airplane pulling a sky banner congratulating the class of 2020, a virtual Commemoration via video, and **"The Last Ride"** where Seniors and their families paraded in their cars through the SHS campus while SHS staff applauded and waved goodbye. **[Graduation Part 1](#)** with VIP speeches and a reading of all graduates' names happened virtually, but we are hopeful that Graduation Part 11 can happen in person in late July. Regardless, the Seniors now have their diplomas and are officially SHS Alumni! *Thank you to Shrewsbury residents and SHS parents, Anthony and Lisa D'Elia, for donating the large outdoor video wall on display at "The Last Ride".*



After 31 years at SHS, Mr. Secino, a favorite English teacher, is retiring. Anyone who had Mr. Secino might remember seeing him dance in the English hallway. He gave a powerful and moving speech to the Class of 2020 as part of their Commemoration ceremony. Click **[here](#)** to hear his heartfelt "hope" for this year's class, his reasons for staying so long at SHS and why he dances. *(He can be found speaking at the 9:00 mark in the video).*

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## Help Us Grow Our Alumni Communities

How many SHS alums are you still in touch with? Even if you're just Facebook friends with former classmates or you follow each other from afar on other social media platforms, you can help us grow our alumni network and new LinkedIn community.



Please share these links with your SHS alumni connections and ask them to join you:

Alumni Network (**<https://schools.shrewsburyma.gov/alumni>**)  
LinkedIn Group: **[Shrewsbury Public Schools Community Group](#)**

As alumni, you have experiences and insights that are invaluable to current students, teachers and our district as a whole. We're looking forward to identifying new ways alumni and students can work together during the next school year. Please help us connect with more SHS graduates today!



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## COVID 19 SPS Budget Crisis

Like so many school districts across the country, Shrewsbury is facing a staggering budget crisis for the next school year. The combination of added costs and decreased revenue resulting from the COVID 19

pandemic has created a multi-million-dollar budget deficit. Our district is now confronted with incredibly difficult choices about how to spend significantly fewer budget dollars in the face of greater need. At the same time, we are struggling to determine what school will even look like in September: will it be

in person? remote? a combination of both? It's too soon to know.

We recently sent **[an appeal](#)** to school families and community members asking for their help alleviating some of this burden by making a gift to the Colonial Fund. Every dollar we raise will go towards the greatest needs in our district for the remainder of this school year and next.

If you or any alumni you know are in a position to help our schools, please visit the **[Colonial Fund website](#)** for information about how to make a gift. Every gift – regardless of size – will go towards protecting the high quality of education in Shrewsbury that we have all come to expect. We appreciate anything you can do to help our schools.

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**Thank you for re-connecting with Shrewsbury Public Schools!**



**Michelle Biscotti & Kathleen Keohane**

**Coordinators of Development and Volunteer Activities, Shrewsbury Public Schools**

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