



## Superintendent's Update

March 27, 2019

Dear Shrewsbury Families, Community Members, & Colleagues,

One of our [strategic priorities](#) is to promote the “enhanced well-being of all,” including the goal of **“creating a common understanding of the benefits of the skills, habits, and mindsets of social and emotional learning.”** To this end, I recently recorded a new episode of the *Superintendent's Update* TV show where three of my colleagues explain what social and emotional learning is and the steps we are taking as a school district to address this important dimension of education. Click [here](#) to view my conversation with Meg Belsito, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Amy Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment; and Dr. Jane Lizotte, Principal of Sherwood Middle School.

### Updates

Please note the following information:

- March 27 School Committee meeting topics & budget update
- Recent student achievements
- Check out what's happening in our schools through our SPS Twitter feed

**March 27 School Committee Meeting:** This evening's School Committee meeting will include a presentation on the research on school start times and adolescent sleep made by SHS students; a presentation from the Edward J. Collins Center for Public Management at UMass-Boston regarding their organizational study of our district's Central Office capacity; an update on the Beal School building project; a presentation on a potential crowdfunding policy; and a discussion and vote on recommendations for fee and tuition adjustments for next year. Regarding fees and tuitions, a reminder that [a report](#) was made at the last meeting outlining [various potential adjustments](#), and [my recommendations](#) for various fees range from reducing full day kindergarten tuition to incrementally achieve the district's goal of a no-tuition program when the new Beal School opens, to no increase in activity fees, to a 3.3% increase in the transportation fee, based

on overall cost increases we will experience. As always, you can contact the School Committee with feedback at [schoolcommittee@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:schoolcommittee@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us). The meeting will be held at 7:00pm at Town Hall and will be broadcast live on SELCO Channels 29/329 and streamed live on the web on the Shrewsbury Media Connection website.

Regarding **next year's budget**, the School Committee and district administration recently presented the current budget recommendations to the Finance Committee. Click [here](#) to see the presentation slides and find other information about the coming fiscal year's budget.

#### **Recent student achievements:**

- **SHS has a state champion duo in Science Olympiad!** Congratulations to Michelle Kim and Sankalp Katnalu, who earned first place in the "Mystery Architecture" category at the state competition.
- **Two Division I State Champions in indoor track!** Congratulations to SHS seniors Reagan Gillooly, who won the Girls 600 Meter Run, and Joey O'Brien, who won the Boys 300 Meter Dash.
- Congratulations to our **SHS Math Team, who earned first place in the Worcester County Math League championship** for the first time since 2007!
- Once again, we had several Shrewsbury Public Schools **Destination Imagination teams earn awards at their regional competitions**, with eight teams progressing to the state competition. Click [here](#) for a list of teams and photos. Good luck at states!
- **Congratulations to the eight SHS students who were selected to perform in the All-State Concert at Symphony Hall in Boston!** Bravo to Chloe Carleton, Zachary Fuller & Aadarsh Punnamaraju (Chorus); Stefanie Del Rosario, Kenneth Lee, Yunji Lee, & Felice Xie (Orchestra); and Alexander Zhang (Band). The SHS Performing Arts Department also put on **an outstanding rendition of *Seussical*** for the annual SHS Musical.
- **Six SHS students were recently honored in the prestigious Boston Globe Scholastic Art Competition!** Congratulations to Zachary St. Pierre, Gr. 12 - Silver Key; Aben Gyampo, Gr. 12 - Honorable Mention; Jenny Harris, Gr. 10 - Honorable Mention; Kalley Hou, Gr. 11 - Honorable Mention; Amelia Mendoza, Gr. 10 - Honorable Mention; and Arimita Padam, Gr. 11 - Honorable Mention.
- **Eight SHS students competed in the regional competition at WPI and earned a trip to the state Science & Engineering Fair at MIT!** Congratulations and good luck to Shravya Anisetti, Neelasha Bhattacharjee, Sreeanvitha Emani, Joshua Hollyer, Akash Kumar, Arnav Mishra, Ajan Prabakar, and Garima Prabhakar!
- The **SHS Robotics** team has been competing successfully at tournaments and will

host a major tournament this coming Saturday and Sunday at SHS. These tournaments are exciting, and admission is free of charge – if your child is into robotics or if you are interested in engineering, you are encouraged to check it out. See this past Monday's Community Bulletin email for details.

**SPS Twitter Feed:** While the achievements mentioned above are connected to high profile activities our high school students participate in, each day there are interesting and innovative learning experiences happening across all of our schools from preschool on up. **I encourage you to check out [our district's Twitter account](#) @ShrewsburyPS** to see many examples of the outstanding educational experiences created by our incredible faculty and staff to benefit our students, or to follow the hashtag #ShrewsburyLearns.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of our schools!

Respectfully,

Joe Sawyer  
Superintendent of Schools