



Superintendent's Update

May 16, 2019

Dear Shrewsbury Families, Colleagues, & Community Members,

There is so much happening during this busiest time of the school year, and much to celebrate. Congratulations to all of our high school students who have recently been recognized with various awards and scholarships for academic achievement, performing arts, visual arts, athletics, and various academic competitions. We are proud of our hardworking, talented students who have represented themselves, their families, their school, and their community so well.

Please read on for updates on:

- Appointment of the Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being
- More state champions
- Beal School building project
- SHS Student Advisory Committee
- SHS Senior Scholars

Appointment of the Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being: I am very pleased to share the news that last night the School Committee unanimously voted to appoint Dr. Jane O. Lizotte, the current principal at Sherwood Middle School and the longest serving principal in our district, as our new Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being, effective July 1. You can see from [my recommendation memo](#) to the School Committee why I enthusiastically endorsed Dr. Lizotte for this important new role, based on her excellent qualifications, her track record of successful leadership, her strong fit for the job responsibilities, and the very favorable feedback from stakeholder representatives who participated in the various interviews with her. I am very excited that we are adding [this new position](#), which is funded through a generous partnership with Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union, and that Dr. Lizotte has been appointed to it. I believe that her leadership through this role will significantly benefit students, staff, and families across the entire district. We will be launching a search for Dr. Lizotte's successor as principal of Sherwood very soon.

More state champions: Last night at the School Committee meeting we honored Garima Prabhakar, SHS Sophomore, who earned **first place in the State Science & Engineering Fair** for her project *Increasing Exoplanetary Detection Accuracy Using Orbital Parameter Relations*, in which she developed a new, working algorithm to analyze existing data from telescopes to better detect and confirm the existence of exoplanets. We also honored SHS sophomore Michelle Kim and freshman Sankalp Katnal, along with team captain, junior Armita Padam, for winning **first place in the State Science Olympiad competition** in the "Mystery Architecture" category. Last weekend, we also had **two teams**

win state championships in Esports: the SHS team in the League of Legends competition defended their fall season state title with another first place finish, while the SHS team in the Rocket League competition won the first ever state title in that Esports category. Congratulations to all!

Beal School building project: The project architects from LPA|A presented an updated design plan to the School Committee last evening. While the design is only 60% complete and many additions and changes will be made as the project evolves, you can see what's been created so far by viewing [their slide presentation](#) and by viewing a [3D virtual tour](#). While still in the planning stages, what is rendered thus far indicates that this is going to be an outstanding elementary school building for our community!

SHS Student Advisory Committee: Recently, the members of this year's SHS Student Advisory Committee made their final presentation to the School Committee. This elected group of student representatives did an excellent job of keeping the School Committee and the public informed of what is happening at SHS and bringing up key issues for consideration. Thank you to seniors Prisha Singh (chairperson), Erica Hanlon, & Paulina Hruskoci, junior Sophia Peng, and sophomore Max Evers for their leadership.

Senior Scholars: Each year the School Committee recognizes the ten top-ranked students in the SHS senior class. This year's honorees not only excelled in the classroom, but they contributed to the school community in many ways through community service learning; leadership in clubs, academic teams, and athletics; and the performing arts. On top of all this, they are terrific young women and men of good character. These students are listed alphabetically below, and I'm confident you will find their bios to be very impressive; they have made their families and their teachers very proud.

Thanks to all for your continued support of our students and educators.

Respectfully,

Joe Sawyer
Superintendent of Schools

Shrewsbury High School Class of 2019 Senior Scholars

(in alphabetical order)

Loren Cardani

Loren has had an incredible high school career and has flourished in the classroom. She has earned the highest honors every quarter which speaks directly to her work ethic and dedication to her studies. She has challenged herself academically with Advanced Placement (AP) courses in Chemistry, English, Spanish, Physics, and Calculus. Loren found that using both sides of her brain have kept her engaged and helped when looking at problems from multiple angles. She has also become an active member of our performing arts community and has been a part of the A Cappella Choir the past three years. Loren received the Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award from the

University of Rochester. After she spent a weeklong church-affiliated service trip working as a counselor at Camp Acorn, a day camp for mentally and physically disabled teens and adults, she became more aware of the challenges that people with disabilities face every day. Loren was part of an eleven-day expedition to the Grand Canyon with 19 other teenagers, half of whom were blind or visually impaired. Learning to be a sighted guide and working together with fellow campers for an extended time taught her valuable lessons in cooperation, compassion, and interdependence. Because of this and other community service she has performed, Loren also recently was awarded the Amy O'Leary Community Service Learning Award by the SHS Service Learning Advisory Board. Loren plans to attend the University of Rochester and hopes to double major in Biochemistry and Spanish.

James Chacharone

James has had a remarkable high school career in the classroom. After two years at St. John's High School, he transferred to Shrewsbury High School. Since stepping foot in our building, he has been a model student in and out of the classroom. He has challenged himself with a demanding course schedule that has included various honors and advanced placement courses. Through his success at school, he was able to become a member of the Math, Chinese, and National Honor Societies. Some of his proudest academic achievements include being recognized as a National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalist and being awarded the AP Scholar with Honor award. Since arriving at Shrewsbury High School, James has immersed himself within school activities. He has become a valuable member of both the varsity soccer and baseball teams. He was also awarded the coaches' award for soccer during the 2018 season. James has an incredibly bright future and is planning to attend Wake Forest University intending to major in Biology.

Chi Ki (Keith) Chan

Over the past four years, Keith has challenged himself by taking multiple honors and Advanced Placement courses. One of his greatest strengths as a student is his curiosity and desire to learn course material presented during instruction. He has been inducted into both the Math and Spanish Honor Societies. Some of his proudest academic achievements include being awarded the 2018 Harvard Book Award and a recipient of the Superintendent's Award. Keith has also served as a captain for both the Math and Science teams. He feels honored to hold this position and took pride in helping his teammates work towards common goals together. Keith is passionate about music and has consistently taken performing arts courses for the past four years. In 2017, he had the opportunity to perform at Disney Springs and truly enjoyed this incredible experience. Keith looks forward to being a member of the Class of 2023 at Tufts University next year and plans to pursue a major in Biochemistry.

Ian Chandra

Ian has had a remarkable four years in the classroom at Shrewsbury High School taking various honors and Advanced Placement courses earning highest honors every quarter. This is an incredible

accomplishment and speaks directly to Ian's determination to succeed at the highest level. He earned the privilege of being inducted into the Chinese, Math, and National Honor Societies. One of Ian's proudest academic accomplishments came last year at Academic Awards Night where he was the recipient of three subject awards in Chemistry, U.S. History II, and Health Education. He currently volunteers with the Mentor Volunteer Program assisting incoming freshman transition to life at the high school level. Ian was also a key contributor to revamping the Chemistry Club. He played a significant role in conceptualizing the goal of the new Chemistry Club and turning it into a reality. Ian plans to attend Arizona State University and pursue a major in Mechanical Engineering.

Siddhant Dosi

Siddhant has earned perfect 800 on his subject tests for Math II and Chemistry and has received a perfect score of 36 on his ACTs. He is a member of the National Honor Society, and the Math, Spanish, Social Studies and the English Honors Societies. His kindness and compassion are evident in the activities that he participates in including volunteer work and community engagement. He became passionate about banning Styrofoam in Shrewsbury when he realized the harmful effects. He became passionate about banning Styrofoam in Shrewsbury, and Siddhant collaborated with three friends to plan and present to multiple Shrewsbury government committees to ban Styrofoam. They spent over 100 hours on this project resulting in a ban of Styrofoam starting on January 1, 2020. Siddhant is also passionate about coaching middle school students in robotics and science for the Science Olympiad and Lego Robotics. He devoted a countless amount of time and energy in mentoring these students through their competitions. He was also a part of the winning MIT Science Trivia Invitational, allowing him to win a dinner with Nobel Prize winner Dr. Richard Shrock. Siddhant has significantly grown as a speaker and presenter and attributes his improvement with being a member of the Speech and Debate team. He earned his black belt in Tae Kwon Do where he has learned the importance of discipline and hard work. Siddhant has been an active member of his temple to connect with his family's culture and discover the importance of kindness. Siddhant will be attending the Honors College at Northeastern University to study Finance and Computer Science.

Julia Duda

Julia is an outstanding student who is committed to her studies. She is intelligent, passionate, multi-talented and caring. Julia is a top achiever and has been inducted into five National Honor Societies holding leadership positions in several of them. What is most impressive about Julia is her warmth of personality and ability to manage all of her activities with her academics. She has been a long-term member of the crew team and is captain this year, where she was chosen as the MVP by her teammates because of her positive influence. Julia was selected as the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Candidate in her sophomore year; the following year she applied and volunteered to be a group facilitator at the conference. She has been an active participant in the musical and choir each year and manages as the uniform coordinator. She has completed a formal internship at Central One Federal Credit Union (at our school) for the past three years. The credit union was so impressed

with Julia that they hired her to work as a teller. Julia is fluent in Polish, and her parents immigrated to the US. They have instilled a strong work ethic, pride in their heritage, and strong moral character in their daughter. Julia will attend Boston University where she plans to major in Neuroscience.

Megan O'Connell

A National Merit Finalist and Wellesley College Book Award recipient, Megan will have completed six AP courses by year's end. A balance of utmost importance, Megan works every summer on her family-owned farm and carefully chose stimulating and challenging courses while continuing to develop and share her skills as an ELNA officer, preparing meals with loving kindness for folks whose access to nourishing food is sporadic. Teaching as a black belt volunteer instructor in martial arts, she is also a voracious reader and talented writer. She employs this passion as a four-year member and current President of Excelsior – our student-driven literary magazine. A member of multiple Honor Societies, Megan's most treasured accomplishment is membership in the Elementary Tutoring Club, serving as Co-President for the past two years. With an eye toward activism, Megan hopes not only to teach but to advocate for children with learning challenges. Inspired by her early experience in Mrs. Porter's Spring Street classroom, Megan returned weekly over the past four years to support her previous teacher and the youngsters who now sit in those seats. Megan will attend Fordham University where she plans to study Psychology.

Thomas O'Neill

Recipient of the Wesleyan College Book Award and recognized as a National Merit Finalist, Tom's connections run passionately and in many different directions – from the C-Wing's lifelong musical friendships to interning in U.S. Rep. Jim McGovern's office. Tom's active involvement as a problem solver is evident in his contributions to students at SHS and the community at large. Elected to Student Council in grade nine, his energy and enthusiasm also led to receiving the Rotary Youth Leadership Award and DAR Citizenship Award junior year. Tom was very honored to be elected as Secretary of the Central District of the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils (CDMASC) for his Junior year. An avid sailor, Tom earned his certification as a qualified instructor in a sailing program designed to provide access for youngsters of all economic backgrounds. Improving the quality of services through social outreach, Tom is most proud of his endeavor to develop a support system and afterschool program for elementary aged children. The Educational Equity Student Union sought to coordinate volunteers from multiple districts to assist in academic remediation and homework help as well as provide fun activities to foster a solid sense of community in Worcester. Tom is excited to call Brown University his home for the next four years!

Arashleen Pannu

"I love people, science and reading." As a Summer Enrichment camp counselor, hospital volunteer, assistant black belt karate instructor, and library assistant, Arashleen offers help and support while

creating positive connections with people of all ages in many different settings. Recipient of the Presidential Volunteer Service Award, she accumulated over 250 hours in service to our community with the Center for Women & Infants at St. Vincent's Hospital as one of her favorites. Coaching middle school Speech and Debate, she also loves being part of Math, French, Social Science, and English National Honor Societies so that she can tutor students needing practice and concept reinforcement. A member of the Student Wellness Advisory Council (SWAC), she helped to draw attention to youth mental health issues, and as an MVP, she guides and supports ninth graders as they learn to navigate SHS. With her intense focus on science, cultivated through Research Methods classes and participating in Science Fair, Arashleen interned last summer with a research team at WPI, supporting a biotech startup. A National Merit Finalist, who by year's end will have completed eight AP courses, Arashleen intends to pursue a career in medicine where she can practice, focusing on underserved populations. Arashleen will be studying in an accelerated seven-year undergraduate and medical school program through Pennsylvania State University and the Sidney Kimmel Medical College (SKMC) College of Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University.

Felice Xie

Felice is a top-notch student with a vibrant personality and a positive outlook on life. She has made her mark academically as well as with her activities. Since her freshman year, Felice has been a member of the SHS Tennis team and is currently captain. She has been a loyal member of Globally Making a Difference and ELNA. She was also inducted into the Chinese National Honor Society, where she serves as Secretary; as well as Tri-M Music Honor Society, and the National Honor Society. Felice is a member of the SHS Orchestra who has earned all-state recognition for her violin playing. Outside of school, Felice has excelled in many areas including volunteering as a tutor and mentor and also working in several research labs at local hospitals. The most notable experience was her time spent with the Harvard Medscience summer program. She was able to gain insight into the career of medicine through this program, which has helped her narrow her ideas of a possible future path. Felice will attend the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) where she plans to major in Biomedical Engineering.