



# Shrewsbury Public Schools

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Joseph M. Sawyer, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

February 4, 2020

Dear Shrewsbury Families, Staff, & Community Members,

Today's early release day for professional development enabled our educators to focus on advancing their own learning on topics related to our district's strategic priorities and their own professional goals. The educators I had a chance to speak with were enthusiastic about how they will be applying their new knowledge in order to enhance their students' learning and well-being. As always, you can check out the hashtag #ShrewsburyLearns on Twitter to see lots of great examples of the outstanding learning experiences our educators provide for our students.

This is also **National School Counselor Week**. Please join me in thanking our school counselors for the outstanding work they do with our students!

Read on for information on recent successes and topics at tomorrow evening's School Committee meeting, including next year's school calendar.

**Recent successes:** Early in this calendar year, there continues to be much to celebrate in our schools. In late January, the **Shrewsbury Education Foundation** honored many of our educators through its annual John P. Collins Awards for Excellence and its [generous grant program](#), and it bestowed its annual Community Service Award on our Shrewsbury High School Unified Club. Check out the terrific video that SHS Unified presented at the dinner [here](#). We are incredibly proud of these students, and we are grateful for the wonderful support of our schools that the Shrewsbury Education Foundation provides!

Additionally, **our SHS E-Sports team just won its third consecutive state championship** in the League of Legends competition! Congratulations to the team, who displayed great strategy and teamwork all season and in the final competition at the new E-Sports venue at Patriot Place at Gillette Stadium. For a photo of our championship team, click [here](#) for SHS Principal Todd Bazydlo's tweet from the award ceremony.

**February 5 School Committee meeting topics (including next year's school calendar):** Tomorrow evening's School Committee meeting will include a presentation on the innovative "maker space" in the Sherwood Media Center; an update on the Beal School building project; a vote on next year's school calendar; and budget reports on next year's transportation program and strategic priorities. The meeting will be at 7:00pm in the Selectmen's Room at the Town Hall, and will be broadcast live on SELCO Channels 29/329 and streamed live on the web on the Shrewsbury Media Connection's website.

For your information, I am including the message previously sent regarding next year's school calendar, which will be voted on tomorrow evening:

**Proposed calendar for the 2020-2021 school year:** The draft calendar for next school year (found [here](#)) has been proposed and is under review by the School Committee, who will vote on a final calendar at

their February 5 meeting. The calendar will follow the approach we have used in the recent past, in concert with the [recommendations made in January 2016](#) by a Calendar Committee consisting of parents and staff, with two notable exceptions:

1. Due to the Massachusetts state primary election being held on September 1, which would have traditionally been the first day of school for students in grades 1-12, it is not feasible to hold school that day due to Coolidge School and Spring Street School being polling locations. The recommendation is to a) move the traditional Friday professional development day of that first week of school to Tuesday, September 1, b) have the first day of school for students in grades 1-12 on Wednesday, September 2, c) have the first day of school for preschool and kindergarten on Thursday, September 3, and d) have a regular day of school for all students on Friday, September 4.

2. Based on the strong recommendation of our principals, the mandatory screening days for the following year's preschool and kindergarten students is proposed to be moved from the last two days in the school year calendar to early May. This would mean that Monday, May 3 and Tuesday, May 4 would be "no school" days for preschool and kindergarten students (with that Tuesday being an early release day for all students as well). The last day of school for all students in preschool through high school is scheduled for June 17.

If you wish to provide any feedback to the School Committee in advance of their vote, you can email the Committee at [schoolcommittee@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:schoolcommittee@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us).

Thanks for your continued support of our students.

Respectfully,

Joe Sawyer

Superintendent of Schools