



Shrewsbury Public Schools

Joseph M. Sawyer, Ed.D.
Superintendent

September 24, 2019

Dear Shrewsbury Families & Community Members,

It's hard to believe we are in our fifth week of the new school year, and we are off to an excellent start across our school district. I have been so impressed by the ways in which our educators are working to build a strong sense of belonging and community in our classrooms and schools, which is critical for an effective learning environment. My welcome back message to our staff emphasized how important it is to accept, respect, include, and empower all of our students in order to help them thrive.

There are so many ways in which the work of our educators makes a positive impact on students, and I am constantly proud and grateful for what they do. That said, there have also been a handful of times in my career when I have been overwhelmed by an example of extraordinary work that has changed the lives of students for the better. A presentation at last Wednesday evening's School Committee meeting was one of those times.

The presentation that the students and educators from our Shrewsbury High School Unified Sports program made to the School Committee was one of the most powerful examples of our core values in action that I have witnessed. I urge you to watch it [here](#). While I am proud that this program has received national recognition, I am exponentially more proud to know that it has literally transformed students' lives because they were respected, accepted, included, and empowered.

Please see the additional information below for other videos that highlight the excellence of our schools, including a presentation by several alumni and current seniors to our staff and a piece produced for the dedication of the SHS field and stadium.

Respectfully,

Joe Sawyer
Superintendent of Schools

Our Students, Our Legacy Presentation (Video):

We have received much positive feedback from staff regarding the opening assembly from our August 30 professional development day, where SPS students and alumni shared their perspectives on how their education in our schools shaped them and provided advice for how we can continue to improve the way we serve our students. Thank you to Dr. Jane Lizotte, who now serves as our Assistant Superintendent for

Community Partnerships & Well-Being, for the planning and coordination of this event, which allowed us to listen to student and alumni voices as a way to reflect upon our practice. You can watch the video of the event [here](#).

Dedication of David J. Adams Memorial Field at Central One Federal Credit Union Stadium:

The completion of improvements to the Shrewsbury High School athletics complex was commemorated by the dedication of David J. Adams Memorial Field at Central One Federal Credit Union Stadium on September 14. The installation of an all-weather synthetic turf field, a resurfaced track, an expanded scoreboard, the addition of a patio with our donor bricks overlooking the field, a new ticket booth, and other improvements have created an outstanding facility for our student athletes and the community. Please see [this video](#), which was produced by students from our Education Television Studio at SHS, for a time lapse of the construction (first 4.5 minutes of the video), a drone flyover, and information about how the \$1.8 million raised through sponsorships and donations for this project is making a positive impact. Thank you again to everyone who contributed to this remarkable achievement for our community!

Thank you to all of our parents and community members for your continued support of our schools!