

SHREWSBURY HIGH SCHOOL



CHALLENGED
capable
Diverse
Learning
Empower
caring
Active
Contributor

Independent Thinking

Provide
Creative



A Commitment to the 4-C's of 21st Century Teaching and Learning

In 21st century schools, the “3-R’s” remain important, but how students interact with them has become even more significant. At Shrewsbury High School, teachers are committed to utilizing instructional strategies that enhance the “3-R’s” with the “4-C’s”: **critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity**. These four skills, combined with a strong foundation of content, ensure that students are taking what they have learned and applying it in authentic ways.

Students at Shrewsbury High School are challenged to **think critically** through problem solving, collecting and analyzing information, and formulating conclusions that show an in-depth understanding. Project-based learning activities are incorporated across all departments as are instructional strategies that require students to work together to find the best possible solution.

Students are engaged in **collaboration** in the traditional sense through cooperative learning, but also in virtual settings through the use of technology. An increasing number of group assignments now include online discussions or virtual meetings.

The development of oral and written **communication** skills is a common thread found throughout the curriculum. Writing skills are reinforced in all classes whether through assignments designed to teach the mechanics of writing, research-based writing, or concise essay writing. Speaking skills are reinforced through many presentations, both individual and group, that occur throughout the high school experience.

Students are afforded many opportunities to express their **creativity** in core academic classes as well as electives offered in music, theatre, and visual arts. Whether it is creative writing, graphic design, jazz ensemble, or movement, there are many courses that promote creativity.

Get the Facts: School Information Overview

Graduation Requirements

Shrewsbury High School has established fundamental guidelines that are essential for a well-educated Shrewsbury High School graduate. To graduate from Shrewsbury High School, a student must complete a minimum of 105 credits. A semester of work in a course that meets daily is worth 2.5 credits. A full year's work in a course is worth 5 credits. The minimum graduation requirements are as follows:

- English 20 credits
- Social Sciences 15 credits
- Math 15 credits
- Science 15 credits
- Health/Physical Ed. 15 credits
- Arts 2.5 credits
- Electives 22.5 credits
- Additionally, students must pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) exam in order to graduate.

Course Levels

*A*dvanced Placement:

AP courses are designed for maximum challenge of the most intellectually curious students. Very substantial initiative and independent work is the norm.

*H*onors:

Honors courses involve a high level of intellectual challenge. Substantial initiative and independent work is the norm.

*C*ollege Prep A & B:

The largest grouping of students in the high school is at the A & B levels. Courses require a moderate to extensive intellectual development with outside preparation. These courses are designed to prepare students for two and four-year colleges. Reading levels will be at or above the normed median.

The core academic program at Shrewsbury High School provides a wide variety of rigorous opportunities for all learners. Courses are offered at the college preparatory level (A and B Level), the honors level, and the Advanced Placement level. Regardless of the level, courses are designed to challenge students appropriately. Special programming exists to meet the needs of students with certain interests. In science, a series of “research methods” courses are offered which require students to complete an independent science research project to be adjudicated at a local science fair each winter. Winners of the local fair



compete at a regional fair and those that are successful at that level compete at the state level. In 2009 and 2010, students from Shrewsbury High School received national recognition for their research projects through the Intel Science Talent Search program.



Research methods courses are offered in Introductory Physics, Biology and Chemistry and each section is coupled with a math class that reinforces statistics to help students with their independent research.

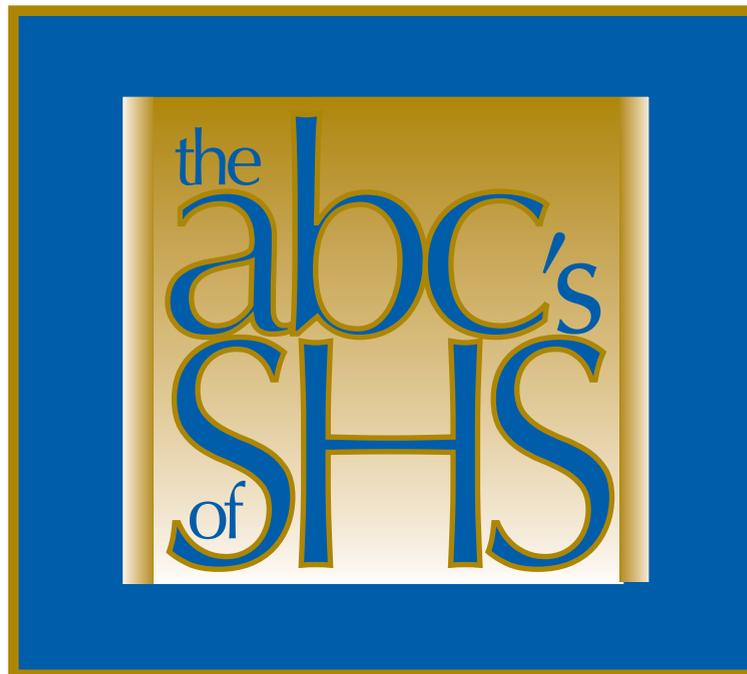
American Studies - An American Studies program is offered to juniors who have a strong passion for American history and literature. This course is co-taught by an English teacher and a history teacher and requires a culminating project in the spring. The social sciences department



also offers a wide variety of senior electives including Global Studies, Honors Topics in Asia and Africa, World Religions, and America and the World Today.

WPI Partnership - In 2008, Shrewsbury High School began a partnership with Worcester Polytechnic Institute by offering courses through the Project Lead the Way® engineering program. Currently, Shrewsbury High School offers three engineering courses: Introduction to Engineering Design, Principles of Engineering, and Digital Electronics.

Advanced Placement - Shrewsbury High School offers 15 Advanced Placement courses in six disciplines. Additionally, students may elect Advanced Placement courses not offered at Shrewsbury High School through Virtual High School. In 2010, 467 AP exams were administered at Shrewsbury High School. Ninety-two percent of students taking these exams scored a three or better, 70% scored a four or better, and 45% scored a five, the highest score possible. There were 31 AP Scholars identified in 2010, these students earned a 3 or better on at least three AP tests.



Athletics - The Shrewsbury High School Athletic Department offers over 30 varsity-level sports including football, field hockey, basketball, swimming, lacrosse, baseball, softball, two seasons of crew, and three seasons of track. Equal opportunities exist for both boys and girls. All sports offer both varsity and sub-varsity levels and freshmen levels exist for football and basketball. Shrewsbury is a Division 1 athletic program. Over the past five years, Shrewsbury High School teams have earned dozens of district titles and four state championships.



Music and Theatre - If you enjoy performing on stage, then Shrewsbury High School has programming for you. There are eight for-credit performing groups (one orchestra, three bands, and four choirs) and an extra-curricular pep-band that performs at football and basketball games. The music performance groups have travelled extensively where they have won numerous awards at festivals. Recent trips have taken groups to Washington D.C., Hawaii, Texas, and Italy. Each year dozens of Shrewsbury High School musicians are accepted to the Massachusetts Music Educators Association's Central District Festival and All-



State Music Festival. The Theatre Department is responsible for three major productions each year: the fall play, the competition play, and the spring musical. Past performances include *Fiddler on the Roof*; *Seussical*; *Anything Goes*; *The Diary of Anne Frank*; *Almost, Maine*; and *The Crucible*. In addition to opportunities to act and sing, students are also engaged in set design, lighting design, and sound engineering. There are four credited elective courses in theatre offered as well.



Visual Arts - The visual arts program is extensive and offers students opportunities to explore art through the Art Intro course or hone their skills in courses that focus on a particular medium including Ceramics, Graphic Design, Sculpture, Printmaking, and Photography. Student artwork is often displayed at local businesses and can be found showcased at the high school each spring at the annual art festival. Shrewsbury High School artists are honored every year through the Boston Globe Scholastic Art Competition. Advanced Placement courses in art are available.



SHS GOLD NUGGETS

- State and National Science and Engineering Fair Award Winners
- Nationally recognized Speech and Debate Program
- Award Winning Music and Drama Program
- League, District and State Championship Athletic Teams
- Numerous Boston Globe Scholastic Art Winners Annually
- 89% Participation rate for SAT's with scores well above State and National averages
- State-of-the-art Educational Television Studio
- Administered 463 Advanced Placement Exams in 2010 with a 92% passing rate and 45% achieving the maximum score
- 96% of Graduates in the Class of 2010 attended 2 or 4 year colleges
- 43% of the Class of 2010 matriculated at colleges rated as "Very," "Highly," and "Most" Competitive
- 95% of Graduates in the Class of 2010 receiving Special Education Services attended 2 or 4 year colleges
- Over 60 co-curricular clubs and activities with a significant number started by students

Mission Statement

The Shrewsbury High School community provides challenging, diverse learning opportunities; promotes creativity and independent thinking; and empowers students to become capable, caring, and active contributors to the world in which they live.



Home of the Colonials

Shrewsbury High School

64 Holden Street

Shrewsbury, MA 01545

508.841.8800 

508.841.8858 

<http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov>