

To Dr. Sawyer, the School Committee, and SPS principals,

We hope you and your families are doing well and staying healthy. First and foremost, we genuinely appreciate your solidarity to the Black Lives Matter movement and your dedication to making Shrewsbury an inclusive school system. As former students, we are thankful to have had an open-minded Superintendent throughout our K-12 education.

In light of recent events, we have done a lot of reflecting upon the curriculum in regards to Black history and the environment at SPS in regards to inclusivity. Although we are taking steps in the right direction (through our SHS Black History Month assembly and existing curriculum in history courses), this is not enough to accurately represent the struggle of Black and Indigenous Americans, as well as other populations of color. The recent resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement has uncovered the gaps existing in our curriculum. Through listening to Black leaders and activists, we realized the significant role that education plays in our implicit biases. We have some suggestions that we hope will begin to fill the gaps in our K-12 education. Although we understand that these changes cannot be made overnight, we would like to see a continuous discussion take place in the Shrewsbury school system.

### **Professional Development**

Monthly PD days serve to address pressing issues within our school system and educate teachers on how to deal with them. What could be more pressing than racism within our community? The usage of professional development in regards to race is twofold.

First, it can provide staff with a way to learn about microaggressions and how they contribute to systemic racism in the SPS community. We recognize that harmful actions by staff can be unintentional, which is why it is important to understand exactly what it means to be racist. It is critical for teachers to have the resources on how to actively be anti-racist and an ally to Black students and other students of color. Speaking from personal experiences, we strongly believe that bringing in more BIPOC speakers to discuss the appropriate vocabulary for conversations about race is imperative. By bringing in speakers that are equipped with the tools of navigating racism in school settings, faculty can receive the training necessary to be actively anti-racist. This work is essential for any curriculum-based changes to be effective. We expect this to be a long-term initiative, because these changes are not immediate.

Second, it would offer Social Studies and English teachers a time to review lessons from a critical perspective and make necessary adjustments to justly depict Black history for what it is, and add discussions on systemic and contemporary racism to the classroom. It would also offer Performing Arts, Visual Arts, and other departments an opportunity to diversify their curriculum.

We each have a lot of work to do in order to unlearn the deep-rooted implicit biases that we carry. Now is a time for each and every one of us to acknowledge our microaggressions and the small acts of anti-blackness in which we are complicit everyday—it is imperative that our educators, who carry a great amount of influence, do the same. It is work that takes time, effort, and self-reflection. It is uncomfortable. It is something that SPS staff will have to go out of their way to do.

In order to unpack the severity of this issue, we have attached a list of personal accounts of racism experienced in SPS. We urge staff to treat racially charged situations differently than how bullying or teasing is treated. There should be a protocol in place throughout the school system for teachers to be able to condemn racism. Clearly, this issue has run rampant, and many students have reported that staff has not intervened.

### **Starting Black History Education Earlier**

When we learn about topics such as Christopher Columbus or Abraham Lincoln, we paint these figures in a positive light rather than learn about their tainted legacies. Those two specific examples are accompanied by a long list of other events/figures who are misrepresented in regards to Black and Indigenous histories. Although these are complex issues, it is dangerous for young students to walk away from these lessons with these figures on a pedestal. Young minds are incredibly vulnerable to racist narratives that they will carry throughout their lives. As products of this school system, it has taken us many years to recognize how these narratives have molded our perspectives. It is equally important to introduce Black role models and important figures in early education. It is difficult for students of color to feel valued in society when being presented solely with white heroes. Similarly, it is difficult for white students to value people of color without being presented with heroes of color. We don't believe that rigid curriculum guidelines should be used as an excuse, as there are other opportunities for this learning. To offer a potential solution, school assemblies in elementary and middle school can serve as an opportunity to integrate more cultural learning. Black history month assemblies should be introduced earlier, rather than just at the high school level.

### **Education Opportunities**

Many key historical Black figures and events were obliterated from our US History courses. To name a few specific examples—Malcolm X, the Tulsa Massacre, and redlining—were lightly touched upon in some classes, while never mentioned in others. Black history in the classroom is often limited to the white man's perspective of slavery and the Civil Rights Movement. We are fed the widely-believed myth that racism ended after the activism of Martin Luther King Jr.—when that is far from the truth. How can we expect our students to not be racist when they are not armed with the knowledge of Black oppression? This necessary addition would force students to think critically about topics such as privilege and systemic racism. We believe that the first step to this could be using materials (podcasts, movies, books) made by Black creators that accurately portray their experiences, and whose voices prove to be more valuable than what is written in our textbooks. Previously, cost may have been an issue for additional resources, but with iPads, students and teachers have a variety of free resources at their fingertips. Despite the fact that the SPS curriculum is bound by state requirements, we have faith that your staff can make appropriate changes in their lesson plans, or substitute certain material for these very real and pressing issues. We urge you to reference the “Proposal for Anti-Racism Work at Shrewsbury High School” that was submitted by Kathy Bi and other alumni for a detailed approach on realistic changes that can be made to the curriculum.

At a certain point, we should be asking ourselves why our curriculum has chosen to prioritize certain events over others; why our history consistently censors and depicts racism as a resolved issue; why we discuss things in a way that is more digestible when the reality is not. In today's day and age, there should be no excuse as to why we don't learn about Black history more comprehensively. We need to stop framing Black history as an afterthought, but rather learn it in conjunction with "white" history. We are adding a list of non-exhaustive resources which we found to be helpful in unlearning racial biases. We believe that these can also act as substitutes in English classrooms, where a majority of the books we read are written by white authors. These changes need to be made throughout K-12 education, not just at the high school level.

### [NPR Anti-Racism Resources](#)

### [List of Books Created by Alumna Nabeeha Haq](#)

We also hope that this is more openly talked about in classrooms. Race and politics are not synonymous. While we understand the inability of staff to express their personal political beliefs, it is essential that they condemn any and all acts of racism present in classrooms.

### **Staff Representation**

Faculty of color serve as role models and representation for students of color, as well as resources that provide a greater level of comfort. It is apparent that there is an extremely low number of staff of color in the SPS system. They bring crucial perspectives to a largely white staff. In making decisions for such a large, diverse student body it is essential that all contexts are adequately represented. It needs to be understood that the burden of representing all people of color cannot and should not be placed on just a few people. We know that these discussions do take place during the hiring process, but clearly the results have not shown. It is important to recognize why—whether that is due to the advertisement of the position, where potential teachers are being recruited from, or bias within the hiring process itself. As former students, we cannot speak to where exactly this problem is rooted, but feel that when future positions open up, something must change.

### **Mascot**

Although curriculum and faculty training are more pressing issues, students have also expressed concerns surrounding our current high school mascot. Many feel that the Colonial does not accurately represent our community and its values. We urge you to further discuss the contemporary context of the mascot.

As we were writing this letter, we referenced the mission statement of Shrewsbury High School:

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

This mission statement will never be met if concrete change is not brought to SPS. Racism is not an issue that can be resolved with performative or short-term actions. We are looking forward to continuing this discussion in the long-term.

We appreciate that you have taken the time to read over our letter. We would like to see SPS address the community concerns that were listed here, as well as the ones that were not. Once again, thank you for your commitment to creating an accepting school environment. Please let us know how we can help as active members of our town.

Respectfully,

Meher Gandhi, Former Student Council President  
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774-420-8382

Ash Gite, Class of 2019 Secretary  
[agite@ucsb.edu](mailto:agite@ucsb.edu)  
774-578-8903

Natalia Karadimitriou, Class of 2019 Vice President  
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508-579-9189

Prisha Singh, Former Student Advisory Committee Chairperson  
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508-667-6170

Signatures of support from **869** current and former students, SPS staff, and parents are attached in a file and can also be found [here](#).

Name (First Last)                      Graduation Year/Department

**CURRENT/FORMER STUDENTS**

James Sundstrom	1970
Carla Renzoni	1973
Marie Daby-Akman	2001
Amy Saad	2005
Nicole Johnson-Collins	2005
Giustina Renzoni	2007
Jennifer Buianowski	2007
Courtney Brodeur	2008
Julie Fialho	2008
Sami Lipkin	2008
Akshaya Krishnaswamy	2009
Jacqueline Pham	2009
Katherine Towell	2009
Sarah Hopkins	2010
Alexandra Phelps	2011
Anna Secino	2011
Kevin Chen	2011
Sara Pedersen	2011
Victoria Lanzarini	2011
Alexandra Schlener	2012
Alexandria	2012
Amber Andrews	2012
Danielle Deraney	2012
Jacquelyn kraemer	2012
Jessica Bonollo	2012
Kayla Uhlman	2012
Kelley Dillon	2012
Kelsey Manion	2012
Maggie Downen	2012
Olivia Sargent	2012
Rachel Anthony	2012
Sarah Staiti	2012
Shawna Dunphy	2012
Andrew Morgera	2013
Bianca Renzoni	2013
Keanu Patwari	2013
kiery fisher	2013
Madyson Shea	2013
Michelle Henry	2013
Nicole Bertrand	2013
Nicole Goodnough	2013

Name (First Last)	Graduation Year/Department
Brigid Gorman	2014
Caitlin DeWolfe	2014
Catherine Jreije	2014
Catherine Zhang	2014
Dhanya Kumar	2014
Elena Perkins	2014
Elizabeth Benbenek	2014
Gina Vitale	2014
Jenna Troio	2014
Kathy Bi	2014
Kavya Raghunathan	2014
Kira Sommer	2014
Kristen Rezukey	2014
Mathias Dudek	2014
Meghan Keohan	2014
Nicole Lucier	2014
Ross Kerr	2014
Sai Sanjana Vietla	2014
Sarah Swanson	2014
Shalini Nehra	2014
Aditi Singh	2015
Alex Haji	2015
Alexa Deraney	2015
Amee Desai	2015
Annie Canzano	2015
Caroline McQuade	2015
Carrel Andre	2015
Dana Uhlman	2015
Elizabeth StPierre	2015
Emilie Scott	2015
Erin Cossette	2015
Hannah Murray	2015
Hilary Wong	2015
Himalee Vaghela	2015
Jamie Cruz	2015
Jillian Fiore	2015
Jonathan Bisceglia	2015
Joseph McElwee	2015
Kathryn Radovanic	2015
Keisha Champagne	2015
Kelsey DeWolfe	2015
Kylee Smith	2015

Name (First Last)	Graduation Year/Department
Liz Shaw	2015
Madelyn Prior	2015
Michaela Flint	2015
Monica Chen	2015
Nicholas Quinlivan	2015
Rebecca Wallace	2015
Sara Hanna	2015
Seth opper	2015
Shreyas Srikanth	2015
Sonali Razdan	2015
Surabhi Godbole	2015
Timothy Rapp	2015
Tori Cullen	2015
Alex Lapierre	2016
Alex Smyrnios	2016
Ashley Ljunggren	2016
Bhanika Mistry	2016
Bhoomi Patel	2016
Bridget Dwyer	2016
Catherine Chung	2016
Daniel Swanson	2016
Elise Ward	2016
Elizabeth George	2016
Emma Aulenback	2016
Erin Chen	2016
Ilakya Senthilkumar	2016
Ishitha Rajan	2016
Jenna Parks	2016
Madelyn Stewich	2016
Madison Busick	2016
Mallika Nagan	2016
Michaela Marcello	2016
Mrinalini Nagarajan	2016
Nnamdi okaka	2016
Patricia Egan	2016
Rhea Vyas	2016
Rukmini Kumar	2016
Sashrika Saini	2016
Shriya	2016
Sophia Brownstein	2016
Tatiana Karadimitriou	2016
Tyler Foskett	2016

Name (First Last)	Graduation Year/Department
Abby Bryant	2017
Adipto Sengupta	2017
Aja Pandey	2017
Amanda Frost	2017
Ana Santos	2017
Anagha Arvind	2017
Andrea Correa	2017
Andrew Foley	2017
Aritra Ghosh	2017
Ben Harris	2017
Benjamin Astill	2017
Brian Moura	2017
Caroline Calderwood	2017
Connor Jerome Giedymin	2017
Courtney Charon	2017
Danielle Noonan	2017
Derin Sabu	2017
Elizabeth Aicardi	2017
Elizabeth May	2017
Elizabeth Ray	2017
Ethan Evers	2017
Gavin Fischer	2017
Hannah Cavaretta	2017
Hannah Ray	2017
Jaime Smith	2017
Jerry Fu	2017
Jessica seery	2017
Jewel Colcord	2017
Jimmy McQuade	2017
Julia Rivard	2017
Julia Yantsides	2017
Kristin Maher	2017
Lauren LeBlanc	2017
Likhitha Eda	2017
Mackenzie Huard	2017
Madeline Montague	2017
Maria Antônia Silva	2017
Maria Wilson	2017
Marianna Silverio	2017
Mark Bray	2017
Mary-Kate Pereira	2017
Maryam Salah	2017



Name (First Last)	Graduation Year/Department
Maya Pandey	2017
Maya Torres	2017
Melissa Miranda	2017
Mia Ragaini	2017
Michael O'Connell	2017
Mikayla Sheehan	2017
Mohamed Gandor	2017
Naafiyaa Saffiullah	2017
Nicole Cashman	2017
Nicole Chignola	2017
Nisa Burns	2017
Noor Lobad	2017
Olivia Juairé	2017
Olivia Tata	2017
Pamela Fanjoy	2017
Patrick Chen	2017
Poojary Nidhi	2017
Sam Eldean	2017
Sara Howard	2017
Sharanya Ganesh	2017
Shea Russo	2017
Sophia Marshall	2017
Stephen Carlson	2017
Subin Jeong	2017
Thalita Neves	2017
Trishina Moitra	2017
Urvi Savant	2017
Vikram Pathalam	2017
Vrinda Punj	2017
Abby Cossette	2018
Aditya Pothanaboyina	2018
Ahmed Duaa	2018
Alaina Bailey	2018
Alexandra Lekas	2018
Alison Clark	2018
Ana Luiza Erlacher Scalz	2018
Andrew Busick	2018
Andrew Hyland	2018
Angel Bonilla	2018
Angela Olivieri	2018
Anna Badstubner	2018
Anna Lizotte	2018

Name (First Last)	Graduation Year/Department
Anusha Gopinath	2018
Anvi Ranjan	2018
Benjamin George	2018
Brahim Yatim	2018
Brielle Carelli	2018
Caitlin Kean	2018
Caleigh Snyder	2018
Caleigh Weafer	2018
Cameron Morris	2018
Carlos Rivera	2018
Charles Bray	2018
Chris Semanki	2018
Christina Pham	2018
Christina Yuen	2018
Collin Hay	2018
Courtney Taylor	2018
Daniel May	2018
Darius Serebrova	2018
Diana Bulger	2018
Dominic Ritacco	2018
Elizabeth Bonhomme	2018
Emily Brann	2018
Emily Daley	2018
Emma Sullivan	2018
Erin Duffy	2018
Erin Matozel	2018
Freddy Torres	2018
Gabriela Gil	2018
Gary Ren	2018
Grace Bordage	2018
Grace Dube	2018
Grace Larrabee	2018
Helton Pongnon	2018
Ira Saini	2018
Isabella Catao	2018
Jessica Miksis	2018
Jessica Turco	2018
Julia Greene	2018
Julia Guidi	2018
Katelyn Fiore	2018
Katherine Ola	2018
Kathryn Armour	2018

Name (First Last)	Graduation Year/Department
Kathryn Cawley	2018
Korey Patwari	2018
Lauren King	2018
leah bell	2018
Leah Missall	2018
Madison Mineau	2018
Maggie Clark	2018
Maggie Keene	2018
Malcolm Patel	2018
Margaret Easson	2018
Marlie Atlabachew	2018
Mary Canzano	2018
Matthew Slaughter	2018
Meaghan Pedjoe	2018
Megha Shashidhar	2018
Michaela Breen	2018
Mihaela Ionete	2018
Misbah Rindani	2018
Molly O'Neill	2018
Muhammad Salah	2018
Mykel Turner	2018
Nabeeha Haq	2018
Nandini Seetharaman	2018
Nicole Kwiatkowski	2018
Nida Sheikh	2018
Niki Emani	2018
Nilanjana Nambiar	2018
Olivia Zona	2018
Paul Durkee	2018
praneeth prathi	2018
Rebha Raviraj	2018
Reilly Brenner	2018
Rhea Krishnan	2018
Ryan Shea	2018
Sahil Vyas	2018
Sam Brownstein	2018
Samantha Bitar	2018
Sara Abdelouahed	2018
Sarah Pfeifle	2018
Seana Brady	2018
Serena Desai	2018
Simran Soin	2018

Name (First Last)	Graduation Year/Department
Snigdha Kalathur	2018
Srujana Tammiseti	2018
Suraj Gurung	2018
Tanvi Tanna	2018
Victoria Flint	2018
Will Stewich	2018
Yagmur Akyurek	2018
Aashvi Patel	2019
Adria Westort	2019
Ahmad Chehadeh	2019
Ahmet Coban	2019
Aileen Cheng	2019
Alexa Keddy	2019
Ali Khedr	2019
Amanda Darby	2019
Ana Reis	2019
Angie Rezuke	2019
Anirudh Iyer	2019
Anna Bolon	2019
Anna Zerwas	2019
Anshuman Madhukar	2019
Arashleen Pannu	2019
Archana Purohit	2019
Areej Sayeed	2019
Ashleigh Keller	2019
Ashley Chartier	2019
Ayushi Patel	2019
Ben Carriveau	2019
Brenna Lachapelle	2019
Brittany Charon	2019
Bruna Feitosa	2019
Cailin Zadravec	2019
Cam Gill	2019
Carissa Mok	2019
Caroline Birney	2019
Caroline Conti	2019
Caroline Martin	2019
catherine holland	2019
Catherine Samia	2019
Charles Aksel	2019
Charlie Ouellette	2019
Chartier, Ashley	2019

Name (First Last)	Graduation Year/Department
Christina Sargent	2019
Christopher Matthews	2019
Christopher Wright	2019
Clarissy DaSilva	2019
Daphne Bisnette	2019
Delaney Couture	2019
Dhriti Aiylam	2019
Ela Berkmen	2019
Eliana Jreije	2019
Elizabeth Gedeon	2019
Ellen harrington	2019
Emanuela Silva	2019
Emie Ung	2019
Emily Anderson	2019
Emily Fournier	2019
Emily Spurr	2019
Emily Walz	2019
Emma Koopman	2019
Erica Hanlon	2019
Eugenia Camacho	2019
Fallon O'Brien	2019
Fazil Soharwardi	2019
Felice Xie	2019
Fiona O'Brien	2019
Gianna Simone	2019
Grace Jackson	2019
Haley Collins	2019
Halie Tolba	2019
Hannah Tran	2019
Harini Shanmugam	2019
Henna Qureshi	2019
Hewan Weldai	2019
Holly Morway	2019
Jacqueline Leo	2019
Jenny Wu	2019
Jessica Moss	2019
John Antonio	2019
John LeBlanc	2019
John Miwanda	2019
Jonathan Kelly	2019
Joseph O'Brien	2019
Julia Miller	2019

Name (First Last)	Graduation Year/Department
Júlia Ogasahara	2019
Jupna Kaur	2019
Kaitlyn Smith	2019
Kaitlyn Svendsen	2019
Kaley Morana	2019
Karlie Sundeen	2019
Kasey Cooney	2019
Katherine Southard	2019
Katherine St. Pierre	2019
Kayleigh Johnson	2019
Kendall Babst	2019
Kevin Choi Orificé	2019
Kevyn Luu	2019
Kirsten Wall	2019
kristen hanna	2019
Kristina Madden	2019
Laura swaim	2019
Lillian Davis	2019
Loren Cardani	2019
Lucy Anderson	2019
Lucy Combs	2019
Madison Kane	2019
Maggie Frederick	2019
Maria Walsh	2019
Marissa Campaniello	2019
Marlon Toon	2019
Max Levenson	2019
Megan Calderwood	2019
Megan Calderwood	2019
Megan O'Connell	2019
Megan Whitcomb	2019
meghan connolly	2019
Mei Mei Heipler	2019
Mikaila Mack	2019
Mike Walton	2019
Nabeel Mowlod	2019
Nadia. Huda	2019
Nathaniel grebelsky	2019
Nicole Birri	2019
Nidhi Pednekar	2019
Nora Craft	2019
Olivia Spirito	2019

Name (First Last)	Graduation Year/Department
Paige Bonetti	2019
Paulina Hruskoci	2019
Priyanka Murthy	2019
Rachel Dancy	2019
Rahi Patel	2019
Rahul Razdan	2019
Reagan Gillooly	2019
Rebecca Pfeifle	2019
Renae Zeno	2019
Ria Deshpande	2019
Riley Carroll	2019
Roche	2019
Ronan	2019
Rosemary Sun	2019
Saisha Chojar	2019
Sarah Uy	2019
Sari bsharat	2019
Sean Bunton	2019
Shahira Abdelgawad	2019
Shirley Dang	2019
Simon Brunelle	2019
Souza Joao	2019
Steinberg Rebecca	2019
Tatum Chapdelaine	2019
Taylor Katz	2019
Thomas O'Neill	2019
Thomas Wang	2019
Varsha Arokiadoss	2019
Veronica DeSouza	2019
Victor Da Silva	2019
Victoria Fagundes	2019
Weaam Abdelouahed	2019
Yunji Lee	2019
Zach Fuller	2019
Aarshiya Sachdeva	2020
Adam Katerji	2020
Afra Rindani	2020
Aileen Henry	2020
Ainslie Staats	2020
Aishwarrya Arivudainam	2020
Ali Hussein	2020
Alicia Romano	2020

Name (First Last)	Graduation Year/Department
Aliya Larkin	2020
Alyssa Luke	2020
Anandita Punnamaraju	2020
Anjali Tanna	2020
Anju Cheryale	2020
Anna Courtemanche	2020
Arjun Shivakumar	2020
Ashleen Lenti	2020
Billy Yang	2020
Brady McCue	2020
Caitlin Farrell	2020
Caitlin Kane	2020
Caroline Evans	2020
Charles Germanos	2020
Cris Vasquez	2020
Cristianna Libby	2020
Daniel Simpson	2020
Donald Aicardi	2020
Elizabeth Hardy	2020
Erica Schechter	2020
Erica Schechter	2020
Gabrielle Constantine	2020
Gianna Tata	2020
Hafsa Waqar	2020
Hakeem Siddiqui	2020
Haley Adams	2020
Halle Perry	2020
Hannah Huang	2020
Harshitha Narahari	2020
Isabella Vukmirovits	2020
Jackie Li	2020
Jackson Southard	2020
James He	2020
Jenna Troy	2020
Julianne Cote	2020
Katerina Loulourgas	2020
Kavya Mani	2020
Keegan Scesny	2020
Kendall Bortle	2020
Kimmy Chhoeuk	2020
Kyra Ward	2020
Lais Mendes	2020



Name (First Last)	Graduation Year/Department
Lauren Lemay	2020
Liam Reardon	2020
Liam Smith	2020
Lisa Liubovich	2020
Logan Durant	2020
Lovepreet Gill	2020
Madison Sandusky	2020
Maha Noor	2020
Maria Miao	2020
Matt McGourty	2020
Megan Lambert	2020
Megan McKay	2020
Michael Rozenman	2020
Michaela O'Connor	2020
Natalie Siwek	2020
Nicole Harding	2020
Nikitha Ram	2020
Nina sanders	2020
Olivia DePina	2020
Rania Abdelouahed	2020
Rebecca Anane	2020
Reena Jaber	2020
Rida Amroze	2020
Rishika Sai	2020
Rohan Goyal	2020
Saniya	2020
Sanya Bhatia	2020
Sara Barry	2020
Sean McQuade	2020
Shakti Kumaresan	2020
Shawn Noronha	2020
Sheila Sawyer	2020
Sofia Triplet	2020
Sophia Huseby	2020
Sophia Peng	2020
Sriya Maguluri	2020
Stefanie Del Rosario	2020
Sufana Noorwez	2020
Suriya Selvakumar	2020
Tanvi Saini	2020
Tara Bhasin	2020
Tasneem Mohammed	2020

Name (First Last)	Graduation Year/Department
Thomas Morgera	2020
William Yankee	2020
Xavier Millner	2020
Abha Dewal	2021
Akansha Pathak	2021
Aleksia Bruzho	2021
Alexa Roderick	2021
Alisa Luchitskaya	2021
Allen Guo	2021
Allysia Tavekelian	2021
Alyssa Guo	2021
Amrita Kumar	2021
Ananya Jayamoorthy	2021
Andrade Hadassah	2021
Andrea Brenstrom	2021
Ani Hovhannisyan	2021
Aniya Chojar	2021
Ankita Bhatnagar	2021
Anvi Emani	2021
April Jung	2021
Aryan Jale	2021
Aryan Kale	2021
Bella Hannaford	2021
Bethany Fornal	2021
Brittney chaveiro	2021
Brooke Sipowicz	2021
Chaitya Bommu	2021
Cole Pessolano	2021
Conall Mannion	2021
Daniel Stameris	2021
Diana Cherniack	2021
Divya Raghunathan	2021
Diyala Bera	2021
Drew	2021
Edward Foss	2021
Emily Liu	2021
Emily Young	2021
Emma Reitsma	2021
Erin Flynn	2021
Eva Sharma	2021
Fiona Tanikonda	2021
Frances Crosby	2021

Name (First Last)	Graduation Year/Department
Gabriella Desouza	2021
Gabrielle Gedeon	2021
Gaurav Jaisingh	2021
hannah santos	2021
Holly Hruskoci	2021
Isabella Marcello	2021
Isha Gupta	2021
Julia Rider	2021
Kate Binder	2021
Kiana Pathirana	2021
Krishnaa Amin	2021
Linus Adler	2021
Lokesh Narasani	2021
Luana Amaral	2021
Lydia Cavanaugh	2021
Madden Brown	2021
Mariam Kawas	2021
Mary Benyamin	2021
mattisa tollkuci	2021
Meera Patel	2021
Meg Sullivan	2021
Megan Remington	2021
Michelle Muchnik	2021
Miraaaj Chaudhry	2021
Natalie Davis	2021
Neelasha Bhattacharjee	2021
Nhylaj Joseph	2021
Nikhita Sikharam	2021
Nish Patel	2021
Nivedhya Cheruvari	2021
Queenie Sun	2021
Rauzat Saquib	2021
Rori Adams	2021
Roshni Nagarajan	2021
Ross Vipraio	2021
Saanvi Sood	2021
Sanjana Srinivas	2021
sarah jones	2021
Sarah Lanoue	2021
Sarah Li	2021
Sarah McIntosh	2021
Shakthi Annamalai	2021

Name (First Last)	Graduation Year/Department
Shalini Ambady	2021
Shani Kiriba	2021
Shani Kiriba	2021
Sharon Wu	2021
Sneha Ramesh	2021
Sreemukhi Vangala	2021
Sullivan Barthel	2021
Tara Kaul	2021
Theodora Chacharone	2021
Thomas Cheng	2021
Whitney Acquah	2021
Will Harrington	2021
Wilson Chi	2021
Abigail Johnston	2022
Adam Nguyen	2022
Aditya Deshpande	2022
Agnes Chacko	2022
Aishi Ghosh	2022
Aleesha Awan	2022
Alexandria Catarius	2022
Amanda Chung	2022
Ameile Rearden	2022
Anika Patil	2022
Anna Cardani	2022
Anushka Mukhopadhyay	2022
April Robinson	2022
Ashley Charon	2022
Brianna Castello	2022
Caitlin Bird	2022
Celina Bitar	2022
Milena De Souza	2022
Deeptha Ganesh	2022
Dixi Han	2022
Eliza Gaston	2022
Ella Stepanauskas	2022
emma depina	2022
Emma Krause	2022
Hanna Weldai	2022
Hannah Mok	2022
Harika Lingamarla	2022
Helen Liu	2022
Isabel George	2022

Name (First Last)	Graduation Year/Department
Jacob Missall	2022
Kara Persechino	2022
Kate Calderwood	2022
Katelyn Hunt	2022
Kathie Gonzalez	2022
Keerthana Jayamoorthy	2022
Keerthana Sai	2022
Keira Lenti	2022
Kelly Duncan	2022
kiana spiegel	2022
Kya Daniels	2022
Larissa Savordelli	2022
Liliana Santora	2022
Lindsay Morway	2022
Louisa Scott	2022
Lynda Dias	2022
Mahathi Gopinathan	2022
Maira Waqar	2022
Maria Aguilar	2022
Mason Hurd	2022
Megan Ku	2022
Meghan Spirito	2022
Morgan Monfredo	2022
Morgan Towne	2022
Nadine Huseby	2022
Nandana Alwarappan	2022
Nishita Roy	2022
Olivia Zerwas	2022
Rebecca Kish	2022
Reeya Kansra	2022
Rithika Prasad	2022
Rocco Hickson	2022
Roma Khanna	2022
Saniha Kumar	2022
Sanjana Yadav	2022
Sarah Doyle	2022
Shirley Wu	2022
Shravya Anisetti	2022
Shreeya Ravi	2022
Shreya Gattu	2022
Suheera Haq	2022
Abhinav Kotta	2023

Name (First Last)	Graduation Year/Department
Abigail Bell	2023
Aditi Dosi	2023
Aidan Penna	2023
Alexander Anderson	2023
Alexandra Ross	2023
Anaiya Meraj	2023
Ananya Arvind	2023
Ananya Arvind	2023
Angela Goodwin	2023
Anjali Amin	2023
Anthony Aicardi	2023
Arjun Sivagaminathan	2023
Arjun Warriar	2023
Arushi Asthana	2023
ary rahman	2023
Carlos Reyes	2023
Cathy Nguyen	2023
Cienna Haddad	2023
Daisy Ginsberg	2023
Diksha Sriram	2023
Elaine Stameris	2023
Elizabeth Pellini	2023
Emily Baldino	2023
Gabriela Cardoso	2023
Gilleandry Gunawan	2023
Grace Conti	2023
Hallee Pereira	2023
Isabella Cerio	2023
Jack Gregory	2023
Jamie Li	2023
Jasmyn Dua	2023
Jaya Singh	2023
Jenna Walsh	2023
Kaitlyn Colby	2023
Katherine Martin	2023
Kenneth Nguyen	2023
Kylie Griffin	2023
Laila hussein	2023
Lara ayala borrrero	2023
Laura Pierson	2023
Laurel Bingham	2023
Liza-Jane Brunelle	2023

Name (First Last)	Graduation Year/Department
London Pano	2023
Magdalena Matsen	2023
Melinda Telford	2023
Melissa Correia	2023
Michaela Goodwine	2023
Nancy Tian	2023
Nathan Anderson	2023
Nicole Shen	2023
Paige Sandusky	2023
Safa Khan	2023
Sam Azzarone	2023
Samantha Jubinville	2023
Sameeha Anwar	2023
shayna liyanage	2023
Siddharth Pasupuleti	2023
Simran Khakhar	2023
Smita Bhogle	2023
Smrithi Krishnaswamy	2023
Sohani Curtis	2023
Stephanie Xiao	2023
Sydney Booth	2023
Syeda Faatima Adnan	2023
Vanessa Ung	2023
Yara Nabih	2023
Zoë Cooper	2023
Aanya Gupta	2024
Aarushi Bhardwaj	2024
Alexa rizkalla	2024
Anne Tie	2024
Breanna Jorda	2024
Caroline Bis	2024
Collins Bray	2024
Cooper Fox	2024
Emma Corriveau	2024
Erchris Estevez	2024
Gabby Miwanda	2024
Isabelle Zhao	2024
Logan Medeiros	2024
Lucy Coran	2024
Lyrique Agorbia	2024
Marla Zacks	2024
Naga Vikram	2024

Name (First Last)	Graduation Year/Department
Nicholy cabral	2024
nina honaryar	2024
Ravila Freitas	2024
Sarah Anane	2024
Sebastian Weber	2024
Tina Su	2024
Xi Huan Zou	2024
Angela Hickson	2025
Connor Duffy	2025
Erin Walker	2025
Luana DeMoura	2025
Raegan Kelley	2025
Riley Manchester	2025
Salma Dwidar	2025
Sanjula Jakati	2025
Siera Tollkuci	2025
Yerin Kim	2025
Selina Wu	2026
alexa	2029
Anne Karolyn Oliveira D	Alum
Danielle DiNoia	Alum
Erin Lachapelle	Alum
Gabriel Gonzalez	Alum
Gina Bouchard	Alum
Jennifer Anderson	Alum
Julia	Alum
Kaia Sharon	Alum
Nina Campaniello	Alum
Rabia khan	Alum
Stefan Masciarelli	Alum
Valentina DeOliveira	Alum
Annique Barclay	Alum
Zinara Dubash	Alum
Abhinav Parvataneni	Current Student
Conor Lyons	Current Student

## STAFF

Emily Bredberg	Faculty: ITAMS
Jessica Linsey	Faculty: Class of '02, and English department
Alison Closter	Faculty: English
Erin Palazzo	Faculty: English
Bob Secino	Faculty: English (retired June 2020)



Name (First Last)	Graduation Year/Department
Justine Burnett	Faculty: English Department
Kelly Lawlor	Faculty: English Department
Kelly Yellin	Faculty: English Department
Maura Geoghegan	Faculty: English Department
Brady Burton	Faculty: Social Sciences
Matthew Brown	Faculty: Social Sciences
Jessica Rigberg	Faculty: Social Sciences Department

### **PARENTS OF STUDENTS/ALUMNI**

Danielle Wolfus	Parent
Deana Tata	Parent
Eric Sean	Parent
Ginny Sadana	Parent/Former Staff
Gloria Patwari	Parent
Hatem Tolba	Parent
Hina Patel	Parent
Jennifer Millner	Parent
Jiten Patel	Parent
Julie Tolba	Parent
Kerry Fagan	Parent
Kirsten A. Holmes	Parent
Lalitha Ramprasad	Parent
Laurie Manion	Parent
Maria Kalpidou	Parent
Mayada El-mousawi	Parent
Navnit Chandi	Parent
Omneya Abdelrehim	Parent
Peter Tata	Parent
Rachel Fornal	Parent
Rex Renzoni	Parent
Samuel Sjostedt	Parent
Susan neaz	Parent
Kavitha Mamidala	Parent
Lori Santon	Parent
Tracy Catarius	Parent
Bryce Turner	Sibling

## **Personal Experiences**

- In high school, while reading Huckleberry Finn, we were all encouraged to say the actual n-word when quoting directly from the text because it “provided historical context”, but the n-word coming from non-black lips is an act of hate and racism regardless of the context. Some students expressed their discomfort with saying the word, but teachers would force them to use it for “educational purposes”. My teacher would specifically call on students of color to read passages with the n-word in it.
  - Multiple students recounted teachers saying the n-word when reading “To Kill A Mockingbird” to the class. They would express that this was important for “historical context”. This practice needs to be stopped immediately.
- These anecdotes are all from one student:
  - My second grade teacher told my mother I (a Black student) looked “disheveled” because of my hair and implied that I wasn’t being taken care of by my mother. I was the only black kid in the class, my hair was not messy, it was just curly.
  - In eighth grade, I had pneumonia and then later in the year had to travel out of town to go to my grandfather’s funeral. The vice principal threatened to call child protective services on my mother even though she had doctor’s notes and notes from home for all absences, as well as telling them in advance we’d be leaving for the funeral. The vice principal told her these notes “did not matter”. I also knew many people with far more absences that had not experienced any issues. The vice principal was also constantly rude to my mother on separate occasions.
  - In middle school I found myself being constantly dress coded, despite wearing almost the same clothing as my white counterparts. The teachers would pick me out of groups and would not even say my clothing was inappropriate, but rather mention that my outfit “was not doing it for them”.
  - I was once sent to the office by a teacher that claimed I threatened to physically assault another student (which never happened) and the vice principal would not listen to me.
  - In an eighth grade class, my teacher was discussing slavery when someone across from me spun around and said to my face “I was born and raised to believe all black people should be slaves”.
  - Teachers at each school have also been very rude with me about using the bathroom throughout the years. In fourth grade, I got a UTI because my teacher would reprimand me about “appropriate bathroom times” each time I tried to go, resulting in me holding it all day. I remember feeling as if I was the only one who was not allowed to go when I needed to.
  - Many white students have said the n word around me obliviously. One person told my friend I was the only n\*\*\*\*r he would let Snapchat him. People would also say I am “pretty for a black girl”.

- On my fourteenth birthday in the middle of winter, I tried to get my winter coat from my locker because I had forgotten it before lunch. A teacher chased me down and told me I would be sent to the office if I did not go straight outside for recess. I told her I had forgotten my jacket and wanted to get it because it was too cold to go without it—she then sent me to the office. This same teacher once yelled at me down the hall calling me the name of a different Black student. I was not answering because I assumed she was referring to someone else. She caught up to me and yelled at me for not answering her and then continued to scold me for whatever the other student had done. I had to tell her I was not the person she was searching for and she was still rude and did not apologize.
- Throughout my education at Shrewsbury, there have been many instances I have felt targeted by teachers—and while I cannot be sure that they were acting out of racism, many peers would voice their surprise at how certain teachers spoke to me. I performed very well in class, but teachers I did not know personally were quick to assume that I was misbehaving and even single me out of groups.
- Middle school was the worst. People laughed at my accent. People laughed when I had to do presentations. There was one time a teacher laughed too. I was doing a presentation and I couldn't pronounce a word so the whole class started laughing at me. Usually the teacher tells the students to stop laughing but this time she laughed with them. I was against the whole class and the teacher—felt so humiliated.
- I asked my history teacher why the KKK wasn't illegal yet and the teacher told me (a non-black person of color) that the KKK is an example of free speech. The teacher then told me that having a preference isn't racism, and said we should think of it like pasta sauce. They said just because you prefer a sweet sauce doesn't mean you don't like savory sauces, you'd just choose the sweet one over savory; preferring one kind of person over another isn't racism and doesn't mean you hate the other person, you just like the first person better
- I've been called a terrorist multiple times. The most recent incident was at a Kids' Night Out event. I was volunteering and a kid called me a terrorist.
- In first grade, during the Cinderella unit, I (a half Filipino student) was handed the Chinese Cinderella story because I was Asian and it was given to me for that reason despite it not being my culture at all. I am now an education major and it was super easy for me to find the Filipino Cinderella story, so in hindsight it was racist and lazy of an educator to hand me the Chinese version. This was my first encounter of racism.
- An SHS substitute teacher made racist remarks based on students' names while taking attendance, such as saying “ni hao” to an Asian student.
- When my friends and I spoke another language at school, we were told to speak in English. Some students have even told me that Brazilian people should go back to Brasil.
- These anecdotes are from one student:

- I am Jewish, and this year there was a swastika on my desk.
  - Once, at a soccer game, someone would not move out of my way, and their reasoning for this was: “I’m a jew and have no rights.”
- I am an Indian American daughter of immigrants, and in my 7th grade geography class, my teacher asked every single Indian student why their parents came to the United States, citing that many people immigrated because of the terrible living conditions in India. In that one moment, she was able to teach a room full of students that all there is to an entire subcontinent is poverty, and people that are aching to leave.
- During a class a teacher spoke about 9/11 on Eid, a religious holiday celebrated by Muslims. This was incredibly insensitive due to the islamophobic rhetoric that was used following 9/11.
- Many students recounted anecdotes of teachers referring to them with the incorrect name. Teachers would often mix up the names of students of color (who looked nothing alike, and were sometimes even of different races, ages, classes, graduation years) and continued to do this after students politely reminded them of their actual name. Although this can be an honest mistake, students have reported this happening repeatedly throughout the school year. This rarely happens with white students in such a consistent and abundant manner.
- After I told a teacher how to correctly pronounce my name, she told me that I should change the spelling of my name to make it “less confusing”.
- “Wow, your English is so good, you don’t have an accent.” They implied that immigrants should have bad English with an accent. It undermines the work we put in.
- People have come up to me and said things like: “you’re Indian, you must be a tryhard with a 100 in this class, can you help me?” It’s not a great feeling when people assume things about you solely based on your skin color.
- Multiple students brought up the frequent use of the n-word. Non-black students use it casually because it is viewed as acceptable or funny in the SPS community. These incidents even occurred in front of teachers who rarely intervened.
- Multiple students recounted insensitive jokes about Indians, that were also often generalized to many other kinds of South Asian students: telling them that they smelled like curry or that they brought “weird” food to lunch. This is never addressed in social settings.
- These anecdotes were all from one student:
  - I have been told that I looked like Osama bin Laden’s daughter.
  - A false rumor was spread that I tried to convert someone to Islam.
  - People said they would never date middle eastern guys because of their huge noses.
  - Someone referred to a person I know, claiming they were ugly because of how dark they are.

The Instagram account @bipoc.at.shrewsbury includes an abundance of other anonymous instances of racism and discrimination within Shrewsbury.