

# Oak Middle School

45 Oak Street, Shrewsbury, MA 01545

Tel: 508-841-1200 Fax: 508-841-1223

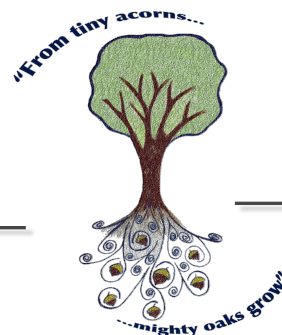
**Ann M. Jones, Ed.D., Principal**

**Anne B. Koertge, Assistant Principal**

**Scott M. Yonker, Assistant Principal**

**Patricia F. Waterhouse, Director of Special Education**

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Each year Shrewsbury participates in Project 351 by nominating a grade 8 student to serve as our ambassador. This year, Alina Shkurikhina, represents the Town of Shrewsbury in Project 351.

Project 351 is a youth leadership and service organization that develops a rising generation of “community-first” citizen leaders. Founded by Governor Deval Patrick in 2011 and now convened by Governor Charlie Baker, Project 351 fosters unity and strengthens the ethic of service through the engagement and enrichment of an 8th grade ambassador from every city and town in Massachusetts.

Alina exemplifies the type of “unsung hero” that Project 351 seeks to identify. Alina is an academically talented student who has exceptional capacity for kindness and acceptance. Though her classroom presence is often quiet, her work in small groups shows her to be assertive and dynamic, making the work of the group rise to high levels of work quality and engagement. Alina's presence is humble. She quietly seeks out challenges and constantly works to go above and beyond expectations. Alina consistently seeks out and participates in opportunities to work with her peers on team projects. Last year, she helped to organize her team chant and team banner. She is the kind of student for whom one merely needs to open the door and she will embrace opportunities to lead and serve. Alina's classmates look up to her not only because of her kindness and compassion, but because she enables others to be their best.

Alina's teachers speak to her constant quest to extend her learning and bring her best to every assignment and classroom task. In grade 7, she participated in the 7 Green “Bird is the Word” project in association with the Massachusetts Audubon Society and completed two field guides for New England Birds. She furthered her own knowledge of Massachusetts birds by entering the Audubon Society's Bird-a-thon, and she represented Oak Middle School at the Massachusetts Computer Using Educator's student showcase known as CueKids.

Alina has unlimited potential to make a positive impact on our school and surrounding community and Project 351 is the perfect opportunity for Alina to develop the natural leadership abilities that she possesses. We are proud to have Alina represent our community.

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*The Shrewsbury Public Schools, in partnership with the community, will provide students with the skills and knowledge for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, an appreciation of our democratic tradition, and the desire to continue to learn throughout life.*