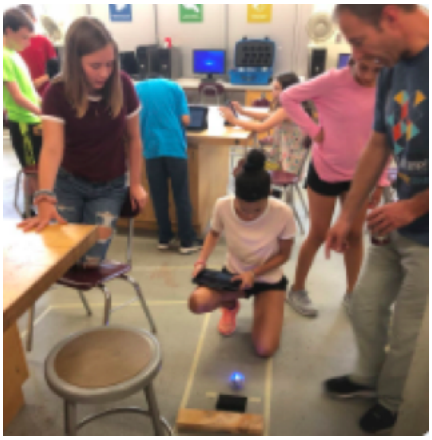
INTRODUCTION

Throughout 2017, a group of Shrewsbury educators and parents representing various professions and work sectors joined together to learn and debate what skills, knowledge, and dispositions Shrewsbury students should attain and develop during their years in our schools. Comments from community stakeholders regarding what topics were most important for our schools were also critical in the "Portrait of a Graduate" vision and related strategic priorities finalized last year. How do we move from vision to action? There is no one answer. At the Elementary level, revisions to the Science curriculum will help engage students in rigorous practices. At the Middle level, the STEM Design Lab is one of several important drivers in our efforts to further innovate and expand opportunities for 21st century teaching and learning.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION REDESIGNED

As you know, former Oak Middle School educator Allen Beer was an early proponent of the pre-engineering curriculum at the Middle level. He taught students the design development process. His skillful teaching, high energy, and reflective practice helped move Technology Education forward from the traditional vocational "shop" model to include opportunities for students to apply learning with hands-on projects and technology tools. When Mr. Beer retired, the district looked for more opportunities to integrate STEM education into the student day. Oak Principal Ann Jones, together with Science and Technology Curriculum Coordinator Pam Poitras, proposed a new vision. As a result, the Tech Ed program evolved again to become the Design Lab. As before, a skillful teacher leader is helping to keep the curriculum relevant and engaging. That teacher is Jeremy Mularella. Mr. Mularella has continued to expand possibilities for students, and he will further inform the community about the program with a related presentation on December 19th.

Together with three students, Mr. Mularella will describe the key features of the new Design Lab. In their presentation, they'll speak to elements of the design process. More to the point, they'll describe how desirability, feasibility, and viability factor into the kind of educational experiences that develop, sustain and deepen design thinking skills.



Thank you for the opportunity to describe how this program fits into the district strategic priority of Connected Learning for a Complex World.