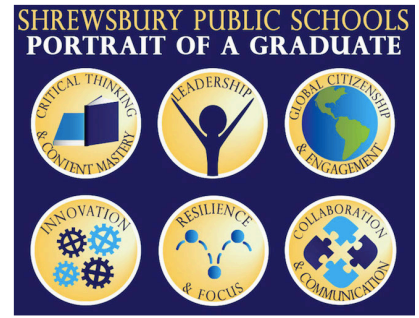


# Visual Arts Department

## *A student perspective*

by Amy Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum,  
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Graphic by Alexandra Lekas, SHS Class of 2018

## Introduction

Shrewsbury's *Portrait of a Graduate* depicts well the aspirations we hold for our students. In essence, we hope our graduates develop keen minds, healthy mindsets, and the skills needed to contribute to the larger community. It's telling that the infographic we use to represent our vision was crafted by Shrewsbury art student Alexandra Lekas. It should not surprise us, though.

Experiences in the arts help children to hone the creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration skills that are so necessary to succeed outside school. More to the point, the exhibition of quality work fosters self-confidence and perseverance. As Richard Riley, former US Secretary of Education once said, "I believe arts education in music, theater, dance, and the visual arts is one of the most creative ways we have to find the gold that is buried just beneath the surface. They (children) have an enthusiasm for life a spark of creativity, and vivid imaginations that need training - training that prepares them to become confident young men and women." Shrewsbury High School's Visual Arts program provides this spark: students have extensive opportunities to develop their skills, knowledge, and perceptions through both creating and responding to art.

The Visual Art program continues to be recognized for its outstanding student performance though local and state-wide exhibits, such as Art and Writing Scholastic Arts. In addition, SHS is a member NAEA - National Art Honor Society, where students have been an active Chapter for over 25 years. We are pleased to hear directly from three students at Shrewsbury High School as they describe the impact of their experiences.

