



Shrewsbury High School Class of 2017 Senior Scholars

Each year, the School Committee recognizes the students who have the top ten grade point averages among their peers in the senior class. Below you will find a short biography of each student that illustrates their achievements in academics, co-curricular activities, and community service. These students have brought great distinction to themselves and to the Shrewsbury Public Schools.

Erin Bean

Erin has had an incredible career during her time at Shrewsbury High School. Through all of her hard work she has earned the opportunity to become a member of the National, French, and English Honor Societies. Two of the major reasons for Erin's success in life thus far are her confidence and leadership abilities. She has been her class president since her freshman year. This position requires great responsibility and consistent energy to make sure her class has had an amazing four years in high school. Erin was hand-selected to represent Shrewsbury High School at HOBY, a leadership training workshop where she was able to work with other teenagers her age and build on their leadership skills. One of her significant accomplishments is spending part of her summer working with students to navigate the Grand Canyon through the *No Barriers* organization. Erin is also extremely passionate about dancing and has been performing all her life at Charlotte Klein dance center. She has participated in several genres of dance, including tap, jazz, and ballet. Erin has not yet made her final decision on college for next year.

Brian Chen

Brian is a dedicated student who has had a remarkable career at Shrewsbury High School. Since entering high school he has made highest honor roll status every quarter. This is an amazing accomplishment that speaks directly to Brian's diligence/care in regards to his class work and overall feelings towards education. Brian has taken on several leadership roles throughout his time in high school. He has been a member of student council where he currently serves as the treasurer. He is also currently vice president of the Spanish National Honor Society. With these positions come expectations and Brian holds himself to the highest standards. He has incredible decision-making skills like knowing how to weigh the pros and cons of a situation. Brian interned at Umass Medical School in the Department of Biology and Molecular Pharmacology. He shadowed one of the doctors and was able to work on projects associated with proteins and how they are related to diseases. He appreciated the opportunity to work in the lab and gained first-hand experience with day-to-day activity within a lab. Brian has also volunteered at Umass Memorial Children's Medical Center performing music therapy. Brian has not yet made a college decision for next year.

Patrick Chen

Patrick has had an absolutely amazing career at Shrewsbury High School. Over the past few years he has had the opportunity to take various honors and advanced placement level courses. His humbleness and selflessness are notable attributes. He is one of the top overall students in his class yet he still puts aside time and helps tutor other students. He loves learning new information and wants to help other students find that passion. He is also the captain of the Varsity Math Team, in which he takes a tremendous amount of pride. This position has taught him about the importance of preparation and good communication skills. He also serves as a member of the mentor volunteer program (MVP) at the high school. Patrick has also volunteered at a local school, a Russian school that specializes in math, as a teacher's assistant on the weekends. This has taught him about leadership and taking risks. He truly appreciates the opportunity to volunteer in such a role. Patrick has also been a member of both indoor and spring track since his freshman year. Patrick will be entering the Class of 2021 at Cornell University in the fall.

Prithu Dasgupta

Prithu is like a sponge when it comes to knowledge. He is an inquisitive young man who is always seeking out additional learning opportunities. He is a leader and role model. For example, he is a member of the SHS Ice Hockey Team and the Founder/President of the Computer Club. He values the numerous lessons he has learned through these commitments, which include the value of hard work, perseverance, resilience, dedication, and discipline. Prithu was instrumental in

bringing a “Hackathon” to SHS this year to further increase interest and awareness in computer programming. He also brought his love for programming to the students at Sherwood, where he and his peers in the Computer Club teach basic programming to students during extended care. Prithu is always prepared to guide each week’s lesson by choosing appropriate exercises and goals with the younger students. His long-term career goal is to work as a computer scientist at the university level. Prithu will be attending Brown University in the fall.

Subin Jeong

Subin is an outstanding student with an impressive academic record. She is a member of the National Honor Society, the Latin National Honor Society, and the Spanish National Honor Society, where she holds the office of Treasurer. In school, Subin has devoted much of her time to the Science Bowl, Science Olympiad, and Student Council, where she serves as Vice-president. She spends many long hours planning, developing and hosting events for Shrewsbury High School. In the community, Subin is skilled in Taekwondo and has been a member of the United States Taekwondo Center Competition Team throughout high school, winning many awards including 3rd place in the US National Championships and the Canada Open in 2016. She has been a long-term volunteer as a Naturalist at the Ecotarium. For the past two summers, she spent her time volunteering in Haiti with her church group working with Dentists for Humanity helping with cleaning children’s teeth and assisting with dental procedures. She loved the work and decided that this is her calling. Subin will attend Tufts University in the fall and plans to pursue a career in dentistry.

Michael O’Connell

A National Merit Scholarship winner, Michael O’Connell has loved math since fifth grade. Co-Captain of the Math Team, he is President of Math National Honor Society and a member of National Honor Society and Chinese National Honor Society. President of Model UN, he participated at Boys' State. A mentor in our Mentor Volunteer Program (MVP), Michael's character and leadership were recognized in his appointment to the MVP Advisory Board. As a Boy Scout, he developed an Eagle project that focused on horticultural improvements at one of our elementary schools. When he arrives at Northeastern to study Mathematics and Business, Michael is excited to join student government, seek research opportunities and develop relationships with his peers and professors in his new community.

Urvi Savant

Hardworking and driven, Urvi Savant is an integral member of the SHS student body. She is a member of two honor societies- the National Honor Society and Spanish National Honor Society. She is also captain of the Math team and a section leader of the orchestra for violin. A four-year member of the Speech and Debate team, Urvi has achieved Degree of Excellence by competing in Extemporaneous Speaking, Group Discussion, and Public Forum Debate. Outside of SHS, Urvi is involved in Bharatanatyam (Indian classical dance). She has been choreographing and organizing dance performances every year for community celebrations. She has also participated in Hindustani classical singing for many years. In the community, Urvi has given back through several service activities while being a key member of the Indian Youth Group. Urvi spends time at the EcoTarium as a weekly volunteer to teach people about natural history and science in an interactive setting. Lastly, Urvi volunteers in medical clinics at St. Vincent Medical Group and the Akwaaba Clinic. Urvi will be continuing her education at Smith College next year.

Varun Swamy

Varun Swamy is an aspiring entrepreneur, which is evident by his extensive list of extracurricular activities. Varun has earned top places in the annual science fair, has competed for the SHS math team and FIRST Robotics clubs, and is a member of the boys track team, the National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society and Math National Honor Society. Two clubs he is most proud of, and has been a leader in, are the FBLA Business club and Model United Nations. Outside of SHS, Varun has been a leader with the Community Harvest project in Grafton and with the Indian Youth Group. Lastly, he has been an intern at the Cambridge Innovation Center developing various computer programs. Next year, Varun plans on attending Cornell University and will be majoring in computer science.

Laura Townsend

Between service trips and family vacations, the list of countries Laura Townsend has visited over summer vacation is numerous and notable. Whether she was taking in the sights or helping the local community through service work, her understanding of different cultures is impressive. At SHS, Laura has been most proud of her creativity and effort with school assignments. She always puts 100% effort into everything, including her extracurricular activities. Laura has been an active member of the Student Council for two years, has been a member of the National Honor Society, and is also President of the Spanish National Honor Society. Outside of school, she is a second-degree black belt and also spends time instructing younger students and judging tournaments. Laura has not made her final decision regarding where to attend next year, but plans on majoring in Engineering.

Aditi Trivedi

Aditi Trivedi has certainly made her mark on the Shrewsbury school community. She has been a member of the Varsity gymnastics team all four years of high school, is the secretary of the club "Girls Up," and is also a member of the National Honor Society, the Math National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society. Outside of school, Aditi volunteers time with several organizations. As she looks forward to studying finance, she has gained valuable experience giving her time to the Saint Anne's free clinic helping with the organization of charts; with "Binkeez for Comfort," an organization which makes blankets for terminally ill children, where she helped organize material and also helped with the budget; and lastly, for Saint Vincent's hospital, where she worked with the finance office learning about the business side of running a hospital. She spent time working with younger students at gymnastics camp and also as a tutor at Kumon. She has not made her final decision on where she will attend college, but will pursue a degree in finance, and is hoping to work at a hospital one day.