

**Sherwood Middle School**  
Weekly Update to Families  
September 9, 2018

“The power for creating a better future is contained in the present moment:  
You create a good future by creating a good present.”  
Eckhart Tolle

Dear Families,

We look forward to greeting many of you at Curriculum Nights this week. We strongly encourage parents and caretakers to attend this beginning of the school year opportunity to familiarize yourselves with the Sherwood Middle School community and the curriculum. Our teachers have worked hard to prepare for your visits, as we will be presenting information that will allow you to learn more about your child’s school day. Team and special education teachers, along with Allied Arts and Foreign Language teachers, service providers, counselors, and administrators, will present their goals and priorities for the year. Curriculum Night is the one evening of the year where you will join parents and faculty to listen, ask questions, and be in the presence of those with whom your children interact each day. The SMS faculty assumes this enormous responsibility with commitment, pride and gratitude, as we know that the education of early adolescents has lasting impact on the lives of our children, and we do not take this privilege lightly.

During morning announcements tomorrow, we will take time for our weekly, school-wide, mindful Monday moment. Every Monday of the school year, we eliminate the daily moment for reflection and instead ask students and staff to pause for 60-90 seconds, as a way of centering ourselves for the week ahead. We use this opportunity to be still and quiet as one way to support the development of life skills that allow children and adults to make connections with what is happening within and around us with more wisdom and compassion. These moments reinforce the skills of focusing, quieting, seeing, reframing, caring, and connecting. Please take some time over the next couple of days to ask your child about their experience this week, as we use this opportunity to become more aware of what we are feeling in the present moment with acceptance, and without judgment. We consider this to be important work, as explore ways for our students and ourselves to live in the present moment, without worrying about the past or the future-as best we can.

Finally, we were informed that some of you had difficulty opening the video clip (filmed last spring by the Shrewsbury Media Connection) that was sent in last week’s update, so we are resending it using different links. The taping is one of several ways that we communicate school happenings with the Shrewsbury community, in

order to educate and inform people regarding the work that we do our schools and the purpose of that work. We are resending another link that we hope will allow everyone access to the footage:

[https://youtu.be/nTvAWL4\\_Xwk](https://youtu.be/nTvAWL4_Xwk)

We look forward to seeing you tomorrow and/or Tuesday evening!

Respectfully,

Jane Lizotte  
Heather Gablaski  
Karen Gutekanst

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**Day Schedule This Week:**

**Monday- Day 2**

**Tuesday-Day 3**

**Wednesday-Day 4**

**Thursday-Day 5**

**Friday-Day 6**

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**Important Messages:**

- 1. REMINDER: Curriculum Nights-Monday and Tuesday this week!**
  - 2. REMINDER: Sherwood Middle School Fall Musical-Tryouts begin tomorrow!**
  - 3. REMINDER: Parent Drop-Off Procedures**
  - 4. SMS Fall After School Activities Program (ASAP)**
  - 5. First PTO meeting is 10/24 at 6 p.m.**
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**Curriculum Nights-Monday and Tuesday *this* week**

Please report to the gymnasium upon your arrival. We ask that children remain at home in order for parents, caretakers, and faculty to have an opportunity to listen to and learn from one another.

Grade 5 Curriculum Night is on Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.  
Grade 6 Curriculum Night is on Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

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**Sherwood Middle School Fall Musical**

Sherwood Middle School is proud to announce auditions for its annual Fall Musical, **The Pied Piper of Hamelin**, a fun modern twisted adaptation of the classic story. Auditions will take place **after school on September 10th, 12th, and 13th in the Chorus room**. A sign-up board with additional information is located outside of the Band Room. There will be an optional informational parent meeting on Thursday, September 6th at 6pm in the Media Room.

Rehearsals will tentatively take place on select Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays after school till 5pm. Performances will take place on December 7th and 8th. Anybody and everybody is welcome to audition! Students will not need to prepare anything specific prior to auditions.

For questions, please email David Lien (Oak Middle School drama teacher) at [dlien@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:dlien@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us)

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### **Parent Drop-Off Procedures**

The parent drop-off door (located in the parking lot closest to Crescent Street) is locked promptly at 8:00 a.m. each day. Students arriving after this time should be dropped off at the front of the school, as the front door is the only unlocked door (leading to the locked door with the buzzer at the Main Office) after 8 a.m. We closely follow this start time to ensure student safety and in order that students are present for the 8 a.m. Morning Announcements, followed by class meeting. It is important that we need who is present, absent and/or tardy so that we can connect with families as soon as possible. The team aides on duty at the Parent Drop Off door are present at the location from 7:30 a.m.-8:00 a.m., at which time they are expected to be on team with their assigned students. After 8 a.m., students are considered tardy. We appreciate your cooperation in getting your children to school on time!

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**The SMS Fall After School Activities Program (ASAP)** will begin the week of October 1st and end on November 30th. The offerings will be sent to all families in next Sunday's update.

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**The First PTO meeting of the year is scheduled for Monday, 9/24 from 6 p.m.-7 p.m. at OMS.** Childcare will be provided. More news to follow!

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