Superintendent’s Message

I am pleased and proud to present this annual report of the Shrewsbury Public Schools for calendar year 2015 to the Shrewsbury community. Within this document you will find information that clearly demonstrates that our town’s public schools are thriving, and that our students and educators are rising to the challenges set forth by the School Committee’s Strategic Priorities (shown below). You will also find short profiles of successful alumni, students, and teachers who personify our district’s mission and core values and whose comments underscore our district’s motto of “empowering learners.”

I wish to thank Kimberlee Cantin, our Executive Assistant for Communications & Operations, and Karen Isaacson, our Director of Extended Learning, for their skillful work in creating this report. I am also grateful to the local business partners listed on the last page, whose sponsorship made the publication and distribution of this document possible.

Our district is providing a world class education for our students, but that wouldn’t be possible without the support of the entire Shrewsbury community. On behalf of our students and staff, thank you!

~ Joseph M. Sawyer, Ed.D.

Strategic Priorities

I am pleased and proud to present this annual report of the Shrewsbury Public Schools for calendar year 2015 to the Shrewsbury community. Within this document you will find information that clearly demonstrates that our town’s public schools are thriving, and that our students and educators are rising to the challenges set forth by the School Committee’s Strategic Priorities (shown below). You will also find short profiles of successful alumni, students, and teachers who personify our district’s mission and core values and whose comments underscore our district’s motto of “empowering learners.”

I wish to thank Kimberlee Cantin, our Executive Assistant for Communications & Operations, and Karen Isaacson, our Director of Extended Learning, for their skillful work in creating this report. I am also grateful to the local business partners listed on the last page, whose sponsorship made the publication and distribution of this document possible.

Our district is providing a world class education for our students, but that wouldn’t be possible without the support of the entire Shrewsbury community. On behalf of our students and staff, thank you!

~ Joseph M. Sawyer, Ed.D.

Strategic Priorities

The Shrewsbury School Committee consists of five elected members, each of whom serves a three-year term. At the start of 2015, Dr. Dale Magee served as the committee chair, and Jason Palitsch served as vice chair. In May, John Samia was elected chair, and Sandra Fryc was elected vice chair. At that same time, Jon Wensky was elected to the seat previously held by Mr. Palitsch, who did not run for reelection. Erin Canzano served as the committee secretary throughout 2015.

Shrewsbury Public Schools

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

Core Values

◊ Respect & Responsibility
◊ Collaboration & Communication
◊ Commitment to High Standards & Expectations
◊ Equity

District Administration

Mary Beth Banios, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Patrick C. Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations
Melissa Maguire, Director of Special Education & Pupil Personnel Services
Barb Malone, Director of Human Resources

Student Demographics

% Average Shrewsbury vs. State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Shrewsbury</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduation Rate</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Language Not English</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students with Disabilities</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free or Reduced Lunch</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economically Disadvantaged</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity - White</td>
<td>63.9%</td>
<td>63.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial/ Non Hispanic</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Island</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enrollment

Total Enrollment: 6,045
Pre-K & Elementary Schools: 3,451
Middle Schools: 2,042
High School: 550

Staff Demographics

Instructional - 480
Administrative - 37 (Includes Central Office, Principals, Assistant Principals & Directors)

Accolades

Shrewsbury High School received “Best High School Silver Rating” from U.S. News & World Report.

Newsweek ranked Shrewsbury High School top 1% in the U.S.

Ranked in top 2% in U.S. by Center for American Progress for “Return On Educational Investment”.

Ranked #3 in the state for “best food in Massachusetts Public Schools” according to Niche.com.
Transportation

Extended School Care Programs in six schools

Nine student artists honored by the

Middle school math teams (grades 5-8)

Eight award winners from SHS at the Region

In the Performing Arts, the SHS competitive

Robotics Team – Winner of the prestigious

Award-winning Speech and Debate, Robotics, and academic competition teams

Middle school math teams (grades 5-8)

Lego Robotics (grades 5-8)

Over 175 Summer enrichment courses for

Award-winning Performing Arts programs

55 high school clubs

develop hypotheses in the community by promoting a

come capable, active, caring and involved con

Shrewsbury High empowers all students to be

As a class, students are challenged to complete

hours of service by the time they graduate.

challenges each grade level to complete 10,000

“Challenge” is a service learning initiative that

Money comes from and how it is spent.

The educational investment for Fiscal Year

2015 totaled $81.9M, with primary sources of

funding coming from local tax receipts and

state aid. Additional sources of revenue in-
clude federal and private grants, and fee-based

school programs. More than half of these reve-

due dollars are spent directly on teachers, para-

professionals and instructional materials, while

only 2% is designated for administrative costs
(among the lowest in the state). The charts on

the right provide a visual overview of where the

money comes from and how it is spent.

Service Learning

Shrewsbury High empowers all students to be-

come capable, active, caring and involved con-

tributors in the community by promoting a culture of service learning. The “10,000 Hour

Challenge” is a service learning initiative that

challenges each grade level to complete 10,000

hours of service by the time they graduate.

As a class, students are challenged to complete

1,000 hours as freshmen, 2,000 hours as soph-

omores, 3,000 hours as juniors & 4,000 hours as seniors.

The graduating Class of 2015

exceeded this goal with a grand

total of 16,070 hours of service in

their four years as SHS students!

A Financial Perspective

Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>User Fees</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Funds</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Funds</td>
<td>64.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Operations &amp; Maintenance</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing, Transportation &amp; Student Activities</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance, Retirement Program &amp; Other</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-of-District Tuition &amp; Transportation</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers, Paraprofessionals, Instructional Materials &amp; Equipment</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Development</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidance, Counseling &amp; Testing</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Per Pupil Spending

$14,920 State Average

$13,163 Shrewsbury

* - $1,259 below median or 8.7% below median

Transportation

47 Buses, 249 Routes

4,547 Riders

Food Services

2,300 Lunches Daily

Budget Overview

Meet

Julian Chu, an alumnus of the class of 1989, and a graduate of Harvard University. Throughout his career, Julian has focused on business development and internet industries. He is currently an Operating Partner at Castanea Partners in Newton, MA, leading strategic initiatives in the areas of digital marketing and e-commerce.

Meet

Ruby Lee, alumna of the class of 2009. Ruby holds undergradu-

ate and graduate degrees in Bioengineering and Computer Science from Stanford University, and she was part of the team that devel-

oped Google’s Chrome browser. She is currently a product partner at YCPR Edge, San Francisco, where she focuses on digital health and mobile marketplace companies.

Meet

Jennifer Trudeau, Ph.D., an alumna of the class of 2005. Jennifer, a gradu-

ate of Fairfield University, earned her Ph.D. in eco-

nomics from the Universi-

ty of New Hampshire, and is currently in her second year as an Assistant Pro-

fessor in the Jack Welch College of Business at Sa-

cred Heart University, specializing in health economics.

Meet

“A financial perspective is critical for understanding how our district supports students in a variety of ways, from transportation services to nutrition programs. This additional layer of transparency helps to ensure that our community is well-informed about the resources that are available to our students.”

Meet

“At SHS I learned how to think critically and

analyze a problem — how to do

research, develop hypotheses, and craft an effective

argument. (These are) lessons that remain

with me and continue to guide me today. The

wonderful teachers at Shrewsbury High

School helped me develop the

fundamental skills I needed

to succeed not only in college, but

well beyond.”

“Shrewsbury Public Schools does its students a tremendous service by preparing them to be not only analytical thinkers but confident and capable writers. Writing was not a skill that came
easily to me and I found my own way in Honors and AP English courses to be consistently chal-

lenging. However, I found that I had the organiz-
gational and stylistic skills needed to approach written

assignments.”

We know that learning doesn’t stop when the dismissal bell rings, and students throughout the
district have abundant opportunities for cocurric-

ular and extended learning activities such as:

• Award-winning Performing Arts programs

• 60 athletic teams, 34 different sports

• 55 high school clubs

• Award-winning Speech and Debate, Robotics, and academic competition teams

• Middle school math teams (grades 5-8)

• Lego Robotics (grades 5-8)

• Over 175 Summer enrichment courses for grades PK-8

• Extended School Care Programs in six schools

• After School Activities Programs (ASAP) at all elementary schools and middle schools with specialized clubs led by Shrewsbury Public Schools professionals

2015 highlights include:

• In the Performing Arts, the SHS competitive

play and musical won awards, while 80 middle

and high school students were selected for

central district band, chorus, or orchestra, with 8 chosen for all-state.

• 28 SHS athletic teams qualified for post-sea-

son play

• Girls Tennis - District Champions

• Robotics Team – Winner of the prestigious

Chairman’s Award at the New England Re-

gional Championship

• Nine student artists honored by the

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston Scholastic Art

Awards

• Eight award winners from SHS at the Region-

al Science and Engineering fair

• Girls gymnastics – Silver Medalists in state competition
By creating an atmosphere of learning that encourages active exploration and inquiry, I have developed opportunities for young children to become problem solvers and cooperative learners. I am excited about exploring the possibilities that technology can offer for sharing more student-created activities, as well as opportunities for students to document and reflect on their playing and learning with each other, their families, and a more global audience.

“We rob them of something that, after talking to my friends in other school districts, is unmatched. With the iPad initiative being implemented this past year, the culture in the high school surely has changed a lot. However, this change has only strengthened our learning experience and our ability to use technology as a whole.”

Meet Vikram Pathalam, Class of 2017 - Vikram is a member of the Student Advisory Committee, Speech and Debate team, Crew team and more!

“At a student, I have been given the access to countless opportunities and resources I surely wouldn’t have been able to utilize in any other school district. The Shrewsbury education system has provided a very comprehensive curriculum with technological resources -- something that, after talking to my friends in other school districts, is unmatched. With the iPad initiative being implemented this past year, the culture in the high school surely has changed a lot. However, this change has only strengthened our learning experience and our ability to use technology as a whole.”

Meet Chasina Molina, Class of 2018 - Chasina is a member of the Student Innovation Team, a course that requires students to create an Independent Learning Endeavor as well as assist the Technology Department with first-level tech support.

“Having a smart device at the tips of your fingers benefits the learning environment. It makes the knowledge very comprehensive, fun to learn, and simple to memorize. I have experienced the difference between using a paper and a pencil versus using an iPad during class. I used to be so disorganized with my notes that I could never find them in time to study for an exam. This year, thanks to the iPad initiative, my notes are accessible at any time. With the iPad, I can make intensive flashcards, assemble my notes at a faster pace or even record a verbal note.”

“A special thank you to resident Joyce Muranto/Muranto Studios Photography for taking all the photos on this page. She graciously volunteered her time and talent!”

Meet Charlene Costello - Ms. Costello has worked for SPS as a Kindergarten teacher and Media Technology Integration Specialist for 30 years. She is passionate about play-based learning environments and is devoted to how technology can be appropriately used to enhance the learning of our youngest students.

“By creating an atmosphere of learning that encourages active exploration and inquiry, I have developed opportunities for young children to become problem solvers and cooperative learners. I am excited about exploring the possibilities that technology can offer for sharing more student-created activities, as well as opportunities for students to document and reflect on their playing and learning with each other, their families, and a more global audience.”

Meet Dr. Derrick Lowery - Dr. Lowery has been teaching chemistry at SHS for 13 years. He holds both a B.S. and Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Georgia. Prior to beginning his career as a high school teacher he worked as a research chemist for ExxonMobil, and taught chemistry at the University of South Carolina and WPI.

“Nurturing the drive within students to understand the world around them through chemistry, as well as other branches of science, is my ultimate goal as an educator. I am very fortunate to have had the opportunity to apply the principles of chemistry in both academic and industrial settings prior to my teaching career in Shrewsbury, which enables me to help students understand and appreciate how chemistry affects their lives beyond what can be learned from just a textbook. The Shrewsbury Public Schools have always provided the support and autonomy that allow my colleagues and me to pursue our collective visions of what a first-year chemistry course should be.”

Digital Connections

The Shrewsbury Public School District, in alignment with its strategic priority of Enhancing Learning Through Technology, has met its goal of having all students in grades 5-12 in a 1:1 learning environment.

All students at Sherwood, Oak, and SHS have a district-issued iPad that provides access, both at school and at home, to the wealth of digital resources that are now available to support their education. Our students first learn how to navigate the digital environment through our digital citizenship curriculum. Within this environment, they then learn how to curate information, to conduct research, and to create, communicate, and publish their thinking in a variety of different ways. Our students are also developing the capacity to build collaborative online networks and to use these connections to solve problems and innovate.

“if we teach TODAY’S students as we taught YESTERDAY’S, we rob them of TOMORROW.”

~ John Dewey
NOW ENROLLING FOR 2016-17

Private Tutoring
Basic Math ~ Pre-Algebra ~ Algebra I and II
Geometry ~ Trigonometry ~ Pre-Calculus ~ Calculus
Chemistry ~ Physics ~ Biology
English ~ Reading ~ Writing

Homework Help
All Subjects ~ After School Program

Call Now
508.719.0014
Email: gauri@atfsonline.com ~ www.atfsonline.com

SAT Test Prep ~ Improve Grades

Special thanks to these community partners for their sponsorship!

Central One proudly supports Shrewsbury Public Schools through donations, scholarships, grants and by teaching financial literacy classes to every Senior at SHS.

Located at 714 Main St & inside SHS for students and faculty

Open a share draft checking account, get $100. after your first direct deposit*
& Debit card access, No monthly fee, No minimum balance, Mobile Check Deposit and more!

Central One is a NOT-FOR-PROFIT financial institution.

*One-time $100 applied within 60 days of direct deposit. Must use ClickSwitch to qualify. Additional terms & conditions apply, see branch for details.