



Superintendent's Update

December 18, 2018

Dear Shrewsbury Families, Community Members, & Colleagues,

There have been several times recently when I have been reminded just how fortunate I am to be able to be part of the Shrewsbury community, both as a resident raising a family and as the superintendent of our superb public school district. Here are some I would like to share with you.

First, I am incredibly proud of the response to the recent tragedy of the death of fellow Shrewsbury resident and father, Worcester Firefighter Christopher Roy, whose daughter, Ava, is a fourth grader at Coolidge School. The Coolidge staff were remarkably skillful and sensitive in how they reached out to Ava and her family and how they helped students there cope with the news of their classmate's loss. The rest of our schools responded to the tribute and fundraiser that Coolidge created to assist the Roy Family, and I am proud to report that the grand total raised by students, parents, and staff across our nine schools, along with Town of Shrewsbury and SELCO staff, as part of the #Red4Roys effort was \$50,178. I am grateful to all who supported these efforts.

Second, I am pleased to report that our school district was recognized nationally by being named to the [9th annual AP District Honor Roll](#). This distinction was given to only 373 school districts across the U.S. and Canada, who increased the percentage of students who are accessing rigorous Advanced Placement (AP) courses while maintaining very high achievement levels on exam scores over a three-year period. It is important to note that our philosophy is for students at Shrewsbury High School to find the right mix of courses for their needs, balancing academics with commitments to co-curricular activities and other responsibilities, so this recognition does not come as a result of pushing kids to take more AP courses just to hit an arbitrary benchmark. I do believe the results are a testament to the very high quality of teaching and learning in these courses and to the significant effort that our educators and students give to make these academic experiences successful. Congratulations to everyone who was part of this notable

achievement! For more details on AP and other results, see the annual SHS testing report [here](#).

Third, I want to congratulate this year's recipients of Shrewsbury Education Foundation awards:

1) I am pleased that longtime residents and SHS alums Jim and Paula Buonomo are being honored with SEF's Community Service Award for their many contributions to our town, including their recent work as co-chairs of the Campaign for Shrewsbury Athletic Fields that resulted in our new synthetic turf field and other major improvements to the SHS stadium complex.

2) I am also glad that SEF is honoring three of my leadership team colleagues with the first SEF Impact Award for contributions that will have a lasting impact on students for many years to come. This award is being given to the following leaders for their superb work in creating the educational plan for the new Beal Elementary School, which board members of the Massachusetts School Building Authority called one of the best, if not the best, they had ever received for a new building project: Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Meg Belsito; Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment, Amy Clouter; and Beal Early Childhood Center Principal, Chris Girardi.

3) The annual John P. Collins Awards for Excellence are being presented to the following individuals whose efforts routinely go above and beyond and exemplify the core values of the Shrewsbury Public Schools:

Professional Educators

Meghan de Leon, Special Education Team Chair/Teacher, Sherwood Middle School

Kathy Floyd, School Counselor, SHS

Mario Gonzales, Special Education Teacher, SHS

Maggie Korab, Television Production Teacher, SHS

Paraprofessionals

Lisa Easson, Sherwood Middle School

Jodi Couture, Sherwood Middle School

Support Staff

Tracey Snow & Brianna Snow, Bus Driver & Bus Monitor

Unsung Hero

Wolf Goethert, Volunteer, Spring Street School

Leadership

Shelley Hoey, Instructional Coach/Curriculum Coordinator, Floral Street School

We are fortunate to be able to partner with SEF to honor these individuals who make a significant, positive difference for our students.

Thank you to all of you for your continued support and hard work that benefits our students. All the best for a happy and healthy holiday season!

Respectfully,

Joe Sawyer
Superintendent of Schools