



Shrewsbury Public Schools

Opening of the School Year Update

September 8, 2021



Primary Goal

Provide full-time, in-school learning for students with minimal disruptions, while using mitigation strategies to minimize the risk of contracting COVID-19.



Our Approach

- Implement mitigation strategies that reduce the risk of transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19
- Create a sense of belonging and support students' social, emotional, & mental health needs
- Provide learning opportunities that support students' academic needs



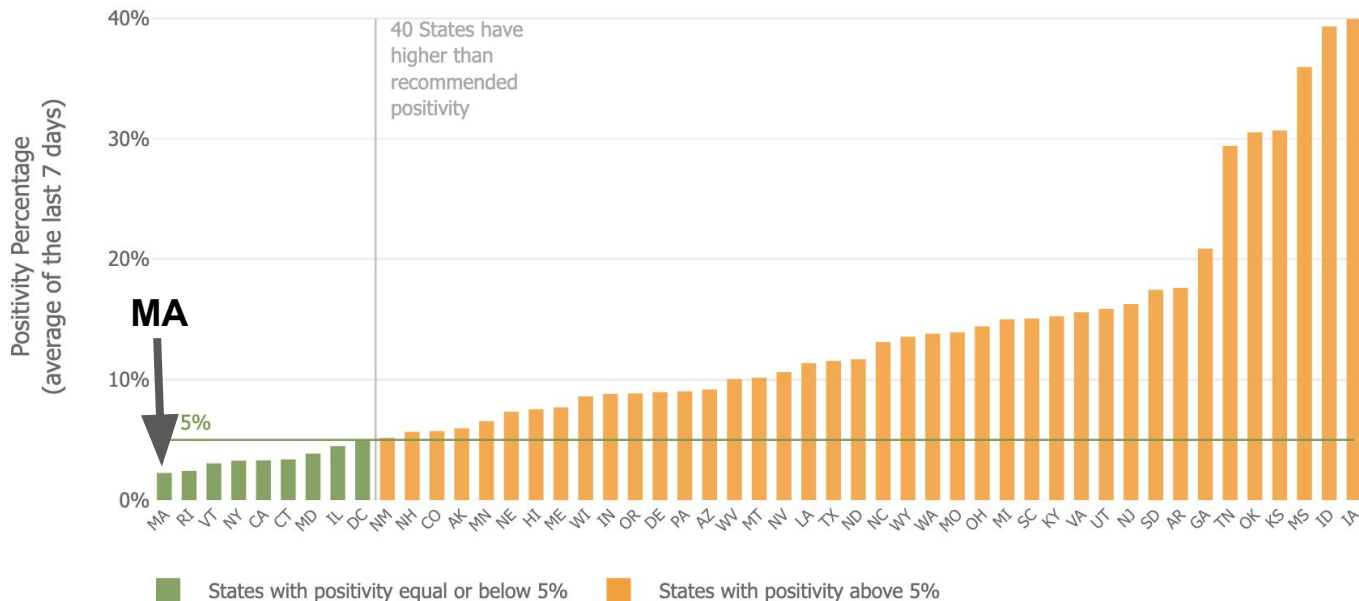
Our State Context

MA 7-Day Positivity Rate = **2.26%**

(Lowest in the U.S.)

Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center

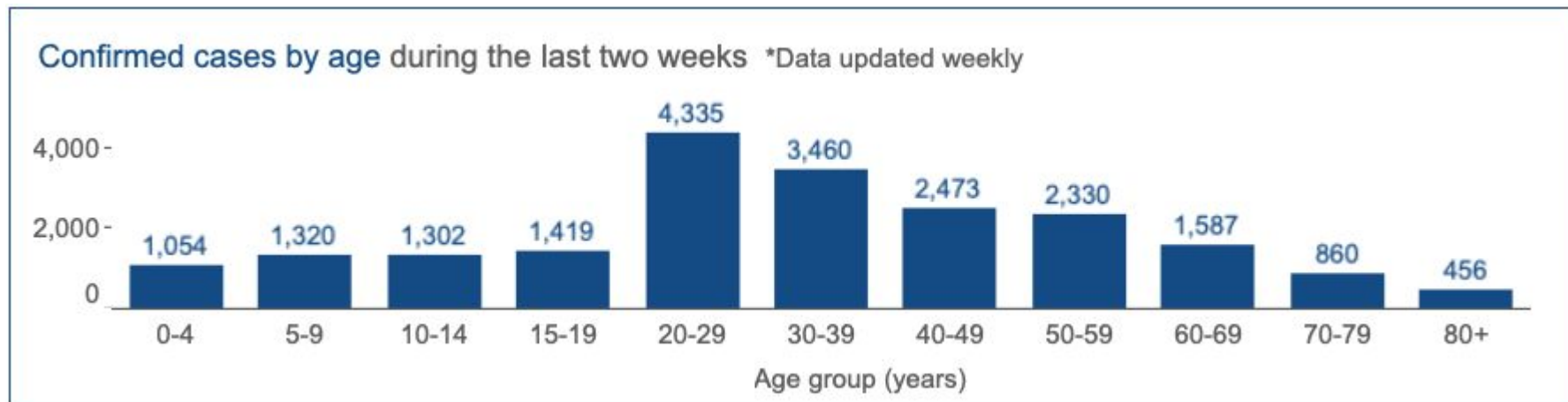
<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/testing/testing-positivity>





Our State Context: Massachusetts Cases by Age

***As of September 8, 2021**





Our State Context: Hospital Admission Rates by Age

Select hospitalization rate or count

- ☐ Number of admissions during the last two weeks
☒ Rate of admissions during the last two weeks

Select a patient characteristic

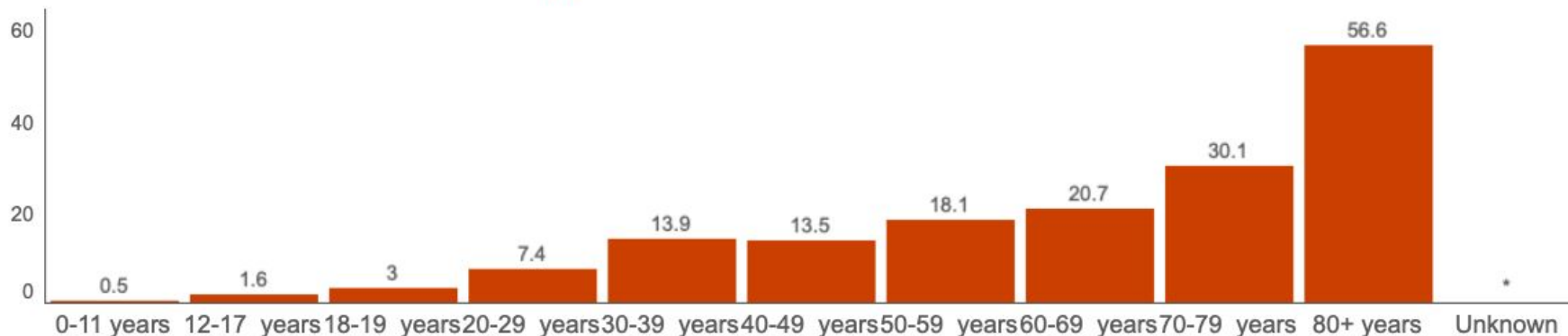
- ☒ Age
☐ Gender
☐ Hispanic Ethnicity
☐ Race

Select report date

9/1/2021

The report date September 1, 2021 shows data on patients admitted to hospitals between August 15, 2021 and August 28, 2021.

Rate of admissions during the last two weeks by Age



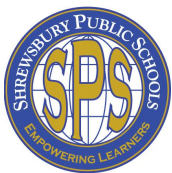
(Rates are per 100k population)



Our Local Context

Shrewsbury 14-Day Positive Test Rate
(2.34% vs. 5.0% Benchmark)

For Weeks of August 14-28 (Last Published)



Our Local Context

Recent COVID-19 Cases in Shrewsbury & Shrewsbury Public Schools Students

	<u>Town of Shrewsbury</u>	<u>SPS Students</u>
Week ending August 13:	21	3
Week ending August 20:	32	4
Week ending August 27:	33	6
Week ending September 3:	46	7
Current week thus far:	??	8

Out of 6,070 students, percentage of students who tested positive for COVID-19 over the past 4+ weeks ranged from 0.0005% to 0.0013%.



Current Case Count in SPS Schools

(Out of Approx. 6,800 Students & Staff)

This Week to Date

Cases this week = 7

Cases where individual was in school during infectious period = 3

Cases traced to possible exposure in school = 0

Cumulative Total from First Day of School

Cases since the start of the school year = 12

Cases where individual was in school during infectious period = 5

Cases traced to possible exposure in school = 0



Case Count by School (Cumulative Since Start of School)

Parker Road Preschool = 0

Beal School = 1

Coolidge School = 0

Floral Street School = 3

Paton School = 0

Spring Street School = 0

Sherwood Middle School = 3

Oak Middle School = 1

Shrewsbury High School = 4

Total = 12



Case Count by School
Where Individual Was In School
During Infectious Period
(Cumulative Since Start of School)

Parker Road Preschool = 0

Sherwood Middle School = 1

Beal School = 0

Oak Middle School = 1

Coolidge School = 0

Shrewsbury High School = 3

Floral Street School = 0

Paton School = 0

Spring Street School = 0

Total = 5



Mitigation Strategies

- **Masks for all students and staff in school and on bus**
- **Hand hygiene**
- **Distancing when possible and pragmatic**
- **Ventilation**



Mitigation Strategies

- **Stay home if sick**
- **Voluntary routine COVID safety checks (i.e., surveillance testing)**
- **Quarantine and contact tracing**



COVID-19 symptom list

- **Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills**
- **Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath**
- **New loss of taste or smell**
- **Muscle aches or body aches**
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Sore throat, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Headache *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Fatigue, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) *when in combination with other symptoms*



Contact Tracing

- **When a case of COVID-19 is identified in a student or staff member who has been in school during their infectious period**
 - **Infectious period = 2 days prior to symptom onset or test date**
 - **Positive individual must isolate for 10 days**
 - **Contact tracing is completed by school nurses to determine close contacts (within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more while indoors) and the need to quarantine or not**



Quarantine Exemptions

- **Vaccinated individuals who are asymptomatic**
- **Individuals who are masked and 3ft or more away**
- **Individuals who are on the bus**
- **Individuals who have had COVID-19 in the past 90 days**



Example 1

- **Individual at Oak Middle School tested positive**
 - **contact trace 6 classrooms and lunch**
 - **3 contacts required to quarantine**
 - **10 contacts exempt due to masks on and 3 - 6 feet distance**
 - **8 contacts exempt due to fully vaccinated**



Example 2

- **Individual at Sherwood Middle School tested positive**
 - **contact trace 2 classrooms and lunch**
 - **7 contacts required to quarantine**
 - **8 contacts exempt due to masks on and 3 - 6 feet distance**
 - **0 contacts exempt due to fully vaccinated**



Test and Stay

- **When available through the state testing program**
- **Must consent to COVID testing program**
- **BinaxNOW test at school each morning through day 7 after exposure to the positive individual**
- **If negative and asymptomatic, can remain in school**
- **Only for close contacts to a case identified in school**



Quarantine Options

- **Quarantine per state guidelines**
 - **Test on day 5 and if negative and asymptomatic, return on day 8**
 - **If choose not to test and asymptomatic, return on day 11**
 - **If ANY symptoms during quarantine, must complete full 14 day period**



Routine COVID Safety Testing

- **Under the umbrella of the state testing program**
- **Formerly known as surveillance/pooled testing**
- **Information and link to consent was sent to staff yesterday and will be sent to families soon**
- **Working with the state team to start voluntary weekly testing as soon as possible**



School Transportation

There's a national and statewide school bus driver shortage.

Fortunately for S.P.S., our contractor AA Transportation had only one permanent driver position to fill at start of the year out of a total of 48.

National mandate for all riders to wear a mask [on all public transportation] but there is no social distancing requirement.

Windows are cracked for increased airflow.



School Transportation-Ridership

As of our registration deadline on June 30th, there were 3,507 students registered and as of today there are 3,997, an increase of 490 between July 1st and school opening. **264 of these additions came between August 17th and school opening.**

Late registrations always cause last minute pressure to adjust routes and also cause route and time changes for the first two weeks of school.

As of today there are also 212 riders for private schools and Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School

Overall, we are approximately 5% below pre-pandemic ridership levels.



School Transportation

Overall, we had very good performance/execution for school opening despite all of the changes required at the elementary level due to redistricting and opening a new school.

We are operating 246 bus routes daily carrying just over 4,200 students twice per day.

Student arrival at Floral Street School.





School Transportation

We have traffic congestion at schools due to the volume of traffic in a short period of time for both drop off and pick-up.

We have capacity on some buses and bus registration will remain open. It will take several days once a student registers to get a bus assignment and communicate pick-up/routing information.



Food Service Program

Meals are free of charge to parents/students for the 2021-2022 school year per federal mandate.

Districts must maintain meal nutritional requirements, serve students a complete meal with all required components, and submit meal counts for federal and state reimbursement funding.

Snacks are not free and must be supplied by parents. We are not selling a la carte items at this time but may do so in the coming weeks.



Food Service Program

We have reverted back to serving an expanded menu and using trays as opposed to the bagged lunch served during the height of the pandemic.

Cold brunch bags are still an option.

Student lunch at Spring St. School. →





Food Service Program

Social distancing is not required during lunch periods.

Schools have “reclaimed” gymnasium spaces for our Physical Education and Extended School Care Programs.

HVAC system maximizes fresh air and windows in the cafeterias are opened whenever possible.



Fee-Based Programs & The Free/Reduced Meal Application

Although meals are free for the 21-22 school year, the District offers many fee-based programs such as busing, athletics, Extended School Care etc...that are not free.

Families may be eligible for discounted fees and the “means test” we rely upon is eligibility for free/reduced price lunch based on income. To be screened for eligibility, **parents must complete this application every year. Eligibility is not retroactive but rather effective upon approval for the '21-'22 school year.**



DISTRICT ▾

DEPARTMENTS ▾

SCHOOLS ▾

SCHOOL COMMITTEE ▾

Food Service

MAKE ONLINE PAYMENT TO
YOUR CHILD'S ACCOUNT

Lunch Menus

Forms

Staff

News

Free & Reduced Meal Program

Breakfast Menus

Allergies

FAQ

High School After School Meals

Meal Magic Point of Sale System

Catering

Nutrition Nuggets

Massachusetts Nutrition
Standards for Competitive Foods
& Beverages

Home / Food Service / Free & Reduced Meal Program

FREE & REDUCED MEALS

Shrewsbury Public Schools participates in the National School Lunch Program as administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (U.S.D.A.).

Some students are eligible to receive a free or reduced-price lunch (and breakfast where offered) if the family household meets specific income thresholds.

Returning students application requirement: ALL returning students must complete a new meal application within 30 days of the start of the new school year. Families who fail to re-apply will lose eligibility for free or reduced-price meals and will be fully responsible to pay prior charges on their student's account.

New students: All newly registered students must apply as soon as possible for free or reduced-price meals.

Currently enrolled students: At any time during the school year, families may apply for free or reduced-price meals. Sometimes families experience job or income loss during the year and this is an opportune time to apply.

ALL applicants must apply using the online application by [CLICKING HERE](#). Click "Guest" and follow onscreen prompts.

The School year 2021-2022 application will be available after August 15, 2021.

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE APPLYING DURING THE COVID-19 SCHOOL CLOSURE, PLEASE **EMAIL** BETH NICHOLS AT bnichols@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us.

If you have questions or need assistance with the application, please contact the Food Service Director using the contact information below:

Beth Nichols





Facilities, Grounds, Logistics

The Public Buildings Division coordinated or completed a multitude of maintenance projects in addition to the normal cleaning of schools.

They also coordinated with the Fire Dept. and Building Inspector to complete annual life safety inspections



Major School Projects Completed Summer '21

- Boiler cleaning and tuning at all schools
- High School window caulking and sill replacement [ongoing]
- High School chiller and cooling tower repair
- Oak boiler pump replacement and re-programming
- Oak courtyard window replacement
- Oak chiller compressor replacement
- Coolidge boiler pump valve replacement
- Paton: replacement of four exterior doors
- Paton: retroactive commission of HVAC system
- Floral: replacement carpet in nine classrooms
- Sherwood and Oak: various roof repairs



Logistics

14 of the 17 rented tractor trailers were offloaded between spring and reopening with majority offloaded during the summertime.

Public Buildings assisted with coordination of contract workers for day help.

Principals, assistant principals, and summer laborers were instrumental in fine-tuning all of the plans to re-fit our classrooms with adequate staff and student furnishings.



Other Municipal Dept. Support

Shrewsbury Police Dept. provided much needed traffic control support.

Engineering Division coordinated installation of new crosswalk on Municipal Drive for Paton families and students.





Learning Together By Design

An Update on Professional Development

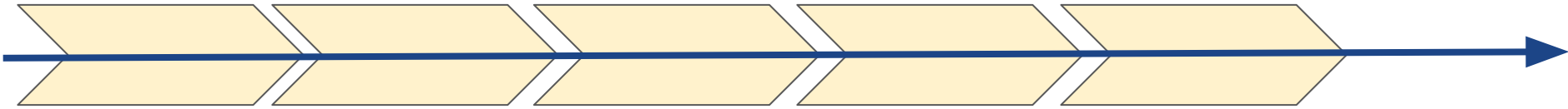
Knowledge is Power



The Goal: *Environments Where Everyone's Success Matters*

2020-2021

2021-2022



**District PD Day
October, 2020**
Dr. Irvin Leon Scott &
Dr. Darnisa
Amante-Jackson led
the district
professional
development day for
ALL staff

**PD Day
January, 2021**
Dr. Amante-Jackson
presented to
professional staff
and began consulting
with the district

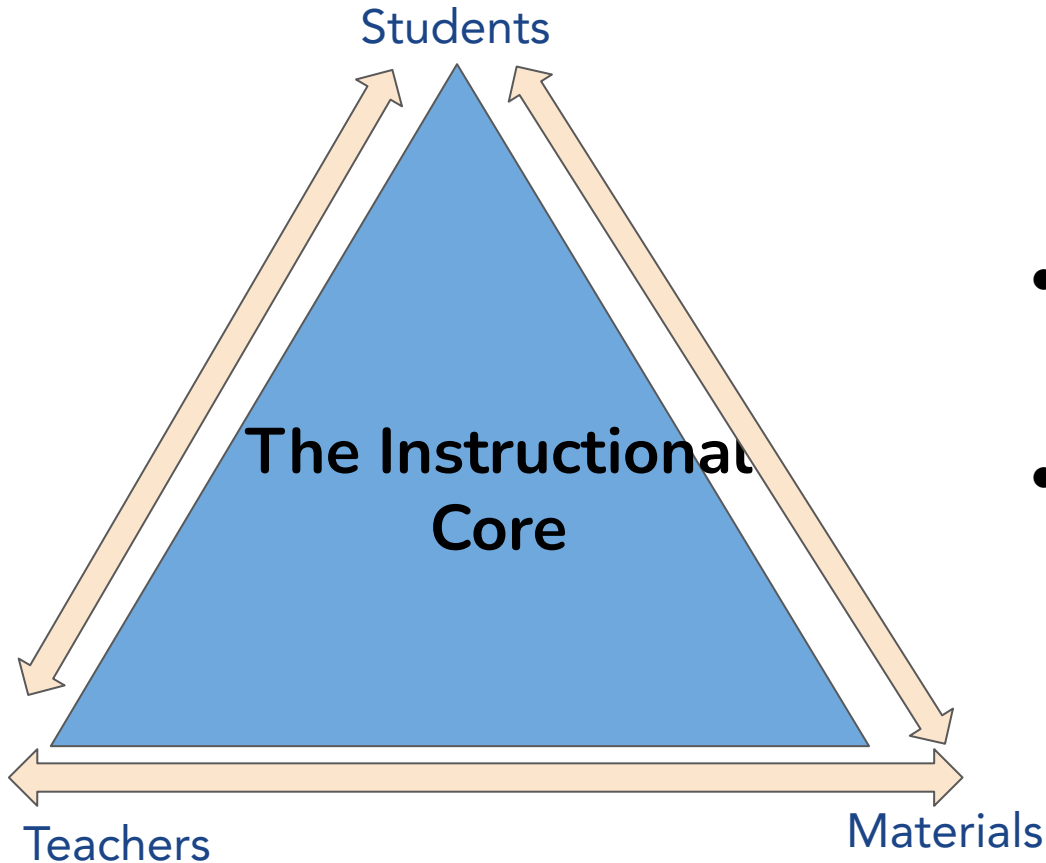
**PD Day
August 31, 2021**
Dr. Amante-Jackson
presented to ALL staff

Dr. Darnisa Amante- Jackson



- President and Co-Founder of the Disruptive Equity Education Project (DEEP)
- Educational and Racial Equity Strategist
- Dr. Amante-Jackson holds a master's degree from Brandeis University and a doctoral degree from Harvard University.

Connections are key.



- Belonging is the “sweet spot” that changes all relationships in the classroom.
- Belonging starts with adults. Supporting adults in feeling a sense of belonging increases ability of staff to create it with students.

Dr. Katie Novak



- Renowned author and educational consultant
- Adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania
- Educational Strategist, with expertise in Universal Design and Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

Inclusive by Design



The UDL Framework

A framework is a set of principles, or beliefs and values, that guide our work. A UDL Practitioner **believes**:



Variability is the rule, not the exception. Students don't have to do the same things at the same time.



All students can work toward the same firm goals and grade-level standards.



All students will become expert learners if barriers are removed.

Building-Based Professional Learning

Designing Learning Environments for Belonging

Playlist Resources

Explore 3-4 of the below resources to build your knowledge. Remember, you may be tempted to explore them all, but the key is to self-differentiate to meet your individual learning needs. Be thinking:

- What engages you?
- What do you need or want to know more about?
- Where do you already have a solid foundation?
- How might this new learning/resource impact your practice?



- In Grades pre K-6, professional learning focused on how educators will foster belonging with students and families.
- At Oak and SHS, staff participated in Character Strong training. Character Strong is the SEL curriculum used at those levels.



Primary Goal

Provide full-time, in-school learning for students with minimal disruptions, while using mitigation strategies to minimize the risk of contracting COVID-19.

A Very Successful Opening of Our Schools



Joe Sawyer @SPS_Supt · Sep 2

...

First day of class at Parker Road Preschool was terrific! Lots of positive energy! [#ShrewsburyLearns](#)



A Very Successful Opening of Our Schools



Joe Sawyer @SPS_Supt · Sep 1

...

Third grade classes at Coolidge were enthusiastically engaged with a writing assignment. Off to a great start! [#ShrewsburyLearns](#)



↻ 2

♡ 15



A Very Successful Opening of Our Schools



Joe Sawyer @SPS_Supt · Sep 1

...

Lots of happy faces at Floral Street School on the first day of school. Hard to believe Floral is beginning its 25th year! [#ShrewsburyLearns](#)



A Very Successful Opening of Our Schools



Joe Sawyer @SPS_Supt · Sep 1

...

Lots of happy faces at Floral Street School on the first day of school. Hard to believe Floral is beginning its 25th year! [#ShrewsburyLearns](#)



A Very Successful Opening of Our Schools



Joe Sawyer @SPS_Supt · Sep 1



Students at Paton School are getting right down to business on the first day! [#ShrewsburyLearns](#)



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16



A Very Successful Opening of Our Schools



Joe Sawyer @SPS_Supt · Sep 2

...

Kindergarteners and 4th graders alike were excited to be at Spring Street School today! [#ShrewsburyLearns](#)



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11



A Very Successful Opening of Our Schools



Joe Sawyer @SPS_Supt · Sep 2



Great visit to Sherwood Middle School this morning. Lots of enthusiasm among our fifth and sixth graders! [#ShrewsburyLearns](#)



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13



A Very Successful Opening of Our Schools



Joe Sawyer @SPS_Supt · Sep 2

Oak Middle School students were very engaged with their learning this morning. A great start for our 7th & 8th graders! [#ShrewsburyLearns](#)



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15



A Very Successful Opening of Our Schools



Joe Sawyer @SPS_Supt · Sep 2

...

Nice to see members of the Class of 2022 taking advantage of eating outdoors in the Senior Plaza on a beautiful day! [#ShrewsburyLearns](#)



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31



A Very Special Opening of Our Schools



Joe Sawyer @SPS_Supt · Sep 1



Couldn't be more proud to see students entering the new Beal School for the first time. Thank you to the Shrewsbury community for providing this incredible place for learning! [#ShrewsburyLearns](#)



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A Very Special Opening of Our Schools



Joe Sawyer @SPS_Supt · Sep 1

...

The design of the new Beal School is superbly functional and vibrant. Our students and staff love it! [#ShrewsburyLearns](#)



A Very Special Opening of Our Schools



Joe Sawyer @SPS_Supt · Sep 1



As first grader Prince enthusiastically told me, "This looks like a place where we can be heroes!" [#ShrewsburyLearns](#)



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