Scituate Public Schools
Year in Review
2019 - 2020

We are Crew!
Leading the way!

2nd year in a row, an SPS school earned the honor of being selected as a School of Recognition in MA!

Last year was Cushing and this year, Wampatuck selected as one of only 67 schools of recognition in the Commonwealth!

They were selected for academic performance and growth compared to hundreds of other schools throughout the state!
Leading the way!

Massachusetts Teacher of Year Semi-Finalist!!!

Adele McCarthy, a 7th grade ELA teacher, was notified by DESE in March that she had been selected as a semi-finalist as the 2021 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year. Adele’s commitment to innovative instructional practices and meeting the diverse needs of students makes her an asset to SPS and the teaching profession.
Leading the way!

Massachusetts STEM Teacher of Year Semi-Finalist!!!

Kathy Wilson, an 8th grade Science teacher, was notified by the Patriots Hall of Fame that she had been selected as one of five semi-finalists for the 2020 Patriots Hall of Fame STEM Teacher of the Year award. This year, Kathy became a National Geographic Certified Educator and developed several units that incorporate elements of project-based learning.
2019 – 2020: Year in Review

A few highlights from this year, organized by the 5 priorities in our strategic plan
Priority 1: Authentic, consistent and innovative curriculum
Sports Marketing class this year had the exciting opportunity of traveling to Gillette Stadium to present various business plans to a marketing manager at Gillette through a project-based learning (PBL) experience.

Students presented their plan to a representative from the Marketing Department at Gillette where they received professional feedback on both their business plan and their ability to ‘sell’ their idea.
Real world engineering applications

The engineering capstone students have unveiled the new products they developed.

One team developed a SmartPlug that would change the way that we plug devices into outlets to be both safer and easier/more convenient.

The other team entered a contest from NASA, they designed an all mechanical rover that could be used to help explore Venus!
Grade 8 Art PbL Unit

Students in Ms. Glover’s grade 8 art classes had the opportunity to design and create packaging and products for the Scituate Animal Shelter.

Students worked in teams from concept to final product. In addition, students presented to the community and were provided valuable feedback.
Piloting Art Integration Curricula

All four elementary schools successfully piloted art integration. Art integration blends art with other subject matter to engage students and help them see the connections in the world. Pictured here is science, writing & art through this constellation project!
Engineering is Elementary (EiE):

Thanks to an SEF grant, Liz Dorgan (STEAM Teacher), was able to implement the Engineering is Elementary Curriculum created by the Museum of Science for all grade 3 and 4 students in the district.

Each EiE unit combines reading, writing and science focused on a real-world engineering challenge.

Pictured here is a grade 4 unit about designing wind turbines!
Hundreds Week at Hatherly

Many schools celebrate the 100th day of school but this year Hatherly decided to celebrate the whole week.

Each day of the week was dedicated to different concept in math. For instance, on money day the students were treated to a financial literacy play put on by Rockland Trust.
Priority 2: Engaging pedagogy to reach all students
Engaging History Students and Developing Skills with Document Based Questions

This initiative engages students learning how historians and journalists solve puzzles and answer questions.

As they study their grade level curriculum, students do three DBQs, of increasing complexity, as they develop a wide range of academic skills.
Gates Launches Language-Based Program

The LBP at Gates has just about completed its 1st year!
Mrs. McCone has focused on bringing the 6 principles for teaching students with language based learning disabilities to the forefront of her teaching.
She has spent time building micro units that support curriculum expectations in 6th and 7th grade. These multi-sensory micro-units are designed to support students’ executive functioning skills. The Speech and Language Pathologist and Mrs. McCone worked collaboratively to ensure all aspects of language are supported during instruction.
Scituate Lighthouse Program

This is a collaboration between General Education and Special Education

Our program is built to support students transitioning back to school after extended absences and hospitalizations, had its first successful year. Our supportive Lighthouse community provided a safe environment where students report they were able to push themselves to reach their goals/expectations, cope with stressors, and feel connected to peers and adults in the school.
Student to student support

This year, SHS student worked with both middle and elementary school students to tutor and help with math.

This opportunity was initiated through work with the National Honor Society and morphed into eager high school students who wanted to share their love of learning math.
Learning to learn online

Google Boot camp! SPS provided training resulted in 12 SPS staff certified as Level 1 educators in Google for Education.

It came in handy to have these experts in our schools when we had to shift to distance learning in the spring!
This year was an exciting year for the DECA Life Skills Program within our DECA District. Due to scheduling conflicts, the DECA District was planning to cancel this year's competition. SHS would not let this happen though.

Key leaders at SHS rallied and decided we would host the event! Pembroke, Whitman-Hanson, and Scituate were well represented with each school's life skills/iExcel students in attendance. Each school presented an authentic learning life skills demonstration/scenario in the Performing Art Center.

Because of our success, there are discussions of continuing this format going forward.
Priority 3: Resilient, well rounded and healthy students
Expanded Counseling Program

The addition of two full-time School Adjustment Counselors to dedicate one counselor per elementary building has been instrumental for the students, families and elementary staff members this year. The increase in support staff has allowed for a more comprehensive social and emotional learning (SEL) experience, by providing additional supports and direct SEL instruction at all tiered levels of student support.
Brains Matter

Founded by McLean’s Hospital, “Brains Matter” raises awareness about mental health issues through fun and educational outreach.

It connects social and emotional learning to the science standards and helps students make connections.
Early intervention for dyslexia

The literacy council drafted and piloted a dyslexia screener for all kindergarteners. Literacy specialists researched reading acquisition and disability research extensively, and came up with a comprehensive screening for kindergarteners that includes the requisite components of letter identification, phonemic awareness, and rapid automatic naming.

All kindergartners were screened in January, and results of that pilot screening drove intervention groupings and instruction.
Music in all forms!

The CPA was very busy during December with winter concerts being celebrated throughout our district.

In February our choral program celebrated “All Choral Night” which featured choirs in grades 6-12. Also, students showcased jazz music in our “Evening of Jazz.”

Our music department transitioned to distance learning and provided students with virtual music experiences and performances including a collaborative of “Pomp and Circumstances” with surrounding band programs and a moving SHS virtual choir performance of “My Companion.”
Starting courageous conversations about race

Dr. Jamele Adams joined with SHS students and staff to share his message of Love, Inclusion, and Trust.

Student groups meet Wednesday mornings to discuss issues of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion among the student body.

Staff continue with professional development and small group discussions with an eye to empowering students to make sustained change, not just in Scituate but throughout the country.
Playoff runs!

• In sports, while we were not able to have a spring season, we had a great fall and winter.

• Fall: Football and girls soccer both made the playoffs. Boys soccer went undefeated in league play (most wins in program history). Boys golf were co-league camps.

• Hockey and basketball made exciting playoff runs this year and we had multiple qualifiers for both boys and girls swimming for states
Priority 4: Flexible Learning environments
Learning outdoors: Peggotty Beach

In October, the entire 8th grade participated in an environmental science program. They cleaned up Peggotty Beach in order to collect data for the Surfrider Foundation as part of their sustainability project!
Learning outdoors: Manomet Labs

Over 100 high school students participated in over 30 outdoor birding trips this year!

As a group, they were able to identify over 100 different avian species, the most that have ever been identified by SHS ornithology students during a school year. Since the school closure, several of these students have continued to seek out opportunities to enjoy and appreciate nature and send Mr. Maguire the photos of birds they find in the wild.

Pictured here is Steve Maguire (HS science teacher) releasing a Cooper's Hawk that was caught, measured and tagged during a field trip to Manomet Labs in Plymouth during the fall.
Learning outdoors: Community garden

Grade 5 teachers collaborated to design and implement new science labs to provide more hands-on experiences for students.

All students participated in the new NSRWA Water Day curriculum in the fall as part of their water unit.

Throughout the year, using materials provided by McGraw Hill, students also participated in new labs for their science units on matter, ecosystems, and space.
During the distance learning initiative, the Gates wellness teachers continued to engage students with at-home cooking and food-related opportunities. Students were asked to submit a favorite family recipe, resulting in the production of the first Gates Family Recipe Book.

Students were also given the opportunity to complete some of the food labs at home, which would normally have been done in the Gates kitchens during the third trimester. Teachers created videos to encourage students to head into the kitchen to try making smoothies, homemade pasta, pickles, and quesadillas.
Planning for future learning spaces

SPS submitted two statements of interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority proposing the consolidation of Cushing & Hatherly Elementary Schools and the construction of a brand new, state of the art elementary school in their place!

We expect to hear from the state by December of 2020
Maintaining learning environments we have

Comprehensive plan created to address school facilities needs over the next 5 years

- Planned maintenance
- Small scale facilities improvements
- Capital & long term
Priority 5: Local to global community engagement

Day 10: San Juan de Luz
This year a group of passionate fifth graders launched a climate club!

During Hatherly Cares week in the fall, they highlighted the amount of plastic waste in our cafeteria each day, and even played a role in advocating for the change back to milk cartons from plastic bottles.

They also sold silicon straws and bracelets to raise money for and awareness about the need for fresh, potable water around the world.

And perhaps most significantly, they took charge of our Hatherly compost project. They educated younger grades about the importance of reducing waste and reusing food scraps in the form of compost.
Gates Math Team Hosts First Meet with CMS

The Math Department at Gates Middle School hosted and competed in their first SciCoh Math Meet this winter.

Thirty-two students from Scituate and Cohasset competed in four rounds of competition. Awards, as designated and scored by the sponsoring mathleague.org, were given to many Scituate students.
Sharing projects to an international audience

SPS students and staff presented their Spark! Wonder Technology and Engineering projects at the PbL 10.0 conference at Regis College. Educators from all over the world are impressed with our students’ abilities to share their learning!
18 Scituate High School students travelled to Costa Rica with Mrs. Lima, Ms. O’Driscoll and Ms. Colangelo this past February. It was a fabulous adventure of eco-tourism with lots of opportunities to practice Spanish and science in the rain forest and the cloud forest.
Supporting local front line workers

PPE for local medical community: to date we have printed almost 600 face shield headpieces and over 100 ear savers.
Gates Spanish PbL Unit to support El Salvador

This past fall our 8th grade Spanish students had a special visit from the Director of Barefoot Angels Schools (Lucy Guzman) in El Salvador. This group of 8th graders had authored children's books in Spanish as 7th graders.

The children's books were sent to the students of Barefoot Angels School. Lucy Guzman came to personally thank our Gates students for their wonderful work.
Engaging generations of SPS Alumni

First annual Alumni Welcome Reception

Plenty of spirit was on hand for the SHS Alumni Network’s first event, an alumni welcome reception before the home Thanksgiving Day football game.
Engaging students in our local community

SHS students participated in a 50-year visioning exercise as part of the town’s visioning process!

Students came up with innovative environmental, nature, beach and technology updates as well as their hopes for the development of positive culture, safety, and government in the future of Scituate.
Strengthening Scituate METCO

This year, we kicked off the Scituate Friends of METCO group with Ice Cream Social at the Scituate Town Library!

Work continues on revitalizing the Boston-Scituate Parent Group

Summer Book Club- Reading and discussing diverse books with Boston resident and interested Scituate resident students and families. Families are expected to vote on books in the next week.
Maintaining our connections despite COVID

Our sense of community was not impeded by our most recent quarantine status. Staff and students reached out to each other through Google Classroom, emails, and videos. We reinforced and nurtured our connections to education. Check out an example here.
We are Crew

515 dedicated professionals committed to one mission!