

# Class of 2021

## Report





# SUPERINTENDENT'S *Letter*



Dear Region 12 Community,

The Class of 2021 showcased fifty-seven passionate and highly driven seniors who proved that there was nothing that would hold them back from achieving their personal best. This class highlighted what it meant to be fiercely determined in their pursuit of excellence. There was no slowing down their achievements. They faced each challenge as only true Spartans would: head-on. This year's graduates proved to be thoughtful and inquisitive, and pushed the boundaries of possibilities. Each graduate made us all think differently about the opportunities and challenges around us. They found ways to perform, showcase, and enhance the school experience with restrictions but never barriers. They asked "why not" and then made it happen.

The Shepaug graduate is not a typical graduate, having already built a resume that propels them ahead of their peers. Graduates from Region 12 are designed to be civic-minded, problem-solvers. They give back to their communities through Senior Projects and countless hours of volunteer work. Our students are able to articulate their understanding and hold debates with top scholars because they had similar opportunities through World Affairs Forum, Model United Nations, and access to Conversations on the Green. Our students are able to intern with great leaders in our community and thrive in the richness of the experience. Shepaug graduates are adaptive and innovative in all endeavors. We are confident about their success after high school graduation because we know that they have the skills they need to be leaders in their fields of study, choice of employment, or service to their country.

Our towns of Bridgewater, Roxbury, and Washington remain our partners in education. What other district can say that their towns sponsored a prom for their students? Each town continues to provide support and opportunities for its children. Our towns are only divided by borders, but we are unified in our vision of student success. Region 12 Schools is no longer defined by three towns; we are defined by those who come to be educated within our walls from the various surrounding towns. Bridgewater, Roxbury, and Washington have created a beacon for others to follow. Our three towns have opened their hearts and minds to others so our educational programs and experiences can flourish. Shepaug continues to prosper with new learners, new programs, and new opportunities.

We welcome you to turn the pages of the Class of 2021's newsletter and share in our recognition of students' excellence. The Class of 2021 graduates tell a story of Region 12 Schools that we are proud to showcase.

Respectfully,  
Megan Bennett

# TEACHER *of the Year*



Betsy O'Neill, the special education teacher at Shepaug Valley Partnership, was honored to accept the 2021-2022 Teacher of the Year accolade and addressed her colleagues at convocation in August with the following message.

Think back to when you were younger without a care in the world. Middle school snuck up on us and shortly thereafter it was high school. During middle and high school, we were asked to think about our future. Our parents, family members, teachers and counselors wanted us to have some sort of an idea. Most likely you were asked several times, "What do you want to do when you graduate?" We avoided that question because it was a tough one. At 13, we may have had a slight idea and by the age of 17 we were supposed to know exactly what we wanted for our future.

Did you know what your future held for you? This is my story. I'm a 70's kid. It was a generation that was all about tube socks, shag rugs, *Jaws*, *Schoolhouse Rock*, and Atari. My nickname in the neighborhood was "Honey" because the young kids flocked to me like bees to honey. We played school for hours in my front yard. Back then my future occupation was pretty much a given. I knew what I wanted to be when I grew up. I wanted to be a teacher because it seemed fun to me. It was around that time in my life that I realized my passion was to work with children. It was then that I set my sights on going to college to become a teacher.

Sometimes things happen that put a kink in our life plan. When I was 13, my father passed away unexpectedly at the age of 37. My mother was thrown into the workforce. I still remember what a challenge it was. My sister and I helped with the bills, chores, and watched our brother. Money was tight, so college didn't seem like a possibility. Mom sat us down one day and told us that we would go to college, it wasn't an option NOT to go. She wanted us to have the security that she was struggling to find. I remember her saying, "We will figure out the money", and told us not to worry. I knew that \$4,300 for my first year at Southern [Connecticut State University] was eight mortgage payments. Mom was right; we figured it out. Sometimes the worst things that happen in life can put you on a path that leads you to the best things.

My question for you is what is your why? Why did you become a teacher? Was it because of your love for children or maybe it was because you have a love for learning? When you think about your why, I would guarantee that you think back to that one teacher that made an impact on your life. The teachers that we remember when we were younger are those that let us be ourselves, inspired and believed in us. My inspiration was my sociology teacher at New Milford High School, Ms. Vallombroso. Ms. Val, as we fondly called her, was enthusiastic and compassionate. She was always happy and had a forever smile that welcomed us into her classroom. When participating in class, she allowed us the opportunity to draw from our own experiences which made learning exciting and fun.

Our purpose is to take what's inside of us and focus our efforts on each student. This gives us the determination to move forward and take risks which means we become our best selves. We take each child into our classroom at the beginning of the year and move them to where we know they can be at the end of the year and this is how they become their best selves. Be that teacher with purpose and take on challenges that inspire you. Be who you needed when you were younger.

When I think about my why, it's always been about making a lifelong impact and making each student feel important and good about themselves. My biggest wish is that my students share with me that I made a difference in their lives and made them laugh a little. Our personality is our greatest asset! When you're feeling overwhelmed, overstressed and overworked, remember your why. Be proud about the path you have chosen. It's a powerful one, you hold great influence and the ability to impact lives.

Maybe you're wondering what became of my neighborhood group. Recently I found out that all three kids in my little school group went to college; two went into education, one a university professor, the other a middle school teacher. In July we were out to dinner with our son's future in-laws when I heard, "Hey Miss A, what's up?" I glanced to my left and standing there was a student that I taught at Washington Primary School. He's now 32; looks exactly the same, just a little taller! He looked at everyone and said, "This lady made school fun!" That, my friends, is what makes it all worthwhile.

Be sure to laugh with your students. Regardless of what life hands you; be strong, follow your heart, and always remember your why. Here's to a great year!

# 2021

## *AP Scholars*

Advanced Placement (AP), through the College Board, provides students the opportunity to take college level courses and earn credit at the collegiate level. Of our 57 graduates, 43 or 75% of the class completed one or more Advanced Placement (AP) courses and, additionally, 21 or 37% completed four or more AP courses during their high school career.

After another successful AP testing season, 16 students in the Class of 2021 were recognized as AP Scholars.

The AP Scholar program recognizes students who have met benchmark scores on multiple AP exams taken in the same year. There are four levels of recognition:

- **AP Scholar** status is awarded to students receiving scores of 3 (out of 5) or higher on three or more exams.
- **AP Scholar with Honors** is awarded to students receiving an average score of at least 3.25 on all exams taken and scoring a 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.
- **AP Scholar with Distinction** is awarded to students earning an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and a 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.
- **AP National Scholar** is granted to students in the United States achieving grades of 3 or higher in at least eight full-year AP exams, and whose average AP exam is at least 4.0.

### CLASS OF 2021 AP RECOGNITION

#### AP SCHOLARS WITH DISTINCTION

Lily Blyn  
William Cario  
John-Paul Gordon  
Henry James  
Samuel Quigley

#### AP SCHOLARS WITH HONORS

Kyle Mieczkowski  
MariaFernanda Ortega

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#### AP SCHOLARS

Evan Carlson  
Isabella Guzman  
Kayleigh Hendy  
Maya Jacob  
Mark Kibbe  
Alexa Kotas  
Madeline Maloney  
Sydney Vidal  
Jakob Wild



The Class of 2021 Report shares the successes and achievements of our 57 graduates. The following information highlights the achievement of our students through the support of staff, families and community partners.

### CLASS PROFILE

Total Students:	57
Accepted to Postsecondary Program:	51
Accepted to 4-Year Program:	45
Attend 4-year Institution:	44
Gap Year:	2
Attend 2-year Institution or Technical Institution:	4
Transition Program:	1
Work:	4
Military:	2

The Class of 2021 was presented with approximately \$100,000 in local scholarship awards.

Twenty-eight students from the Class of 2021 received scholarships to assist with education

Shepaug boasts 58% of our graduates attending secondary programs received local scholarships.

### SAMPLING OF INTENDED MAJORS

Two and Four-Year Programs

Acting  
Automotive Engineering  
Aerospace Engineering  
Anthropology  
Biochemistry  
Business  
Business Management  
Chemistry  
Communications  
Computer Science & Engineering  
Construction Management  
Corporate Communications & Information Design  
Cosmetology  
Elementary Education  
Environmental Engineering  
Environmental Science  
Exercise Science  
Film  
Global Studies  
Health Sciences  
International Studies  
Landscape Design  
Marketing  
Mathematics  
Neuroscience  
Nursing  
Political Science  
Pre-Law  
Social Work  
Sports Journalism  
Sports Management  
Veterinary Medicine

# CLASS

## *of 2021 Report*



Kyle Mieczkowski

### Academic Achievement

The Class of 2021 was an inspirational group of assiduous students. Their overall dedication to academics was apparent with an impressive 90% of students accepted to postsecondary education. Shepaug offers honors courses in subjects including art, history, math, language, literature, and science, over 17 college level courses, as well as extracurricular opportunities for students to challenge themselves throughout their academic careers.

This year, Kyle Mieczkowski was named Valedictorian and is attending Trinity College Dublin majoring in Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology and Economics. Lily Blyn was named Salutatorian and is attending Cornell University majoring in Environmental Engineering.



Lily Blyn

### Answering a Call to Citizenship

Despite significant limitations during the Spring of 2020 and much of the 2020-2021 school year due to COVID-19, the Class of 2021 contributed significant community service hours. The graduating class of 57 students contributed just under 3,000 hours of service. Whether volunteering at local art exhibits, elementary schools in the district, or through mission trips to near and far, these Spartans were a selfless, compassionate group of individuals who always looked to give back. This year's Community Service Award recipient, Spencer Herron, accrued over 300 hours of community service.

### Community Service Highlights

- The community service award recipient Spencer Herron, whose service to the local Fire Department contributed over 300 hours.
- Five students completed over 100 hours of service.
- Despite limitations, the Class of 2021 contributed 2,994 hours of community service.



Spencer Herron

### National Merit Scholars

Approximately 1.6 million high school students enter the National Merit Scholarship program each year by taking the PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Exam in October of their junior year of high school. The top 50,000 scorers on the qualifying exam are eligible for awards and the 7,500 students are eligible for National Merit Scholarships.



### National Merit Commended Student

John-Paul Gordon was recognized as a National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist for 2020-2021. Only 16,000 students across the country receive this honor. The celebration was a culmination of hard work and determination.



# CLASS

## *of 2021 Report*

### PROM

The uncertainty of health conditions at the start of the 2020-2021 school year put the Shepaug prom in jeopardy. The town leaders of Bridgewater, Roxbury and Washington decided to sponsor the prom to give back to students who sacrificed social opportunities to support community health. With the support of students, staff, and parents, the 2021 prom became one of the most memorable events of the year.

The evening of May 22nd, seniors and juniors attended prom at Spring Hill Farms in Washington for a night of dancing and celebrating under the stars. A special thank you to local residents, Tim and Stephanie Ingrassia, for their generosity of donating their magnificent outdoor space for the prom venue.



# CLASS

## *of 2021 Report*

### Senior Projects

Senior Project at Shepaug is a year-long culmination of a student's educational experience. Each senior selects his or her own project to create, manage and implement. Using the Shepaug Core Values and Guiding Beliefs, students address real-world issues and concerns in their individual project. Senior Projects have ranged from rescuing animals, constructing a treehouse, creating a cookbook with family heritage recipes, learning programming languages and coding applications, repurposing a Land Rover to a functional camper, creating a photography business and everything in between.

### Senior Projects with Excellence and Distinction

Each year, Shepaug recognizes and awards Excellence and Distinction in Senior Project to students who have demonstrated commitment, diligence, and passion toward their senior project. This year, six award winners were recognized for their project.



**Rachel Andrews**

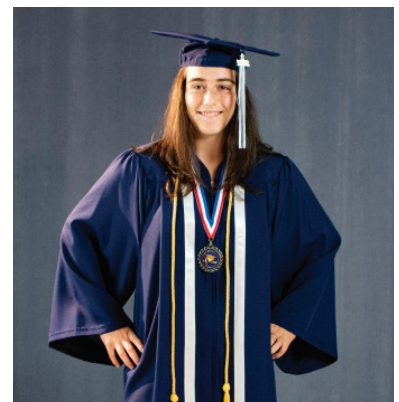
#### *Save the Stray*

Rachel researched what it would take to rescue animals from another country. Throughout the year, she worked with various shelters in Exuma, Bahamas to coordinate this effort. Due to the travel restrictions of COVID, Rachel was not able to travel, but pivoted the focus to fundraising for these animals as well as for local shelters.

**Lily Blyn**

#### *Constructing a Tree House*

Lily completed construction on a treehouse she had framed out in 2017 on her family's farm. Working 20 feet in the air, she installed new siding, windows, and solar-powered amenities, all stabilized by an exterior support "deck" which she adjusted as the project progressed. Additionally, she learned new welding techniques to fabricate the metal ladder needed as a sturdy and stable access feature to the treehouse.





# CLASS

## *of 2021 Report*

### Claire Buckley

#### *Cooking Through My Heritage*

Using the results of a genetic analysis test, Claire learned more about her family's heritage. She then explored the culinary traditions of those cultures which included Italy, Ireland, and Iran. Claire planned and led cooking classes within the agriscience curriculum. She researched and developed criteria for others to evaluate her dishes. Claire also interviewed a professional chef about his journey. Incorporating principles of graphic design and building on her photography skills, she created a cookbook of the recipes she perfected.



### William Cario

#### *Hello World: An Introduction to Coding*

Billy researched programs for beginners like himself to learn code. Billy found an online course that allowed him to be proficient in Python-3 and later HTML coding. Billy used his learning to access a website and pull out search information data. Additionally, Billy provided lessons to share his coding skills with others. Billy now utilizes the skills gained from the senior project as a Computer Science major at UCONN.

### Mark Kibbe

#### *Rover Rebirth - Junkyard Bound to Rolling Camper*

Mark resuscitated a Land Rover, saving it from the junkyard. He modified the vehicle to fit an economically scaled version of a camper. In the process, he learned design, upholstery, cabinetry, wiring, and carpentry skills. He installed a countertop that he cut from soapstone found on his family's property, outfitted the vehicle with basic plumbing, and made sure the lighting and sound were good enough for relaxing getaways. Mark completed the entire project on a shoestring, repurposing as many found materials as possible.



### Sydnie Vidal

#### *The Power of Pictures*

Sydnie turned her love of photography into a viable business. She spent the year researching how to set up a business, creating a website for that business and then taking photos. These photos were primarily portrait photos similar to senior photos. Sydnie also explored different software to edit photos for the best possible pictures.



# SVS Class of 2021 College Acceptances

Kyle Mieczkowski, Valedictorian '21



Trinity College Dublin  
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin

Lily Blyn Salutatorian '21



Cornell University

Rachel Andrews, Class President '21



## College Acceptances



#SHEPAUGPROUD



## Future Education Plans

*\*As of June 11, 2021*

The Counseling Office of Shepaug Valley School is pleased to announce the future educational plans of the Class of 2021. Of the 90% who were accepted to postsecondary programs, 84% will be continuing their formal education in the Fall of 2021.

Academy of Medical Training, Torrington

Barry University

Bentley University

Central Connecticut State University

Clemson University

Colorado State University

Cornell University

Drew University

Drexel University

Eastern Connecticut State University

Elon University

Emmanuel College

Ferris State University

High Point University

James Madison University

Marist College

Military Reserves

Millersville University

Naugatuck Valley Community College

Northwestern Connecticut Community College

Outward Bound Costa Rica

Penn State University

Post University

Rhode Island College

Roger Williams University

Saint Louis University - Madrid

Southern Connecticut State University

St. John's University

Temple University

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Thomas Jefferson University

Toni&Guy Hairdressing Academy

Trinity College Dublin

United States Army

University of Denver



# CLASS

*of 2021 Report*

## Senior Scholarship Recipients

### AMERICAN LEGION EDWARD WEEKS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Samantha Williams

### AMERICAN LEGION GAGE-ZUMPF POST 87 SCHOLARSHIP

Rachel Andrews, Brooke Donaghey,  
Abigail Harty, Brooke Mercier

### BRIAN SWANSON TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP

Owen Hibbard

### BRIDGEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP

Sierra Wilson (Nonnewaug Ellis Clark Regional  
Agriscience Program)

### BRIDGEWATER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Bram Gattie, Isabella Guzman,  
Kayleigh Hendy, Maya Jacob

### BRIDGEWATER WOMEN'S AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIP

Kayleigh Hendy, Sierra Wilson (Nonnewaug Ellis  
Clark Regional Agriscience Program)

### BURNHAM SCHOOL PTO GIFT

Kayleigh Hendy

### C. HUGH P. SILK MEMORIAL ROTARY CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

Brooke Donaghey, Brooke Mercier

### CABOT SCHOLARSHIP

Rachel Andrews, Brooke Mercier, MariaFernanda  
Ortega, Joanna Pardo, Michael Perachi

### CHRIS SWANSON TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP

Betty Mark

### COLONEL JAMES J. HULL SCHOLARSHIP

Michael Perachi

### DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION EVELYN BLAKE MILES SCHOLARSHIP

Samantha Williams

### EUGENE M. HERRIGAN SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE GENTLENESS OF SPIRIT

Samantha Williams

### KEN CORNET MEMORIAL ARTS SCHOLARSHIP

Adriana Barile, Sydnie Vidal

### LIONS CLUB OF WASHINGTON SCHOLARSHIP

Rachel Andrews, Brooke Mercier  
Michael Perachi, Samantha Williams

### LITCHFIELD BANCORP SCHOLARSHIP

Emma VandenBosch

### LITCHFIELD CREATING HOPE SCHOLARSHIP

Trinity Williamson

### WASHINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL MARY ANNE ERICHSEN / NATIONAL IRON BANK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Sydnie Vidal

### NEW PRESTON WOMEN'S CLUB JACKSON AVERILL SCHOLARSHIP

Trinity Williamson

### PERSBACKER SCHOLARSHIP

(part of CT Community Foundation)

Sierra Wilson (Nonnewaug Ellis Clark Regional  
Agriscience Program)

### PREVENTION COUNCIL OF BRIDGEWATER, ROXBURY AND WASHINGTON

Brooke Mercier  
Abigail Harty

### ROBERT J. BENHAM SCHOLARSHIP

Michael Perachi

### ROBERT AND GEORGIANNA MIDDLEBROOK WASHINGTON ART SCHOLARSHIP

Adriana Barile

### ROSEMARY ERMINI KINDNESS TO OTHERS AWARD

Isabella Guzman

### ROXBURY ROAD RUNNERS AWARD

Samuel Quigley, Sydnie Vidal

### ROXBURY-BRIDGEWATER GARDEN CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

Sydnie Vidal



# CLASS

## *of 2021 Report*

### ROXBURY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

**Denise Dooley Lauriat Scholarship**  
Eilish Crossley

**Gertrude E. Lingsch Scholarship**  
Abigail Harty

**James L. Weaver and Mary Rant Weaver Scholarship**  
Jillian Cody

**Jerry Digioia Scholarship**  
Anna Sprong

**Joseph Thomas Awlasewicz Scholarship**  
Katherine Hodge

**Judge Mildred A. Erwin Scholarship**  
Eilish Crossley

**Norman Shidle Scholarship**  
Ava Adiletti

**Rejean and Maurice W. Metzler, JR. Scholarship**  
Adriana Barile, William Cario

**Roxbury Scholarship Fund**  
Eilish Crossley, Sydnie Vidal

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### SHEPAUG VALLEY SCHOOL PTO SCHOLARSHIP

Claire Buckley, Brooke Donaghey,  
Samuel Quigley

### SHEPAUG VALLEY SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP

Abigail Harty

### SHEREE WILLIAMS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Bram Gattie

### TAM FARROW MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Katherine Hodge

### TYLER HARRIGAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Brooke Donaghey, Michael Perachi

### WASHINGTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

Samantha Williams

### WASHINGTON SCHOLARSHIP FUND SCHOLARSHIPS

Cazden Brenner, Cole Davenport,  
Brooke Mercier, MariaFernanda Ortega,  
Joanna Pardo, Michael Perachi

### WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AWARD

Rachel Andrews, Samantha Williams



# ALUMNI

## Association News

### Landegren Alumni Update



#### Mia Landegren '13

Mia graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communication from the University of Alabama where she received an athletic scholarship for golf. She turned professional in 2017 and has been playing on the Symetra/LPGA tour the past four years. She is currently living in Scottsdale, AZ. Mia writes, "Being a professional athlete and playing golf for one of the top universities in the country taught me how to manage my life, goals, and priorities under pressure. Being an athlete has made me a better person not only on an athletic spectrum but in my day-to-day life. My life is centered by clear tangible goals. Regardless of how I execute them I reevaluate everything from a non-biased perspective to make

the next day even better. Having a mindset like this has been something I encourage everyone to try. Whether it's in sports, academics or just life, I think it sets a great foundation for success!"

#### Hanna Landegren '13

Hanna received a Bachelor's degree in International Economics from Jonkoping University in Sweden and a Master's degree in Behavioral Economics while studying in The Netherlands. She is currently living in Stockholm, Sweden and working as a senior business controller at the H&M group. Hanna writes, "Taking the opportunity to study abroad has changed my life for the better. I have been lucky enough to study and work in countries like Sweden, China, Spain, and The Netherlands and I encourage everyone to take the opportunity to go abroad - you will not regret it." Favorite quote: "The best way to predict your future is to create it" -- Abraham Lincoln



#### Emma Landegren '13

Emma graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Fashion Design and Production with a minor in Fashion Communication and Promotion from Lasell College in Newton, MA. She is currently working toward a Master's degree in Textile Value Chain Management at the University of Borås in Borås, Sweden. Emma writes, "After my studies at Lasell, and a study abroad in Florence, Italy, I moved to Copenhagen to pursue fashion. There I have worked for companies like Designers Remix and Anne Sofie Madsen as a design intern. I have since moved to Stockholm where I worked at Gant and most recently Nordiska Kompaniet in retail. I became inspired during the pandemic to go back to school and get my master's

degree, and encourage those questioning their future to take advantage of any opportunity to learn and challenge yourself."

#### Joe Wiles '77

Joe retired after 30+ years at General Electric (GE) Capital. He was a former member of the Shepaug baseball team for four years and the National Honor Society. Joe is enjoying pickleball and golf in Palm Beach Gardens, FL.

#### Meghan (Gilmore) Neri '98

Meghan is the parent of two children with food allergies. This journey led her to start a local food allergy support group nearly five years ago. SAFE (South Shore Allergy Families Educating) is recognized by FARE (Food Allergy Research & Education), allowing SAFE to be able to apply for community outreach awards. SAFE was granted an award this year and teamed up with Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Lisa B. Rosenberg, M.Ed., MSW, LCSW, CSSW, to offer a series of fall workshops about navigating the behavioral health aspects of food allergy. Thanks to the increase in virtual experiences, this opportunity is available to people regardless of their location.

# ALUMNI

## Association News

### *70's Decades Alumni Event*

The Class of 1975 has consistently held their reunions every five years, until last year when COVID caused a postponement. In 2021, the 70's decade group held a very special Shepaug event, a reunion! The weekend kicked off with a dinner dance on Saturday and a decade picnic on Sunday with families from the classes of 1970-1983 and included several Washington High School alumni from the 60's as well as 10 teachers that came as guests! In all, over 200 attended this fabulous event. A special thank you to Fenner Brownell for organizing classes to come together. Another reunion picnic is already being planned for Fall of 2025. For more information, contact Fenner Brownell at [svhs2015reunion@yahoo.com](mailto:svhs2015reunion@yahoo.com).



### **Callie (Larson) '07 and Will Curnan '09**

Callie and Will currently reside in Bridgewater with their two girls, Hayden and Ryland. Future Spartans, Hayden is in kindergarten at Booth Free School and Ryland attends preschool at Peter Pratt Nature School in New Milford. Will has been working as a cabinetmaker since his graduation from University of Maine in 2013. He recently became a business partner at Nichols Woodworking in Washington Depot where they specialize in custom cabinetry and fine furniture. He is excited for the opportunity to have full ownership of his business focused on quality and craftsmanship. In the coming year he is looking forward to designing and building fine cabinetry for homeowners within our Region 12 community and beyond. Callie graduated from University of Maine in 2013 with a Master's degree in Speech and Language Pathology. Since 2013, she has been working as a Speech and Language Pathologist with grades K-5 at Pomperaug Elementary School. She feels very fortunate to work in a field she is passionate about and is grateful to be able to share the power and gift of communication with children and their families.

### **Jenna Williams '17**

Jenna graduated from Western Connecticut State University with a degree in elementary education. She was born and raised in Washington and knew at a young age that she wanted to be a teacher. Jenna writes, "I am very excited for the opportunity to work at Booth Free School as a Literacy Tutor because it's a great way to start my career, and because it's in a community that I already know and love. Teaching has always been a passion of mine." Jenna also works at Washington After School Program.



### **Sarah Kelly '09**

Sarah is a vice president on the marketing team at Marketing & Investor Relations, OrbiMed Advisors LLC. Prior to joining OrbiMed, Sarah was a vice president in the Capital Formation Group at Fortress Investment Group where she focused on investor relations and capital raising for their private credit funds. Previously, Sarah was an analyst on the portfolio advisory team at Aksia LLC. Sarah holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Villanova University.

### **Ty Barr '99**

Ty is married with two children and has resided in Washington for eight years. Ty's two daughters are following in his footsteps as they begin their education at Washington Primary School.

## **Shepaug Alumni Association**

Our Mission is to reach, serve and engage alumni and their families; to foster connections between the school and its graduates, and to provide Shepaug with goodwill and support. Contact Scott Werkhoven or Michael Boucher, Alumni Coordinators, via email at [SVSAlumni@region-12.org](mailto:SVSAlumni@region-12.org) to join our mailing list.

Follow Shepaug Valley School Alumni on Facebook.





## Meet Our Shepaug Principal

### Donald Schels

Donald Schels is very excited to join the Region 12 community as Shepaug's new principal. After studying history, law, American studies and education policy, he hopes to blend these disciplines into the foundation for his current position. Mr. Schels practiced law in New Jersey for eight years, focusing on civil and commercial litigation. Moving to Connecticut in 1998 served as an opportunity for introspection, drawing him into the field of education. He taught history for five years at Danbury High School, then at Wilton High School for eight years before becoming the assistant principal at Wilton High School in 2013 and later the associate principal in 2016. Admiring Region 12's reputation for intellect and compassion, which he calls a "winning combination", touring the campus with its wonderful vistas, facilities, teachers and students, sealed his decision to lead Shepaug Valley School. Mr. Schels lives in Newtown. His stepson, Tyler, lives in Vermont, and his daughter, Kaitlyn, is a senior at the University of Vermont. His hobbies include gardening, cooking, reading, watching movies, playing tennis, jogging and hiking. Mr. Schels was a classical trumpet player up through graduate school, when someone finally told him the Philharmonic would never be in the cards. Mr. Schels jokes and shares that someone encouraged him to make a lamp out of his trumpet. He assures Shepaug he wants to be its "listener in chief," asking everyone to "tell me more."

## Planetarium

Starting January 2022, the Shepaug planetarium will be opened at the same site as the original location but the experience will be completely different. Region 12 has purchased a state-of-the-art Digistar projection system featuring a digital theatre platform capable of transporting the audience through 3D, ultra high-definition maps of the universe.



- Digistar facilitates content sharing with a vast network of planetariums around the globe including cutting edge astronomy labs such as the Griffith Observatory, Adler Planetarium, U.S. Air Force Academy, and the Denver Museum of Nature & Science.
- The platform features an intuitive "free flight" control system which allows 'pilots' to use a game controller to navigate the audience through galaxies at the speed of light.
- The Digistar Astronomy Atlas will be capable of displaying interstellar visualizations such as black hole renderings, the creation of a star, or the ability to tour planets inside and far outside our solar system.

## Science Labs

Shepaug's renovated science labs offer a space capable of seating an increased number of students as well as plenty of room to conduct laboratory tests.



- Two of the four newly constructed labs are designed with fume hoods capable of local ventilation for fumes, vapors and dust.
- Ceiling mounted 360 degree cameras create a virtual environment for students to view, record and experience the entire classroom space from the web.
- The labs come complete with gas supply lines that can connect to Bunsen burners which will allow students to safely conduct experiments using an open flame.



# CLASS

## *of 2021 Report*

### 2020/2021 Connecticut Association of Schools Art Awards

The Connecticut Association of Schools annually honors two outstanding seniors from each of the member schools in the state who excel in the performing or visual arts. Students are chosen by their teachers and must possess the qualities of scholarship, leadership, and most importantly, must excel in one or more of the performing or visual arts.

Visual Arts  
*Sydney Vidal '21*

Performing Arts  
*Wyatt King '22*

### Congratulations Shepaug Valley School Dramatics

The Annual High School Halo Awards honors high school students' achievements in all aspects of theatre. Over 80 high schools from across the State of Connecticut participated in the 18th Annual Halo Awards in 2020/2021. The red carpet award gala was held virtually over three evenings on a Youtube livestream created by The Seven Angels Theatre in Waterbury.

### HALO Award Winners For 'The Fall of 2020' & 'Edges'

Best Original Play  
*The Fall of 2020*

Best Male Standout Performance In An Original Play  
*Tyler White '21 - The Fall of 2020*

Best Male Standout Performance In An Ensemble Musical  
*Henry James '21 - Edges*

### HALO Award Nominations 'The Fall of 2020' & 'Edges'

Best Comic Female Performance In A Musical  
*Grace Coutu '23 in Edges*

Best Sound Design And/Or Execution  
*Erik Lindblom '21 for The Fall of 2020*  
*Erik Lindblom '21 & James Wise '22 for Edges*

Best Stage Management  
*Thomas Day '23 For Edges*

Best Incidental Or Original Music In A Play  
*James Wise '22 For Edges*

Special Award/Recognition-Student Director  
*Wyatt King '22 for The Fall Of 2020*

Best Male Standout Performance In An Original Play  
*Tyler White '21 in The Fall Of 2020*

Best Female Standout Performance In An Original Play  
*Isabella Guzman '21 in The Fall Of 2020*

Best Performance By The Cast In An Ensemble Musical  
*Edges*

Best Male Standout Performance  
In An Ensemble Musical  
*Henry James '21 in Edges*

Best Female Standout Performance  
In An Ensemble Musical  
*Maria Strattner '23 in Edges*

Fearless Award  
*Edges*

Best Original Play  
*The Fall Of 2020*

Best Musical  
*Edges*

Best Performance By The Cast In An Original Play  
*The Fall Of 2020*



## ATHLETICS

### CAS SCHOLAR ATHLETES

Samuel Quigley '21  
Sydney Vidal '21

### BERKSHIRE LEAGUE SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARD WINNERS

#### FIELD HOCKEY

Haylie Lasky '21  
Taylor Giroux '22  
Zoe Soletsky '24

#### CROSS COUNTRY

Eilish Foy '22  
Mary Katherine Eddy '23  
Faith Bargellini '24  
Samuel Quigley '21

#### SOCCER

Billy Cario '21  
Janelle Frankland '22  
Phillip Ostrosky '23  
Sydney Vidal '21  
Kip Faison '24  
Jessica Kisling '22  
Abigail Hendy '24  
Amanda Hodge '24  
Marie Sprong '24

#### WINTER

#### BASKETBALL

Marie Sprong '24  
Janelle Frankland '22  
Marissa Perachi '22  
Brooke Donaghey '21

#### CHEERLEADING

Eilish Foy '22

#### SWIMMING

Jessica Kisling '22  
Nicholas Adiletti '24  
Faith Bargellini '24  
Michael Campanella '24  
Amanda Hodge '24

#### INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

Sydney Vidal '21  
Billy Cario '21  
Grace Crispino '22  
Evan Woerner '22  
Mary Katherine Eddy '23

#### TENNIS

Sydney Vidal '21  
Luis Missana '22  
Janelle Frankland '22  
Charles Vanden Bosch '23  
Taylor Giroux '22  
Kip Faison '24  
Sofia Missana '22  
Mary Katherine Eddy '23

#### TRACK & FIELD

Eilish Foy '22  
Evan Woerner '22  
Abigail Stinson '23  
Frederick Matthis '24  
Faith Bargellini '24  
Claire Kersten '24  
Marie Sprong '24

#### SOFTBALL

Haylie Lasky '21  
Teigan DaCunha '22  
Marissa Perachi '22  
Kate Mieczkowski '23

#### BASEBALL

Billy Cario '21  
Luke Schneider '22

### 2020-21 ALL-STATE

#### CROSS COUNTRY

Eilish Foy '22

#### FIELD HOCKEY

Haylie Lasky '21  
Brooke Mercier '21

#### BASKETBALL

Brooke Donaghey '21  
Owen Hibbard '21

#### SWIMMING & DIVING

Giacomo Colangelo '22

### 2020-21 ACADEMIC ALL-STATE

#### FIELD HOCKEY

Haylie Lasky '21

#### BASKETBALL

Brooke Donaghey '21  
Owen Hibbard '21

### 2020-21 FIRST TEAM BERKSHIRE LEAGUE ALL-STARS

#### CROSS COUNTRY

Eilish Foy '21

#### SOCCER

Eilish Crossley '21

#### FIELD HOCKEY

Haylie Lasky '21  
Brooke Mercier '21  
Brooke Fredericks '21  
Grace Crispino '22

#### BASKETBALL

Brooke Donaghey '21  
Owen Hibbard '21  
Michael Perachi '21

#### SWIMMING & DIVING

Ava Adiletti '21  
Jessica Kisling '22  
Emma Perun '23  
Faith Bargellini '24

#### SOFTBALL

Sophia Granata '23

#### BASEBALL

Owen Hibbard '21

#### TENNIS

Lane Faison '22

### BERKSHIRE LEAGUE SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

#### Boys Basketball

#### CHARLES MCGINNIS AWARD

Owen Hibbard '21

#### JOSEPH BABCOCK AWARD

Brooke Donaghey '21



## Reach out to us!

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