REGION 12 SCHOOLS

Class of 2024 Report



Empowering All Learners to Achieve Their Greatest Potential

Fall 2024

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Region 12 Community,

As we reflect on the months since 77 seniors walked the stage at Shepaug Valley School last June, the memories of that day still fill us with pride. The graduates of the Class of 2024 celebrated not just an ending, but a powerful new beginning as they concluded their journeys in the Region 12 school system. In her role as Class President, Faith Bargellini quoted Einstein, "Learn from yesterday. Live for today. Hope for tomorrow." In her valedictory address later in the program, she beautifully captured the essence of her classmates, sharing unique and heartfelt memories of each of her peers. Her words were a testament to the deep connections our students build and the sense of community they fostered throughout their time with us.

The Class of 2024 made us proud long before graduation day. Their passion for learning, dedication to service, and commitment to excellence were evident in so many ways. This class demonstrated the true spirit of community service, collectively dedicating hundreds of hours to various initiatives. Our agriscience students, for example, pursued meaningful projects on local farms, in equestrian sciences, and in horticulture, often working with community experts to advance their skills and knowledge. Our graduates also showcased their athleticism, their artistry, and their musical ability through competitions, evening events, and Board of Education presentations.

Academically, our graduates showed remarkable dedication and received recognition for their achievements. 40% of our student-graduates attending secondary programs received local scholarship awards totaling $198,000. Approximately 56 graduates were accepted into 4-year institutions with others attending 2-year programs or technical institutions. Graduates of the Class of 2024 were accepted into respected institutions across the nation, including Georgia Institute of Technology, Marist, Michigan State, Northeastern, Purdue, Quinnipiac, University of Rhode Island, Roger Williams, University of South Carolina, Tufts, UConn, Villanova, Washington University - showcasing the diverse and ambitious career aspirations of the class.

As educators and leaders in Region 12, we also recognize the essential role that families, staff, and our community play in nurturing and supporting our students' success from their earliest years. The towns of Bridgewater, Roxbury, and Washington have been steadfast in their support, and this commitment has enriched our programs. From traditional academics to our agriscience offerings, the support of our communities has enabled us to provide new opportunities for our students. This support, as well as the innovative paths we have created, ensures that every student has access to meaningful experiences that shape their futures.

As you read this publication in honor of the Class of 2024, we hope you share in our pride and excitement for each of these remarkable young people. Their perseverance, scholarship, and kindness have left an indelible mark on our community, and we look forward to celebrating their future successes. The strength, character, and talent of the Class of 2024 give us every reason to be hopeful for what lies ahead.

As Maya Angelou once said, "*We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty.*" Our graduates have transformed through learning, growth, and resilience, and we are filled with pride as they take flight into their futures.

Respectfully,

Lorrie Rodrigue

Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue
Interim Superintendent

TEACHER OF THE YEAR



David Morgan delivered the following speech at Convocation in August.

"I stand before you very humbled. Being named teacher of the year is an honor I never anticipated, never sought out, and never thought would land in the lap of a specials teacher. I'm not sure everyone knows this but I'm at EVERY elementary school. I have the opportunity to teach alongside every elementary school teacher. Seeing so many talented teachers on a daily basis leaves a part of me a bit uneasy with this award. I see what you do. I know how much effort and time you give to this profession. I hope you know that this recognition bestowed upon me is really a testament to the shared journey we have taken together as we do our best to connect with our students.

To the nomination committee, thank you for shining a light on the specials' programs. Art and music are critical to the overall development of a child. Fine motor skills, enhanced language abilities, vocabulary development, self-expression, and creativity are developed here. Physical Education is a critical component to improving alertness, concentration, and overall brain health (brain cells are built with exercise). Outside of the health and fitness benefits to regular PE, I feel that PE provides one of the best learning environments for teamwork, cooperation, and winning/losing with character. All important life skills.

Our classes don't look like everyone else's, but they shouldn't look like everyone else's. It's important to KEEP SPECIALS, SPECIAL. For some kids, the different setting, the different learning targets, is the one thing they might need on that particular day.

This is my 27th year teaching physical education. I have stood in front of thousands of children over the years. This past summer I knew I had to prepare some words that I could share. I spent more time than usual reflecting on what I value in an educator and what I try to do to connect with our students.

First, I sell them. The first days/weeks of school I am selling PE. "This will be your favorite class of school!" "This will be the best part of your week!" "I will be one of your favorite teachers!" Then I tell them that PE is the most important class they will ever have. Now, I get it, there are probably a few people here thinking, what is this guy talking about, but I believe it. I talk about health being their most valued commodity. I sell lifelong fitness and wellness as something attainable if we start now. Someone healthy can pursue any type of profession. Now it doesn't matter what your specialty is – I hope you believe what you do is important. I hope you sell your program to your students. I will admit, I have a pretty easy sell to most 6-7 year olds...you're gonna get to run, skip, hop, jump, chase, throw stuff, catch things, kick things, balance things, and so on. But the bottom line is I believe it and I do my best to make them believe it too.

After selling my class, it's all about building relationships. Building relationships comes first. The PE content comes second or third. It's always about building relationships. Connections before content. This is challenging with the limited time I have at each school. I look for opportunities to talk with students. I catch them at car drop off, walking through the halls, I pop into lunch or recess. Now when I do get that moment to talk with my students, here are a few things I do: I talk to them about non-school related subjects. "What did you eat for breakfast", "Did you get to play with your dog last night?", "How did your team do in their last game." There will always be time in the class period to talk about the PE content. I also build relationships by sharing things from my life. Often embarrassing, sometimes funny, hopefully slightly inspiring. My students know about my kids, my dogs, what I like to eat. They know about my unhealthy passion for the Dallas Cowboys.

I build relationships by doing fun things...act super silly, talk in a different voice, try out your latest dad joke, tell a story that you embellish just a bit too much. (Sidenote- my apologies to my former Principal Cathy Colella, who was fielding parent phone calls about the inground pool that I had built that was hidden under the stage at Booth Free School and could only be accessed by a Harry Potter type key.) But that's for another time.

I build relationships by letting students guide what we do. Last year was the first year we did a lesson on fencing. It's not because I know anything about fencing...but I had two students that did. Every kid got a pool noodle and we learned stance, striking form, and how to score a point. It was a big day for those two students that maybe don't normally stand out in PE Class. And teaching in a district with a strong interest in Agstem. Did you know the same tag game that I once called partner tag will soon become "horse tag." Same game, same rules but slap a horse into it and it becomes their favorite all time activity.

Last thing on building relationships, and this isn't something you can fake, because the kids know it. You have to...love...kids. Have to love kids. You hopefully got into this profession because you felt something that spoke to this. That doesn't mean you can't ever be upset, angry, sad, or frustrated. Lord knows I have all those feelings and I have shared them with many of you sitting here. Bottom line, you have to love kids.

Let me conclude today by stating that we all share an incredible privilege; we share in shaping the future through education. Our profession is not just a job but a calling—a calling to inspire, to empower, and to ignite the potential within each and every student who crosses our paths.

As we look ahead to the challenges and opportunities that await us in the coming year, let us carry forward the spirit of collaboration and camaraderie that defines our community. Together, we are stronger. Together, we can innovate, adapt, and create learning environments that keep Region 12 an elite school district. Thank you. And have a great year!"

Class of 2024 PROFILE



77

Graduates from

Bethel
Bridgewater
Brookfield
Danbury
New Fairfield
New Milford
Newtown
Roxbury
Sherman
Washington



Presented with

$198,000+

Local Scholarship Awards

70	Accepted to Postsecondary Program
61	Accepted to 4-Year Program
56	Attend 4-Year Institution
1	Gap Year
6	Attend 2-Year Institution or Technical Institution
5	Attend 2 year with transfer to 4 year
6	Employment
3	Transition



33

Students received scholarships to assist with education



40%

Of graduates attending secondary programs received local scholarships

ACCREDITED BY NEASC NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

INTENDED MAJORS

Adventure Education
Agricultural Business & Management
Agricultural Studies
Allied Health
Animal Science
Applied Mathematics
Art History
Biochemistry
Biology
Biomedical Engineering
Business Management
Business
Cognitive Science
Collision Repair
Computer Science
Conservation Law
Construction
Cyber Security
Creative Writing
Criminal Justice
Culinary Arts
Dance
Design
Diesel Mechanic
Drug & Alcohol Counseling
Economics
Engineering
English
Environmental Studies
Event Planning
Exercise Science
Fashion Marketing
Finance
Financial Management
Forestry
General Studies
Graphic Design
Health Science
History
International Relations
Journalism
Law
Mechanical Engineering
Mechanics
Music & Sound Recording
Music Studies
Natural Resources & Conservation
Nursing
Pharmacy
Physician Assistant
Physics
Pre-Vet
Psychology
Science
Screenwriting
Sports Management
Veterinary Technician

2024 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 77 graduates, 61% of the class completed one or more Advanced Placement (AP) courses and, additionally, 38% completed two or more AP courses during their high school career.

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.

After another successful AP testing season, 13 students in the Class of 2024 were recognized as AP Scholars.

AP.CollegeBoard.org

AP SCHOLARS

AP Scholar status is awarded to students receiving scores of 3 (out of 5) or higher on three or more exams.


Annabelle Churyk


Elliot Krebs


Frederick Matthis


Luca Tammaro

AP SCHOLARS WITH HONORS

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.


Myles Gronbach


Sophie Tibbatts

AP SCHOLARS WITH DISTINCTION

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.


Faith Bargellini

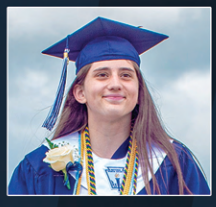

Alice Blyn


Kip Faison


Sarah Jermansen


Grey Pomeroy


Zoe Soletsky


Marie Sprong

Academic Achievement

Recognizing Outstanding Scholars and Their Contributions

At Shepaug, we are proud to offer a robust curriculum that includes over 20 honors courses across all subjects, such as agriscience, art, history, language, literature, music, and science. Additionally, students can choose from over 17 college-level courses, allowing them to challenge themselves academically. Extracurricular opportunities abound, providing students with the chance to explore their interests, develop leadership skills, and engage with their communities throughout their high school experience.



Faith Bargellini, The Class of '24 Valedictorian



Annabelle Churyk, The Class of '24 Salutatorian

This year, we celebrate Faith Bargellini, who was named Valedictorian and will be attending Georgia Institute of Technology as a pre-med student and presidential scholar. Her achievements reflect the commitment and hard work that define the Class of 2024. We also recognize Annabelle Churyk, our Salutatorian, who will be furthering her education at the University of Connecticut. Their accomplishments inspire us all and set a high standard for future classes.

Reflecting on their academic journey at Shepaug, we recognize the invaluable memories and friendships they have formed, and we are eager to witness the notable paths they will explore and the significant legacies they will establish.

Answering a Call to Citizenship



Arthur-John Conrad, Community Service Award Recipient

The Class of 2024 contributed significant community service hours, demonstrating their commitment to making a difference in the lives of others. This graduating class, comprised of 77 students, collectively dedicated an impressive 4,218 hours to various service projects and initiatives. This remarkable contribution reflects not only the dedication and compassion of the students toward their community but also their understanding of the importance of giving back and supporting those in need.

This year's community service recipient, Arthur-John Conrad, stands out for his exceptional commitment, having accrued over 270 hours of service throughout his time at Shepaug. His efforts in helping others showcase the spirit of altruism that permeates our student body. Arthur-John's dedication, along with the collective contributions of his classmates, highlights the positive impact that young individuals can make when they come together to serve. Their collective efforts illustrate the profound effects of service on the community and encourage fellow students to engage in similar initiatives.

Community Service Highlights

- The Community Service Award recipient, Arthur-John Conrad whose volunteer hours were spent as a counselor in training at the ***Pratt Nature Center*** where he worked with elementary aged school children
- 30% of students completed over 50 hours of service
- The Class of 2024 contributed 4,218 hours of community service

Future Education Plans

The Class of 2024 was a diverse group of hard working students with 91% accepted to postsecondary institutions. Faith Bargellini was named Valedictorian and is attending Georgia Institute of Technology as a pre-med student and presidential scholar. Annabelle Churyk was named Salutatorian and is attending University of Connecticut.

VALEDICTORIAN
Faith Bargellini

SALUTATORIAN
Annabelle Churyk



Senior Projects with Distinction

Senior Project serves as the culmination of the Shepaug Experience. At the beginning of senior year, each student identifies a challenging project and develops and implements a plan to achieve a specific goal. Students defend their work in a public presentation, demonstrating their skills and knowledge, and tying those to the Shepaug Core Values and Guiding Beliefs. Each year, Shepaug recognizes and awards Distinction to students who demonstrated strong commitment, diligence, and passion in completing their project. They left no stone unturned in their exploration, discovery, and execution. In 2024, we recognize six seniors.



Phia Ledbetter - Putting a Pin in Waste

Phia used her project to take a stand against the fast fashion industry. Phia learned sewing and design skills, starting from the basics and moving into complex projects. Phia found items in thrift stores, giving them new life and saving them from landfills. Phia consistently challenged herself with new fabrics, new techniques, and new equipment. She pursued practical use items and explored conceptual dimensions of fashion (e.g., a skirt made from an old fur coat). She made her prom dress from clothing she repurposed, complete with a hand-made hoop skirt. Her Technical Advisor praised Phia's "astonishing" work output and smart, effective experimentation. Additionally, Phia taught workshops at Shepaug to help others make use of these life skills and reduce their dependence on the fast fashion industry.

Annabelle Churyk - Building a Bird-Friendly Washington

Annabelle's Senior Project focused on making the town of Washington a more bird-friendly place. She designed, constructed, and put up three different types of birdhouses targeted to help specific species. She also researched, purchased, and planted plants that will help birds either as a food source or as shelter. To spread awareness and appreciation of the bird species that we have in Washington, she made an Instagram page and posted weekly with her own pictures of birds and her research. Additionally, she created a book about 20 unique bird species found in Washington, a copy of which was donated to the Shepaug Library.





Elliot Krebs - The Art of Meditation

Elliot introduced the art of meditation into the Shepaug community, while also conducting research on the benefits of meditating. Throughout the year, Elliot hosted 14 classes at Shepaug. Five of the classes were after school at Shepaug; three instructed by Elliot, with an additional two instructed by experts. Nine classes were during school hours taught by Elliot: two with the middle school Meditation Club, two with high school health classes, and five during Spartan Periods. Elliot attended more than 20 of meditation classes at the Woodbury Yoga Center that provided him with foundational knowledge on meditation. Through his project, Elliot learned about a variety of meditation techniques, the interactions of different aspects of meditation on the body, along with various physiological and psychological effects correlated with a meditation practice.

The Major Stephen Reich Award



Major Stephen Reich, a Shepaug Valley High School alumnus and native of Washington, Connecticut, dedicated his life to serving his country. After graduating in 1989 and attending the United States Military Academy at West Point, he became a highly respected Army officer.

Tragically, in 2005, Reich was killed while leading a rescue mission in Afghanistan, piloting a Chinook helicopter shot down during an attempt to save fellow soldiers. To honor his legacy of bravery, leadership, and service, the Stephen Reich Memorial Award was established.

This award celebrates individuals in the Shepaug and Washington community who embody the values Reich demonstrated throughout his life: selflessness, leadership, and a commitment to helping others.

Sarah Jermansen - Empowering Action Against Overdose



Sarah's interest in the medical field, scientific research, and community service inspired her to investigate how Schedule I and Schedule II drugs chemically and anatomically affect the body. Sarah educated herself and her peers on how to reverse an overdose by administering NARCAN. She created 5 informational drug posters on oxycodone, heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, and methamphetamines with information about help available from various organizations. Sarah was an active member on the Prevention Council, and created a Developmental Relationships video to target concerns expressed by her peers in the course of her research. Sarah completed a "Training for Trainers" NARCAN course and taught a health class about the stigmas of addiction.



Faith Bargellini - Creating a Functional Prosthetic

Faith spent her year creating a functional 3D printed model of a human hand. She has learned the fundamentals of 3D printing, how to use technical components, coding basics, and soldering wiring. Throughout the year, she has researched the anatomy and physiology of fine motor dexterity disabilities, the history of prosthetics, and has interviewed two experts within biomedical engineering. Finally, to showcase the knowledge and skills she has learned, Faith made several tutorial videos on the technology of her project, topics ranging from how to use flex sensors to soldering techniques, alongside the creation of her final hand model.

Kip Faison - Optimizing Health Through Data



Kip's project was about health and nutrition. He conducted a review of scientific literature on diet, nutrition, sleep, and drug use down to the cellular level. He drew from 65 research studies and scholarly articles to produce a 29-page paper. Kip secured funding for a VO2Max test and other indicators of his holistic health. Subsequently, he performed advanced statistical analyses on the test data to learn more about how his overall fitness compared to his targets. He learned he has the biological age of a 12-year old, which made us chuckle initially, but he just might outlive everyone here at this rate. Finally, Kip created a protocol for an optimally healthy lifestyle. Three participants–Kip, Mr. Spear, and Mr. Conway–monitored their diets, hydration, and sleep, and got a set amount of exercise, for one month. Throughout the project, Kip held himself and his work output to the highest intellectual standards.



Claire Kersten, a senior at Shepaug Valley High School, was honored with the Stephen Reich Memorial Award for Exceptional Citizenship. This award recognized her outstanding leadership, commitment to service, and dedication to the school and community.

Throughout her high school career, Claire exemplified the values of the award through her involvement and positive influence on her peers. The award, given in memory of Major Stephen Reich, celebrates individuals who embodied his legacy of selflessness and service, making Claire a deserving recipient of this prestigious honor.

Claire Kersten receives the 2024 Stephen Reich Memorial Award from Major Reich's sister, Megan, and Scott Werkhoven, a close friend of Major Reich and a Shepaug teacher.

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.

Grey Pomeroy has been a standout in the Shepaug art program since middle school. A creative and technically talented artist, Grey has a strong personal style and observes the unusual beauty in our world. Grey has been recognized with numerous art awards from the prestigious American Vision Award to Scholastic Gold Keys, the ASAP! Celebration of Young Writers awards, as well as the ASAP! Celebration of Young Photographer awards. Grey's AP Portfolio focuses on mental health and how artists portray abstract moods. Grey's senior project also delves into art through the illustration of assorted insects and the organization and creation of specimen shadow boxes. In addition to the visual arts, Grey also has been a Stage Manager for Shepaug Dramatics. Grey plans to go into Art Studies at Northwestern Community College to complete his Associates degree, with the hopes of furthering his degrees in Art History.





Mia Melatti has been a member of the chorus at Shepaug for the past 7 years at Shepaug. Mia has been a valuable student leader for the past 4 years in High School Chorus. As a talented Soprano, Mia leads her section with confidence and gentle guidance when needed. Mia is also the Tri-M President and has led the organization in community events over the past two years. She is a clear advocate of music in our schools and her peers respect her passion in this role. Mia has also been a huge part of Shepaug Dramatics over the past four years. She has displayed amazing prowess on stage as an actress in plays and musicals. Mia's devotion and commitment to music and theater arts at Shepaug has been a joy to witness. Mia's future beyond the doors of Shepaug is sure to be bright with the multiple talents she will carry on to her next adventures in music and life! Congratulations Mia!

SHEPAUG VALLEY SCHOOL DRAMATICS

HALO AWARDS **Nominations**



BEST SOUND DESIGN AND/OR EXECUTION
Isabelle Easley for *The Canterville Ghost*

BEST STAGE MANAGEMENT
Grey Pomeroy for *The Canterville Ghost*

BEST MALE STANDOUT PERFORMANCE IN AN ENSEMBLE PRODUCTION
Madox Wodjenski as Lord Canterville in *The Canterville Ghost*

BEST PERFORMANCE BY A LEADING ACTOR IN A CONTEMPORARY MUSICAL
Isaia Kohn as Mr. Wormwood in *Matilda*

BEST PERFORMANCE BY A LEADING ACTRESS IN A CONTEMPORARY MUSICAL
Mia Francesca Melatti as Matilda in *Matilda*



Athletic Award Winners

CIAC SCHOLAR ATHLETES
Faith Bargellini
Kip Faison

BERKSHIRE LEAGUE SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARD WINNERS

CROSS COUNTRY
Faith Bargellini
Elliot Krebs

SOCCER
Kip Faison
Ashton Hodge

BASKETBALL
Marie Sprong

WRESTLING
Kip Faison

CHEERLEADING
Penny Becker

INDOOR TRACK & FIELD
Elliot Krebs

SWIMMING & DIVING
Faith Bargellini
Sarah Jermansen

TENNIS
Kip Faison

TRACK & FIELD
Joseph Dickey
Ashton Hodge
Elliot Krebs
Zoe Soletsky
Marie Sprong

2023-24 ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN

WRESTLING
Kip Faison

2023-24 FIRST TEAM BERKSHIRE LEAGUE ALL-STARS

SOCCER
Ronan Feenan
Marie Sprong

FIELD HOCKEY
Zoe Soletsky

GOLF
Jared Frankland

SWIMMING & DIVING
Faith Bargellini

BASKETBALL
Claire Kersten
Marie Sprong

SOFTBALL
Rachel Hofmann

TENNIS
Kip Faison
John Wild

JOSEPH BABCOCK AWARD
Faith Bargellini
Marie Sprong

CHARLES McGINNIS AWARD
Kip Faison

2023-24 ALL-STATE

FIELD HOCKEY
Zoe Soletsky

SOCCER
Ronan Feenan



FFA Award Winners



Jeyla Lantigua receives the awards for Shepaug Outstanding Leadership at the FFA Awards Ceremony on May 23rd, 2024.

NATIONAL BRONZE-LEVEL FORESTRY SAE PROFICIENCY AWARD
Cameron Goethner

NATIONAL BRONZE-LEVEL DIVERSIFIED AG PRODUCTION SAE PROFICIENCY AWARD
Hailie Collette

2024 FFA STATE DEGREES
Cameron Goethner & Jeyla Lantigua

STAR SENIOR SAEs
Elliott Noonan & Summer Ribisl

SHEPAUG OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP FFA AWARD
Jeyla Lantigua



Alumni Notes



Lindsay (Young) Sullivan '04, MSN, RN received the Excellence in Emergency Nursing Award for Experienced Nurses at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Emergency Department in Boston in May 2024. Lindsay is seen as a role model, providing an expert example of how to advocate for patients and communicate with providers. She has functioned as a preceptor for all levels of the department and is a major asset in the resource/charge RN role. Lindsay has worked in the BIDMC ED since 2016.

Joe Wiles '77 resides in Palm Beach Gardens, and is retired from GE Capital. He is married with two kids, ages 30 and 33. He reports that he has made the progression from baseball to softball to golf.

Eileen Kelly and **Jack Allen '79**, high school sweethearts back in the late '70s, are happy to share that they eloped to their backyard to marry in late 2023. They celebrated their wedding with extended families and friends this past June. All but one of their many siblings Jim K, Lynn A, Mike K, Sue A, Mike A, Lauren K and Amy A are Shepaug alums as well! They are happily living in a house on the Washington border in Northville and working 'pre-retirement' jobs minutes from home in the Depot - Jack at Washington Supply and Eileen at Kelly Law Offices.

Todd Stoeffler '83 is in his 35th year in education, the last 25 as a school administrator at North Branford High School. Under his leadership, North Branford High School was recognized by the College Board for their Honor Roll status for Advanced Placement (AP) Program success and participation rate. North Branford has been named to the College Board Honor Roll several times in the past decade, and this is the first time they have earned this distinction in back to back years.

Brian Fitterman '85 has recently moved to Columbia, CT.

Alec Thompson '89 is living in Deerfield, MA with his wife and they are enjoying being back in New England.

Ellyn (Hodge) Beyrer '98 is excited to let the Shepaug community know that on September 4, 2024 she and her husband became the proud parents of their 14 year old foster son, Jimmie. He is their only child. They feel so blessed by God to be his mom and dad.

Stephen Moker '06 and his wife Marissa are expecting their first boy, Jackson in October 2024.

Jessica Underwood Grabel '87 and **Deron Grabel '87**, former high school sweethearts, were married this past June. A reception for family and friends, including Shepaug alums, was held in September. Jessica was class president, participated in sports and clubs, and loved science. Jessica went to Stonehill College, transferred to UConn earning a degree from the School of Allied Health in Cytogenetics, in 1991.



After receiving her Bachelor's degree, she became employed in the Department of Laboratory Medicine at UConn Health. Jessica earned her Master's in Public Health in 1998 and has been employed with UConn Health for 32 years. She has been employed at UConn Health in the field of genetics. In her current role, she serves as senior director and leads the departments of Laboratory Medicine, Pathology, and Radiology.

Deron was a member of Shepaug basketball and baseball teams, winning a state title in baseball in 1987.

Deron earned his Bachelor's degree from Springfield College, Master's degree from Lehman College, and Doctor of Education from the United States Sports Academy. He has worked in higher education, currently at Southern Connecticut State University. He is an avid traveler and sports fan (Mets and Jets). They live in Old Saybrook, CT with Jessica's sons and Deron's stepsons, Dylan Santos (25) and Ryan Santos (23).

Alex Franjola '06 says, "Hey old friends!" Twenty years after her Shepaug days she lives in Portland, Oregon. She fixed up a 120 year old craftsmen house at the end of the historic Oregon Trail with her husband Adam Johnson, a Shepaug Alum Class of 2003. They have three dogs and live in a wonderful community. She has worked in mental health since 2012, and currently works as a therapist for Kaiser Permanente.

Autumn Collette '20 says, "Hello Spartan Family!" She has experienced many changes and milestones in the past few years. She graduated from the University of Hartford with her Integrated Elementary and Special Education Degree in May of 2024. Autumn is now a 4th grade teacher in Lowell MA with a class of 30 wonderful students. She is living her best teacher life.

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

The Shepaug Valley Class of 1984 held their 40th reunion in June of 2024.










CELEBRATING 35 YEARS

The Shepaug Valley Class of '89 held their 35th reunion in October.










Class of 2006 Reunion Announcement

Leigh Childs, Luna LiVolsi Garcia, Kathryn Clair Bassett, Becki O'Brien Yoo & Wendy Thompson invite you to **Save the Date** for our 20 year reunion:

SATURDAY, JUNE 27TH, 2026

You have over 2 years to find a babysitter, so we hope to see you there!

Please ensure you have joined Shepaug Valley High School Class of 2006 on Facebook or send an email to shepaugclassof2006@gmail.com with your current contact information to be added to our list for updates.

SHEPAUG
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Our mission is to reach, serve, and engage alumni and their families; to foster connections between the school and it's graduates, and provide Shepaug with goodwill and support.

Contact Scott Werkhoven, Alumni Coordinator
alumni@region-12.org to join our mailing list.

Scholarship Recipients

On June 5th, Shepaug Valley High School celebrated the accomplishments of thirty-three seniors from the class of 2024 who received scholarships to assist with their education. These scholarships are a testament to their dedication, hard work, and the impact they've had on our local community. With 40% of graduates attending postsecondary programs receiving scholarships, the Shepaug Valley family is incredibly proud of these students and looks forward to their continued success.



AMERICAN LEGION EDWARD WEEKS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Claire Kersten

AMERICAN LEGION GAGE-ZUMPF POST 87 SCHOLARSHIP
Rachel Hofmann
Isaia Kohn

BRIAN SWANSON TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP
Sophie Tibbatts

BRIDGEWATER GRANGE SCHOLARSHIP
Cameron Goethner

BRIDGEWATER WOMEN'S AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIP
Abigail Hendy
Sophia Ledbetter

BRIDGEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP
Sophia Ledbetter

BRIDGEWATER SCHOLARSHIP
Faith Bargellini
Isabel Easley
Abigail Hendy
Sarah Jermansen
Sophia Ledbetter
Mason Murphy

C. HUGH P. SILK MEMORIAL ROTARY CLUB SCHOLARSHIP
Kip Faison

CABOT SCHOLARSHIP
Kip Faison
Claire Kersten
Marc Rosenthal
Lillian Wilson

CHRIS SWANSON TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP
Zoe Soletsky

CONNECTICUT HOSPITALITY EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP
Zoe Soletsky

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A Journey Through Adventure & Celebration

The Class of 2024 recently marked a milestone with a trip that took them to Six Flags, Medieval Times, the American Dream Mall, and the South Street Seaport in NYC. This exciting adventure provided a chance for students to bond, reflect on their high school journey, and create lasting memories as they prepare for the next chapter!





