



# SHARON HIGH SCHOOL

181 POND STREET SHARON, MA 02067  
OFFICE: (781) 784-1554 FAX: (781) 784-1550  
[WWW.HS.SHARON.K12.MA.US](http://WWW.HS.SHARON.K12.MA.US)



@SHS\_EAGLES @SHARONMAEAGLES @SHS\_EAGLES

DR. JOSE LIBANO, PRINCIPAL  
MS. ELIZABETH GAVIN, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
MR. NICK BACIGALUPI, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
MR. ROBERT POMER, GUIDANCE DIRECTOR  
DR. NICHOLAS SCHLIERF, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR  
MS. JENNIFER GRAVELINE, SPECIAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR

---

December 7, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian:

In March of 2016 the legislature in Massachusetts passed a new law requiring schools to conduct interview-based screenings of students in grades 7-12 about the use of alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs. You can review the law at the following link: <http://bit.ly/2omrZf1>.

All of the guidance counselors, health/PE teachers, the nurse, and members of the administrative and clinical staff at SHS have been trained in the law and in facilitating the interview-based screenings. Our group is called the SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment) Team. To date, the current 7<sup>th</sup> graders and 10<sup>th</sup> graders have participated in the screenings, with the former group completing the screenings just a few weeks ago and the latter group doing so last spring.

This letter comes to families of current 9<sup>th</sup> grade students because we are planning on conducting these screenings next week during Wellness classes. The timing is also excellent because it coincides with related curricular topics being covered in the classroom.

On the day of the screening, which will take place sometime between Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> and Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, your child's Wellness class will report to the Guidance Department for a brief overview of the process. Then, each student will be directed one-by-one to a guidance counselor (other than the one assigned to them), so that the interview-based screening can be completed in private. You can view a copy of the questions that will be asked by navigating to the following link: <http://bit.ly/2nFhxCK>.

Each interview will be brief, most lasting less than 5 minutes. As already mentioned it will be conducted in confidence in the office of one of the guidance counselors, and a student can choose at any time not to answer any or all of the questions. Responses that reflect healthy decision-making will be acknowledged and reinforced. Responses that prompt concern will result in an offer of resources and in-school support.

Know that personalized results from these screenings will not be included/saved in your child's school record. Responses are tallied and not attributed to individuals. Only in circumstances where a child gives us explicit permission to share *or* when there is a sense that a child is in imminent danger will the school intervene and potentially involve others. Furthermore, note that the results cannot be used in any way for disciplinary purposes. It is the goal and intent of these interviews to foster a supportive environment that helps educate our students and that possibly saves lives.

As with any early intervention screening at SHS, you have the right to opt your child out. While we don't advise it and believe that these screenings have tremendous value, if you choose to do so please contact the Guidance Director, Bob Pomer, **prior to the start of the school day on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**. He can be reached at [b\\_pomer@sharon.k12.ma.us](mailto:b_pomer@sharon.k12.ma.us).

For more information about these interview-based screenings, contact me or visit the following website: <http://bit.ly/2giSlfE>. Additionally, SHS encourages you to complement our efforts to combat substance abuse by engaging in related discussion at home. Working together, we can make a difference and prevent problems for the youth of Sharon!

Sincerely and respectfully,

*Jose Libano*

Jose Libano, Ed.D.  
Principal

---

## VISION, MISSION, AND CORE VALUES

SHARON HIGH SCHOOL STRIVES TO BE A RESPECTFUL, CARING, DYNAMIC, AND INSPIRATIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY.

WE OFFER OUR STUDENTS THE ACADEMIC, CIVIC, AND SOCIAL TOOLS TO BE INFORMED, THOUGHTFUL, AND EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTORS TO A GLOBALLY CONNECTED WORLD.

**P**ERSEVERANCE ~ **R**ESPONSIBILITY ~ **I**NTEGRITY ~ **D**EDICATION ~ **E**XCELLENCE

SHARON PUBLIC SCHOOLS DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF  
AGE, COLOR, DISABILITY, GENDER IDENTITY, HOMELESSNESS, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RACE, RELIGION, SEX, OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION