Freshman Class Meeting

Class of 2027

Tuesday, September 1, 2026



Our Mission

At Shawsheen Valley Technical High School, it is our mission to provide a positive learning experience in a safe educational environment that encourages all students to reach their full potential, emphasizes the value of a strong work ethic, and prepares them for adult life in a competitive world.

Our Core Values

Accountability

Take responsibility for your words, actions, and commitments.

Integrity

Be honest and do the right thing, even when no one is watching.

Respect

Treat everyone the way you wish to be treated.

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We are ALL Responsible for ensuring SAFETY!

We follow all school rules and expectations.

We follow all rules for shop safety.

We treat one another kindly and disagree respectfully.

We keep our hands to ourselves and don't touch other people's bodies.

We contribute positively to the school community and don't spread negative information or gossip about our peers.

We respect differences and do not target, bully, or harass.

If we don't have something nice to say, we keep it to ourselves.

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New WAVES Emergency System

When emergency button is pushed, the following happens IMMEDIATELY:

- Billerica Police Radios receive message "Shawsheen Tech Lockdown"
  - BPD will report to ST IMMEDIATELY!
- Shawsheen's PA system announces "ALICE Emergency – Evacuate or Barricade"
- Blue strobes with sirens go off in loud shops, cafeteria, gym, and library

If there is an ALICE Emergency, press the closest button!

Do NOT hit buttons as a joke – consequences from school & police!

- Multiple cameras on every button.

There are 16 buttons in the building

- 13 in hallways
- 1 in cafeteria
- 1 in gym
- 1 in pool



Fire Drill & ALICE Reminders

Fire Drills/Alarms

If you hear a fire alarm:

- calmly exit the building and follow your teacher outside to a safe location – remain there until cleared to return.
- If you are not in class/shop, calmly exit the building at the nearest location and stay with another teacher/class until cleared to enter – **do not spend extra time in the building reporting back to your class/shop.**

If you see fire/smoke:

- Pull the fire alarm OR notify a staff member ASAP

ALICE Response Procedures

If there is a dangerous intruder:

- press one of the emergency buttons if you can safely do so
- evacuate the building (if possible) and get away from the danger
- if evacuation is not possible due to the location of the intruder, barricade the area you are in, and remain quiet and out of sight.

Note: We will always announce the dates of ALICE drills in advance – no surprise drills

Bullying-Free Zone

Bullying: when someone repeatedly says or does mean, hurtful things to target another person, making them feel unsafe, scared, or unable to learn at school.

- Can be through words, physical actions, and electronic/online communications.
- Your INTENTION does not matter – even if you THINK you are just "joking."

Don't say unkind things.

Don't post unkind things.

Don't touch others or mess with their stuff.

If you see or experience bullying, report it to a staff member.





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Harassment Free-Zone

Discriminatory Harassment: any unwelcome conduct that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive school environment on the basis of someone's race, color, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or national origin (where they are from).

- Examples include: slurs, name-calling, offensive jokes, threats, physical assault, etc.
- Includes online behavior, such as hateful social media activity targeting someone.
- Your INTENTION does not matter – even if you THINK you are just "joking."
- This will also apply in the REAL WORLD in every workplace.







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Reporting Bullying & Harassment

Bullying/Retaliation:

- Mr. Caruso, Assistant Principal
  - Phone extension: 1505; email: kcaruso@shawtech.org
- Ms. Tobin, Dean of Students
  - Phone extension: 1506; ctobin@shawtech.org

Civil Rights Coordinator (Discriminatory Harassment)

&

Title IX Coordinator (Sexual Harassment/Assault):

- Mr. Carlson, Director of Guidance & Health Services
  - Phone extension: 1315; email: jcarlson@shawtech.org

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Student Handbook Changes
5-19: Cell Phones/Personal Electronic Devices.

Students may not use cell phones/personal electronic devices from 7:24am – 2:04pm.

- Cannot be seen or heard during that time.
- Bell-to-bell ban includes homeroom, lunch, and hallways.
- Only exceptions = per individual plans - otherwise **no exceptions** and **no teacher discretion.**
- Includes smart watches, tablets, headphones, ear buds, and air pods.

Teachers will NOT be collecting and storing student cell phones.

- Heart of our mission: *Preparing students for adult life in a competitive world.*
- Employer feedback: *Students don't know how to manage their cell phones.*

If a staff member witnesses a student breaking the rule they MUST turn over device to Dean's Office

- No teacher warnings or teacher-assigned consequences.

LINK: Changes to the Cell Phone Policy in the 2026-2027 SVTHS Student Handbook

5-19: Cell Phones/Personal Electronic Devices CONTINUED

Consequences:

- **1st offense:**
  - device held at Dean's office until end of day.
  - one detention assigned.
  - educational component assigned.

- **2nd offense & each subsequent offense:**
  - device held at Dean's office until a parent/guardian can pick it up (between 7am-3pm).
  - One Saturday detention assigned.

- **NOTE:**
  - **Students with excessive offences may be subject to further disciplinary action.**
  - **Refusal to turn over cell phone to staff = insubordination = more consequences.**

STAFF CELL PHONE USE:

- The rules are different for staff, because staff sometimes have to use their cell phones as part of their jobs (just like you might have to someday).
- Examples:
  - Ms. Cook receives a text from the main office about an emergency.
  - A shop teacher receives a call on their cell phone from a co-op employer who is hoping to hire students.

Additional Student Handbook Changes

Most Notable Changes:

1. Students must pass in notes (dismissal, medical, etc.) **before the end of homeroom, or upon arrival to school.**

2. Students can visit offices for work permits and parking permits **during homeroom or after school.**

3. Limited ability to make up work/grades due to absence (excused OR unexcused) during exploratory – partial credit available to make up for ONE day per exploratory cycle ONLY.

4. Students cannot re-explore shops due to limited space in exploratory cycles.

5. Improper use of generative AI added to section on cheating & plagiarism.

6. Updated GPA cutoffs for NHS & NTHS.

LINK: Changes to the 2026-2027 SVTHS Student Handbook (without Cell Phone Policy Changes)

School-Year Priority: Keeping Students in Class/Shop

Expectations:

- students are in class/shop at assigned times so they do not miss critical instruction and skill development – *you cannot learn if you are not present*.
- staff will be monitoring to ensure students are spending minimal time out of class/shop.
- students and staff will follow the internal chart (see next slide) to determine when and how students can miss class for something.
- students and staff will be required to use the Securly pass system.
- administration will be monitoring hallways and pass system use.

Internal Chart for Sending Students out of Class/Shop

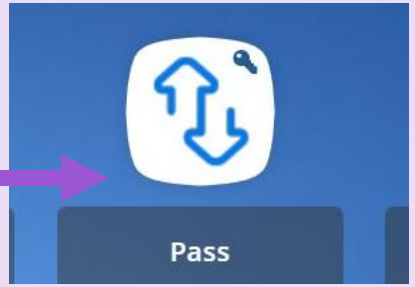
Student Reports to Location...	Athletics Office	Co-op Office	EdTech Office	Dean's Office	Guidance	Main Office	Nurse	501/SchoolPsy/SAC	SOAR	Support Services
During School Day IMMEDIATELY	*N/A*	*N/A*	Laptop issue that prevents them from accessing instruction	Sent by staff for behavior School Safety Emergency Substance Use Fighting Physical Assault Shop Safety Threats	Dysregulated student Individual student safety concern Non 501-Student in Crisis Per IEP/504	Safety glasses Head phones	Medical Emergency Per IEP/504/IHP Illness	501 Student in Crisis Per IEP/504 501 Student dysregulated	SOAR Student in Crisis Per SOAR Re-entry Plan SOAR Student Dysregulated	Per IEP/IHP
During School Day BY APPOINTMENT OR GETTING CALLED DOWN	*N/A*	Timecards Paperwork Questions	Pick-up device (when ready)	Allegations against peers Bullying Investigations Civil Rights Investigations Title IX Investigations Attendance Follow-Up	Academic counseling CTE counseling General counseling concerns Basic peer conflicts Postsecondary planning Parent Meeting 504 Meeting	Investigations To Call Home	Medication	Counseling sessions	Per SOAR Re-entry Plan	IEP Meeting Service Delivery Testing
During Homeroom and After School ONLY	Paperwork Questions	Paperwork Questions Timecards	Sign out Loaner Device	Parking permits	Work permits	Dismissal notes Medical Notes Attendance Docs. Lost & Found	Medical Docs.	For Support - as Assigned	For Support - as Assigned	Paperwork

Notes:

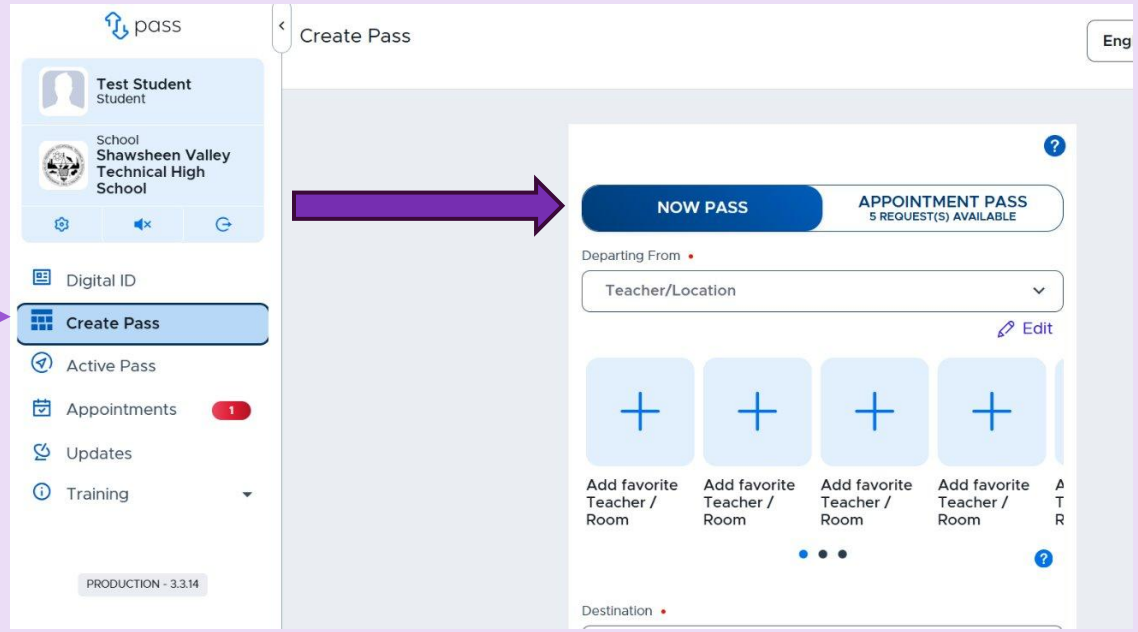
1. Regardless of the reason, electronic passes are required when students are leaving their assigned class.
2. Staff cannot send additional students out of the room to accompany their friends - one student at a time.
3. If a student is tardy to class, email those details to Christine Tobin & Kevin Caruso - do NOT send the student to the Dean's office for a pass (since that will only cause them to miss more class).
4. If a student is sent to the Dean's office for disciplinary reasons, a write-up must be sent as well (either an anecdotal or an email).
5. Clubs & Activities: students can only see club & activity advisors during homeroom or after school.

Instructions for Securly Pass System

1. **To open the Securly Pass System:**
   - Open Classlink and select the button labeled ‘Pass’



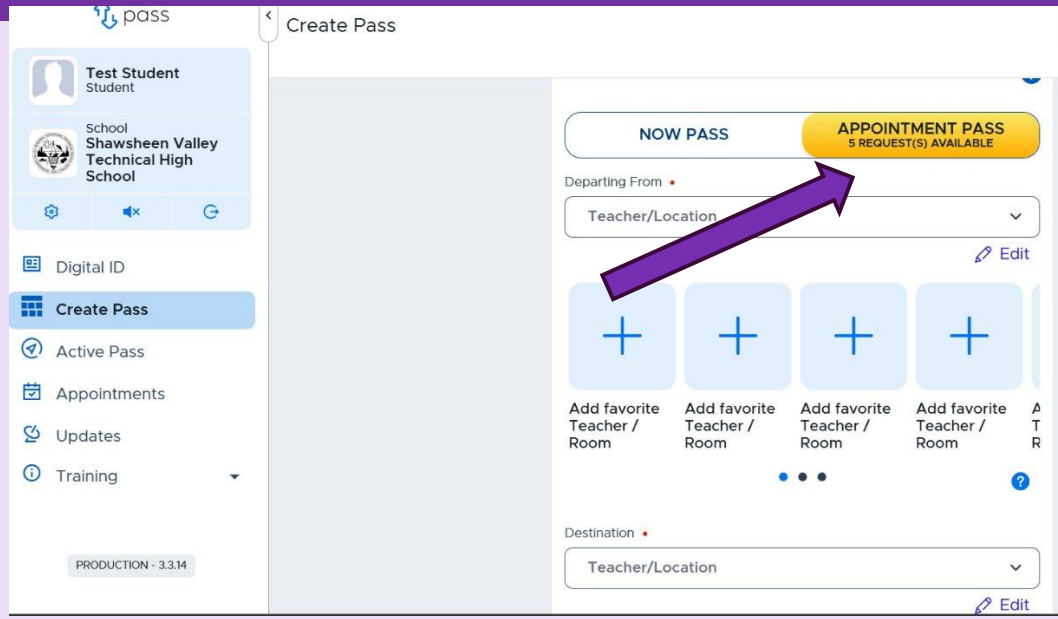
2. **To create a NOW PASS for IMMEDIATE NEEDS:**
   - If your teacher tells you to fill out a pass (instead of them starting the pass for you), select ‘Create Pass’ and then ‘Now Pass’



Instructions for Securly Pass System

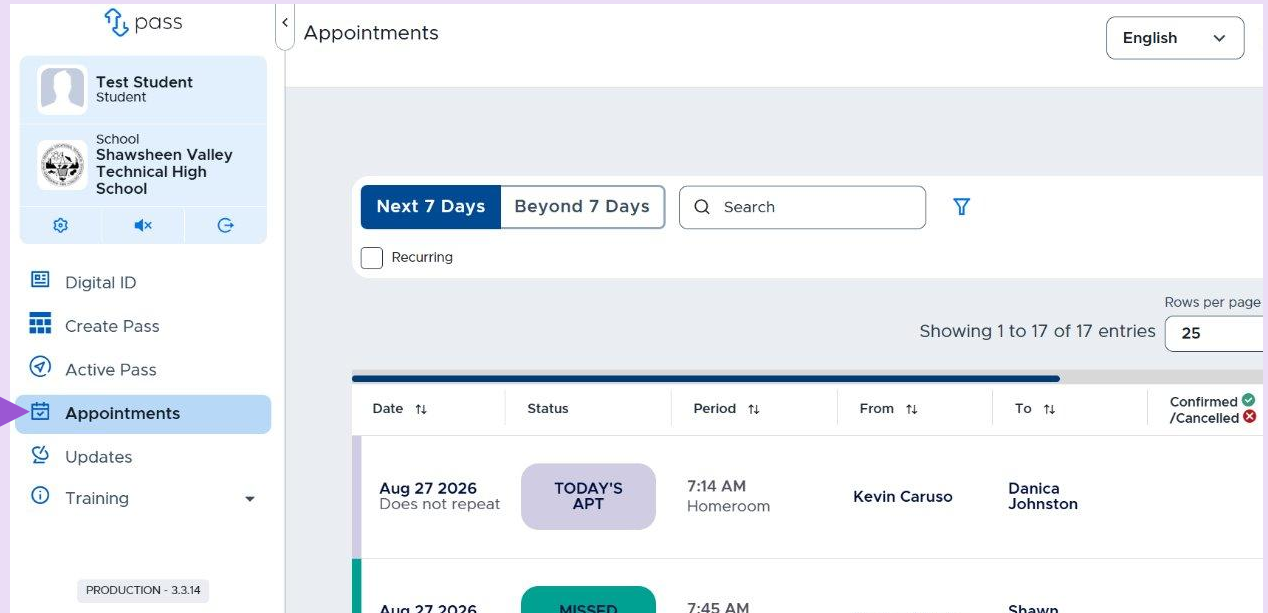
3. To REQUEST an APPOINTMENT with a staff member:

- Click on ‘Create Pass’ and then ‘Appointment Pass’
- Fill out the information for who you want to see
- They will confirm an appointment when they are able to



4. To VIEW your APPOINTMENTS:

- Click on Appointments



Attendance Reminders

Unexcused Absences

Automatic failure:

- More than 12 for the year
- More than 4 in a quarter
- Applies to individual courses (due to unexcused absences, tardies, & dismissals).
- Shop week = follow daily attendance
- Attendance make-up days (max 2 per quarter; 6 per year)

Tardies & Dismissals

- Detention starting with 6th unexcused tardy
- Detention with 6th unexcused dismissal
- Missing a course due to unexcused tardy or dismissal = unexcused course absence

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Reminders for Freshmen

- Schedules are SET – contact Guidance Counselor with any Qs
  - Course changes are **not** made for specific teacher requests
- One MCAS Exam this Year – Biology– do your best!
- Quarterly exams to meet CD requirements for graduation.
- Do your best in ALL Exploratory rotations!
- Keep an open mind as you consider your permanent shop.
- Treat school laptops with care – yours to keep upon graduation (if tech fee is paid).

Resources for Students: Guidance Department

- **Ms. LeBlanc**
  - Last names beginning with A-L
  - nleblanc@shawtech.org
- **Mr. Smith**
  - Last names beginning with M-Z
  - msmith@shawtech.org

Resources for Students: Rams Resource Room

The Guidance Department has a Resource Room with products that are FREE to any students who need them!

This includes toiletries & self-care products like shampoo, toothpaste, etc.

We can always get you supplies DISCREETLY – just let your Guidance Counselor (or a trusted staff member) know what you need.

Resources for Students: Dean's Office

The Dean's Office:

- Helps ensure school safety.
- Monitors student attendance.
- Enforces the Student Handbook.
- Manages student discipline.
- Investigates bullying & harassment allegations

Section 5 of the Student Handbook

Dean of Students = **Ms. Tobin**
Assistant Principal = **Mr. Caruso**
Administrative Assistant = **Ms. Melaragni**
ISS Monitor = **Mr. Anderson**
Attendance Monitor = **Mr. O'Hearn**
Student Support = **Mr. Wesinger**
SRO = **Officer Micalizzi**

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Sportsmanship at Shawsheen

- While attending SVTHS sporting events ALL school rules apply, *including the prohibition of drugs and alcohol.*
- Behavior should be appropriate and positive- **Cheer for OUR Team – do NOT be disrespectful to opposing teams.**
- Do **not** yell at or insult the officials.
- MIAA and Shawsheen both prohibit **taunting:**
  - using actions/words intended to bait, anger, embarrass, ridicule, or demean others, including actions/words based on race, gender, ethnic origin, or background, and conduct that attacks religious beliefs, size, economic status, speech, family, special needs or personal matters.
- **You represent Shawsheen at these events: Be respectful and kind.**
- ***Unsportsmanlike conduct and/or violations of rules may result in being removed from the contest and disciplinary action.***

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Class of 2030

Class Advisor = Ms. Crowley

mcrowley@shawtech.org

Be on the lookout for communications regarding class activities!

Go Class of 2030, Go!

Do Your BEST

and

Have an AWESOME FRESHMAN YEAR!

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