

Dear Shawsheen Students and Families,

My name is Kevin Caruso and it is with great excitement that I write this introduction letter. In my role as the Assistant Principal for Student Affairs, I will primarily support and participate in the discipline process alongside the Dean's office.

Personally, I grew up in Burlington MA. My wife and I now live in Billerica with our two children, Benicio(5) and Ava(2). I have two older brothers and five nephews, two of which are in college. My father owned his own HVAC business, so I can appreciate the tremendous value of a technical education. Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my family, staying active, watching sports and traveling.

Professionally, I came from Maynard High School. I spent seventeen years there as a social studies teacher, athletic director and was the assistant principal for the last seven years. I am excited to learn about the unique Shawsheen culture, and I will work hard to build relationships with as many students and families as possible. These relationships will be based on trust, respect, equity and assuming positive intentions. I understand this will not be easy and it will not happen overnight, but the main goal of these positive relationships will be to create a safe learning environment that supports all students and their various needs.

Having worked as an Assistant Principal in Maynard for the past seven years, I am aware that the discipline process can be an emotional experience for families. Please understand that there is never any judgement of character when processing discipline referrals with students. When handling discipline referrals, my main goal is to hold students accountable and to build a student's capacity to make better choices in the future, while respecting themselves and others. In addition, I attempt to provide strategies to better manage emotions and challenging relationships with peers and adults. This is done through an understanding of the whole child and my professional experience working with students who struggle to meet school expectations. In the end, there is a genuine desire to understand a student's behavior and attempt to improve behavioral outcomes for the student which will not only benefit the student but also the Shawsheen community.

In closing, Shawsheen has a great reputation for producing graduates with both great character and technical skills that will prepare them for successful future, and so I am very excited and grateful to play a part in that amazing process. I look forward to meeting and getting to know the students at Shawsheen Tech.

Sincerely,

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