

# GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## **First phase of GPAC improvements unveiled to public Oct. 12**

**Huntington** – A Family Movie Night is scheduled as part of the 2018 Homecoming Weekend and will give the public their first look at the upgraded projector system in the Gateway Performing Arts Center (GPAC). Families are invited to view “The Incredibles” at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct 12. Admission is free, but donations to the Shipman Fund of the Gateway Education Foundation will be accepted at the door. Doors open at 6 p.m. for face painting and a bake sale by the Class of 2020.

Anyone who has viewed a film in the GPAC over the last few years has noticed that the resolution on the screen has been fading and that the film tended to jiggle slightly on the screen. Those trying to view a high resolution film—such as guests at last spring’s Westfield River Film Festival—know all too well that the old system could not even play such a film.

Thanks to a \$30,000 investment through the Rob Shipman Memorial Fund of the Gateway Education Foundation, that has now changed. A new Vivitek 4K Ultra High Definition projector installation was completed by ATC Audio, Inc. of West Springfield with the hands on work done by Wayne Krupa Gateway Class of ‘99. Funding was made possible by an \$84,000 donation to the Foundation last winter, when another non-profit with ties to Gateway (Mass 1to1) dissolved. Of that, \$30,000 went into the Shipman Fund, earmarked for the projector upgrade.

Rob Shipman taught at Gateway and was a major part of the design of the Gateway Performing Arts Center, where he served as the Tech Crew Advisor for many years. Following his death in March 2012, a fund was established in his honor to benefit his legacy to the GPAC.

Additional upgrades are underway and are scheduled to be completed in time for the holiday concert season at Gateway. These include a new wireless microphone system (cost-shared between the Shipman Fund and Gateway) and improving the speaker system in the auditorium, which is also aging.

“The Foundation will plan another family movie night when all work is completed,” reported Wendy Long, Clerk of the Gateway Education Foundation. “We will plan to show a musical to take full benefit of improvements to the sound system and projector.”

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