



Weekly Update | April 7, 2021

Vol. 4, Issue 1

A Message from Alicia

The first full week of April has brought many harbingers of great moments to come. On Monday we welcomed back many students in grades 3-5 from full remote and hybrid learning. Whether the student has been full remote learning for a year, or learning hybrid, or somewhere in between, it has been wonderful to see so many excited to learn with one another once more. Here at school our faculty and staff have been working to ensure that students are able to return to school under the safest conditions possible. This has meant long days and nights of planning, endless measuring and moving, as well as ongoing flexibility and creativity. The April transition has not been without its challenges, yet teachers and staff have risen to the occasion yet once more. I could not be more proud of who we are as a school over these past few weeks and year.



Welcome Back!
April 5, 2021

The school-wide transition to in-person learning is far from complete. On April 28 we will welcome students from grades 6-8. We expect to hear from the Massachusetts Department of Education when high school students will be returning over the next few weeks. As we work through this month of transition and change, I would like to thank all of our families for the great work being done at home preparing children for the health and safety protocols we have had to put in place.

If your child has been full remote learning since March 2020, it may take some time to adjust to the new landscape. The school they left months ago is most certainly not the school they find themselves returning to now. Families have done an excellent job preparing students for change by providing the information they need to feel empowered in this new setting. As a parent, you have provided your child with the tools they need to stay safe at school. Your reminders of the importance of hand hygiene, physical distancing, and mask wearing have shown results. These important routines you have discussed with your child help our classroom teachers by keeping the message consistent.



School Bus Welcome
April 5, 2021



In addition to supporting your child at home, there are school-wide protocols families can follow that will benefit the health and safety our entire school community:

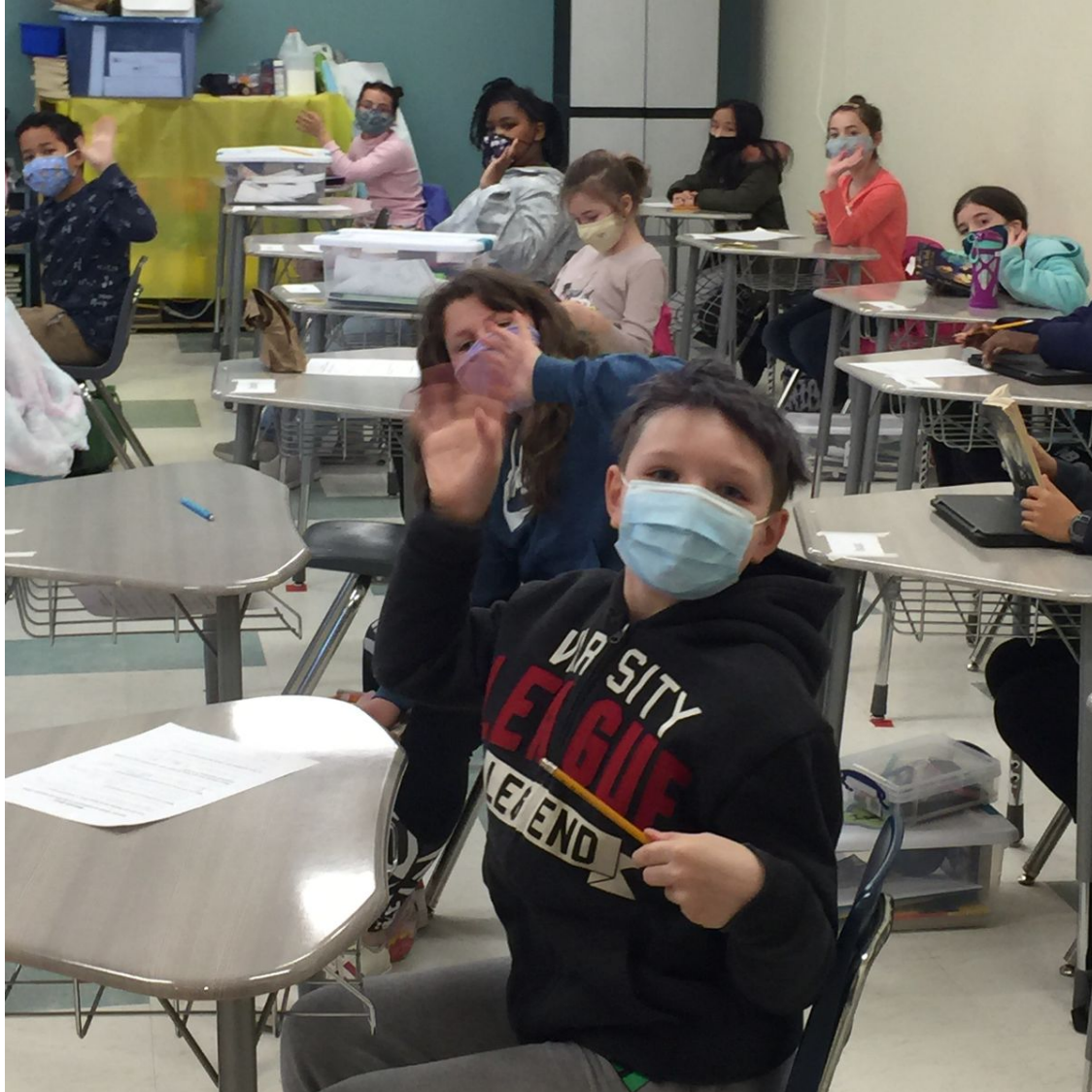
1. Keep your child home when sick.
2. Send your child in to school with two masks.

3. Sign your child up for the free Abbott BinaxNOW rapid and pool testing programs.

Yesterday the Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced that a backup PCR test would no longer be required for Abbott BinaxNow rapid testing. This means that the Abbott BinaxNOW rapid antigen test, which we perform here at school, may be used as a final result for close contacts and symptomatic individuals. This is excellent news as it has the potential for limiting learning disruptions and finding positive cases within our school community with one step. Information on how to sign your child up for each of the testing programs is below.



Classroom Morning Welcome



We now find ourselves mid-journey on the road back from this challenging pandemic. Monday's return to campus was uplifting and emotional, reminding us of who we are as a school and why our school community is so important. Although we have a long way before returning to where we were in March 2020, moving forward each day provides children with the opportunity to see their teachers and friends in a safe way. Despite obstacles, we never minimized the importance of academic achievement. The focus of the days to come must now be on social relationships and the emotional well being of students. Your ongoing support remains essential.

Thank you for being a part of the South Shore Charter Public School.

Alicia Savage
Executive Director
asavage@sscps.org

From the SSCPS Health Office

The Health Office is now running 2 separate COVID testing programs. Both of these tests are voluntary. In order to participate in each program you will need to sign up for them separately.

The BinaxNow Rapid Test is for students/staff that develop COVID-like symptoms while at school. This test can be administered at school and results are available in fifteen (15) minutes. Students/staff will still be required to leave school, even with a negative test result. Positive results are presumed positives and students will be required to isolate.

Register your student for Symptomatic Rapid COVID testing with the following link:

<https://app.beacontesting.com/register/with-code?code=EKMBEX>

Pool Testing is a weekly COVID test for students and staff. Students will be tested on the weeks they are in person learning. This program is not available to remote students. Pool testing is when a number (usually 5-10) swabs are put in the same tube and a PCR test is done on the batch/pool.

If the pool comes back negative, it is presumed all individuals in this pool are negative.

If the pool comes back positive, each student is individually tested using the BinaxNow Rapid test done at school. Any positive students will be sent home to isolate and contact tracing will be done. If all students come back negative with the rapid testing, each student will then have an individual PCR test to be sent out from school. All students will be asked to quarantine until the PCR results come back.

When you sign consent for pool testing, you are consenting for all 3 types of testing to be done at school (pool testing, rapid antigen and individual PCR testing).

Register your student for weekly pool testing with the following link:

<https://app.beacontesting.com/register/with-code?code=WPWCQJ>

Please see the [Health Office](#) page on the SSCPS website for more information on rapid and pooled testing, along with other COVID-19 information.

If you have any additional questions or need any additional information please do not hesitate to reach out to the nursing staff.

K - 8: 781-982-4202 x 104

High School: 781-982-4202 x 182

Darcie Edwards, RN

Susan Dupras, RN

Jaime Kjølgaard, RN

Barbara Folan, RN

Learning Model Planning Timeline

- September 2020-June 2021: K-1 Students full in-person
- March 1, 2021: Grade 2 Students full in-person
- March 3, 2021: SSCPS Board of Trustees, Executive Committee Meeting review of DESE intent to return to full in-person learning for students in

grades K-5

- March 4 - 17, 2021: Building and learning spaces capacity review.
- March 5, 2021: Faculty and staff review and planning for DESE intent to return to full in-person learning
- March 8, 2021: Communication to SSCPS families for COVID-19 Pooled Testing
- March 15 - 19, 2021: Family surveys for additional data collection
- March 15, 2021: Implementation of the COVID-19 Pooled Testing Program
- March 24 - 30, 2021: Family information sessions for guidance on new learning models
- April 5, 2021: Implement in-person return for students in grades 3-5
- April 7, 2021: SSCPS Board of Trustees Executive Committee Meeting
- April 15, 2021: SSCPS Board of Trustees Meeting
- April 28, 2021: Implement in-person learning return for students in grades 6-8
- April 2021: DESE issues guidance for high school in-person learning return

Transportation Update from FCC Transportation

Due to the financial ramifications of COVID-19, the East Weymouth bus route will not be returning for the 2021-2022 school year. Families impacted by the change have been notified by email earlier today.

From Food Services

To all families:

Please be aware that all students enrolled at SSCPS qualify for Free Breakfast and Lunch for the 2020-2021 academic year. Please click on this link [FamilyID Online Registration](#) and register for meals.

If you have any questions, contact me at csalamone@sscps.org or at 781-982-4202 x156.

Charlene Salamone
Food Services Coordinator

Travel Advisory

We would like to remind families of the health and safety guidelines put forward by Governor Baker and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in the recently updated [COVID-19 Travel Advisory](#). The South Shore Charter Public School has enacted a strict travel protocol which requires that students who return from traveling to high risk states or countries, or students who have been on a plane, must quarantine for ten (10) days. Students in grades 2-12 are expected to learn remotely during the 10-day quarantine period. Students in grades K-1 are expected to utilize their learning bins.

Our school policy regarding voluntary travel is stricter than the Massachusetts Travel Advisory. There is no exemption from quarantine if your child tests negative **prior** to returning to Massachusetts. Because of the nature of COVID-19 transmission, and the chance of exposure within the 72-hour period prior to returning to Massachusetts, the school does not consider the described testing measure to be adequately preventative. A 10-day quarantine is required by our school's [Health Office](#).

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Housing Help

Paying rent or a mortgage can be especially challenging during a pandemic. The Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development has centralized information about resources for families struggling to make rent or mortgage payments due to COVID-19. If you or another family you know needs assistance, please go to www.mass.gov/covidhousinghelp for more information.

WiFi Assistance

Please use the buttons below for information regarding low cost internet services in your area.

[Low Cost Internet Services](#)

[NDIA Free and Low Cost Internet Plans](#)

FROM THE YEARBOOK COMMITTEE

The 2021 yearbook is now in progress and all the memories of the 2021 school year will be published forever in print.

To order online go to www.coffeepond.com, to login use school password: bluejaguar.

Parents may submit a special personalized page that will appear in the back of the book for their senior at these rates: Full page \$150, 1/2 pg. \$75, 1/4 pg. \$50. Due date is March 30, 2021. Please email Christine at cbodnar@sscps.org with any questions.

From South Shore Charter Educational Foundation



February 2021

Dear Friends and Families of SSCPS,

We hope this letter finds you well. As we kick off 2021, we want to extend our well wishes to you and your family during these unprecedented times. We thank you for your unwavering support of our faculty and staff as we strive to inspire every student to excel in academics, service, and life in a safe and supportive environment.

Clearly the challenges of COVID- 19 have significantly impacted our community and we've had to adapt. Who knew we would expend so many resources on cleaning products, plexi-glass dividers, tents, Chromebooks, and so much more? Since the start of the pandemic last March, our community has worked together to ensure our kids receive the highest level of academics possible in these unprecedented times. While many schools were not prepared for the sudden shift to remote learning, SSCPS "hit the ground running" on March 16th and we continue to pursue all viable options for high level learning. We are proud to say we remain consistent with the quality education we deliver to all of our students. Unfortunately, many of the changes required to provide the hybrid model we offer are expensive. We are grateful to many of you who have generously donated to the SSCEF Annual Fund, but we need contributions now more than ever.

As someone who has been at Charter for 13 years and a part of the fraternity of 13, I have learned to embrace Charter life. There is a huge sense of community at the school which is developed from a young age through our service projects and sports. Charter helps prepare young kids for life through the internships we do with our amazing guidance counselors. The EOMs we start in kindergarten have been a huge asset to me in life as learning public speaking at such a young age has proven invaluable in my adult life.

-Delaney Alden, Class of 2021

The cost of COVID - 19 was clearly unexpected and like everything else has impacted our fundraising abilities as well.

I have been a student at SSCPS since kindergarten and I will be in the fraternity of 13 when I graduate in June 2021. One thing I love about our school is that I have been on the cross country and track and field teams since I was in 6th grade. I have had the same coach and have been teammates with the same group of athletes. We have encouraged and watched each other progress over the years.

- Caroline Boyle, Class of 2021

In support of our community, we hope you will consider giving a minimum of \$10 per year for each year your family has been enrolled with us, but we appreciate whatever donation you can make. We hope you will check with your employer to see if they will match your donation. When giving you can write your check to SSCEF, or you may go online at www.sscps.org/giving. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to better days when we can all gather as one community again.

[CLICK HERE](#) to make your gift online. Or please mail a check to SSCEF, P.O. Box 512, Accord, MA 02018.

Warm and healthy wishes,

Laurie Dannison and Leslie Alden
Development Officer Trustee

I have had many positive experiences in my thirteen years at SSCPS. I have never felt like I have not been able to reach out to a teacher for help. I know that when I was struggling last year with my AP Chemistry class my teacher would let me stay after or during FIT time to help me. In a bigger town school, that type of thing would not be possible and I am able to get the help I need in my classes in order to succeed.

-Ryan Benjamin, Class of 2021

Thursday	04/08	School Council via Zoom	4:15pm
Friday	04/09	Professional Development Early Release	12:00pm
Monday	04/12	Grades K-5 – In Person Grades 6-12 Team B In-person; Team B Remote	
Tuesday	04/13	11 th Grade SAT Exam Day Grades 9, 10, and 12 Asynchronous Remote Learning Day	
Tuesday	04/13	Finance Committee Meeting via Zoom	6:30pm
Thursday	04/15	Board of Trustees via Zoom	7:30pm

Important Links

Weekly Updates are emailed and posted to our website www.sscps.org every Wednesday.

- [Food Service](#)
- [Health Office](#)
- [Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance](#)
- **Visit the [Parents Association Website](#)**
- **Visit our new online option to [purchase](#) SSCPS apparel**

Here are links to upcoming events and other items of interest. Please contact Pam Algera at palgera@sscps.org to submit SSCPS items for publication.

School Documents

[2020-21 School Calendar](#)

[2021-22 School Calendar](#)

[Student and Family Handbook](#)

[SSCPS By-Laws](#)



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Our website address is:

www.sscps.org
