

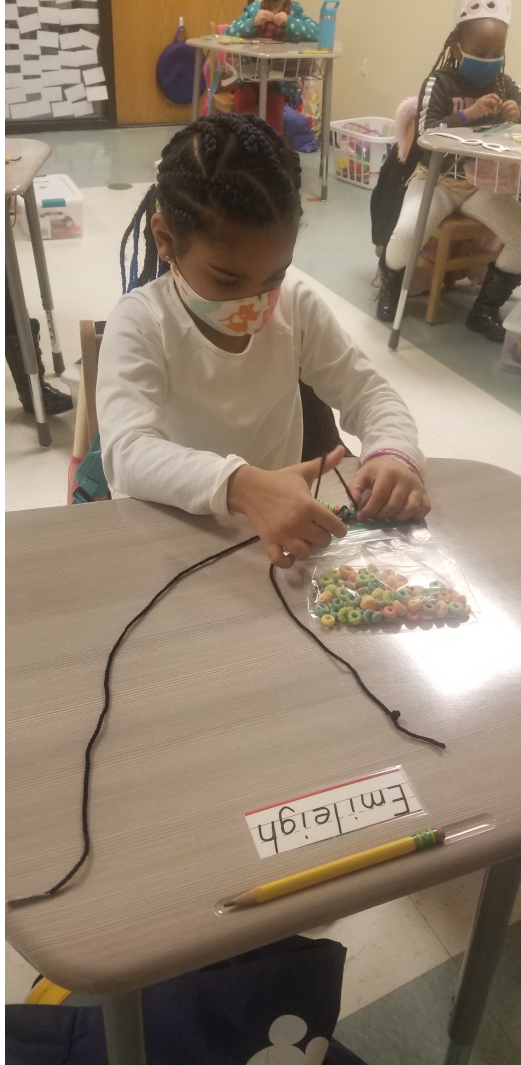


Weekly Update | February 24, 2021

Vol. 2, Issue 3

A Message from Angie

Welcome back from February vacation! I hope that everyone was able to spend time with family and find time to rest during the break. We returned on Monday to our 100th day of school. Our youngest students, both in the building and at home, celebrated all they have learned in the past 100 days as they participated in activities across the curriculum that honored this milestone.



Kindergarteners celebrating 100th day of school!

This month the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education released its school report cards for Massachusetts public schools and districts. The report card provides information from the state accountability system, bringing together a set of measures around school performance. Our accountability results are calculated using data from several sources including MCAS, student attendance, high school completion, and enrollment in advanced coursework at the high school level. Our 2020 school report card can be accessed [here](#). A cover letter describing the school

report card in English can be found [here](#). A Haitian Creole version is available [here](#). The DESE has released flyers with more information in both [English](#) and in [Haitian Creole](#).

The COVID-19 crisis has impacted this year's report card data. In response to the cancellation of the 2020 MCAS and the disruption caused by last year's extended remote learning period, the DESE did not change school accountability determinations for the 2019-20 school year. Our overall accountability classification, substantial progress toward targets, remains unchanged. Please take some time to review the report card and do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about our data.

The DESE has provided us with some guidance regarding this year's MCAS administration. We are expected to administer the MCAS this spring to all students in grades 3-11. There are some significant changes to the test administration for grades 3-8. The test will be considerably shorter with only one test session for each subject in an effort to prioritize time on learning over time on testing. We will also be administering the exams later in the year than we have traditionally. Please find our tentative MCAS schedule for our students in grades 3-8 below.

2021 MCAS Dates, Grades 3-8

	ELA (Grades 3-8)	Math (Grades 3-8)	Science (Grades 5 & 8)
Team A	April 27th	May 11th	May 13th
Team B	May 4th	May 18th	May 20th

We are working on a plan to administer the tests in a way that has as little impact on instructional time as possible. At this time we do not have information about testing for our fully remote students. I will share more details as more information becomes available.

While the 3-8 MCAS provides data about student learning and is a factor in our school's accountability status, it is the high school MCAS that has an impact on the individual student. All students are required by the state to meet the [Competency Determination](#) (CD) standard in order to earn a diploma. This means that students must earn a passing score on the ELA, Math, and Science MCAS exams. Last spring in response to the extended remote period, the DESE modified the CD requirement for the class of 2020, allowing students to earn their CD through completed coursework. Last month the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education voted to provide the same relief for members of the class of 2021. At this time students in the class of 2022 and 2023 are required to pass MCAS exams to meet their CD requirement in both ELA and Math. Members of the class of 2024 must pass MCAS exams in ELA, Math, and Science. We will share more information about this year's exams and the testing schedule once it becomes available.

In other testing news, we will be administering an SAT exam to all Juniors on Tuesday, April 13th. Taking the exam in school provides students with the opportunity to take this important test in a comfortable environment with staff members they are familiar with. While this has always been an advantage, the school day SAT exam is especially important this year as it has become difficult to secure test dates with

testing sites operating under reduced capacity.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and our school despite the ever changing circumstances of this school year. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Angie Pepin
Principal, South Shore Charter Public School

Level III Students Participate in Model Bridge Contest!

The 30th Annual 2021 Model Bridge Contest - virtual this year - was brought to us by the Boston Society of Civil Engineers. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, students were given the materials, tape and cardstock paper, and worked on their own time at home from October until January. The bridges were returned to the organization and tested without the students present this year. The video was shared on a large conference call on February 13th. The video can be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/cY1y5ue4kfU>.

The contest featured 42 bridges and SSCPS had a strong showing with 7 sixth graders! Please be sure to congratulate these students on their feats of engineering: Jasmine Bacha, Juliet Finn, Prince Gnakou, Selah Kim, Owen Macdougall, Noah Samuels, and Raina York. A special shout out to Noah for having the strongest SSCPS bridge! We look forward to participating again next year!

Family Survey Reminder

As we map our road ahead, we actively seek to capture the perspective of all families. Mid-year is the time of year when we ask our families for input by completing the 2021 Annual Family Survey. Every year the Board of Trustees reviews key measures which help define student achievement and institutional strength. Never has this work been more important than it has been this year. To ensure data consistency, the first section of the survey consists of the questions we ask each year. This year, however, there are two additional short answer questions, numbered 49 and 50, that ask for your reflections on how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted your children's learning over the past year.

The data gleaned from this year's survey will become an essential component as we plan our way back from the challenges and disruptions created by COVID-19. We will be relying on data provided by families as we build programs, develop next year's schedule, and create avenues for students to access curriculum. Of utmost importance is how we maintain school culture and student life, and rebuild what has been lost over these past months. Please complete the survey at the link below by March 3, 2021.

Thank you for being part of our school community.

Guidance Updates College Acceptances

Congratulations Class of 2021 for this impressive and growing list of college acceptances!

Becker College	Regis College
Boston University	Roger Williams University
Bridgewater State University	Rutgers University
Clark Atlanta University	Salem State University
Curry College	Simmons College
Dean College	Spelman College
Emmanuel College	St. Peter's University
Florida Memorial University	Suffolk University, Honors College
Fordham University	Temple University
Hampton University	University of Lynchburg
Johnson and Wales University	University of Massachusetts - Amherst
Lesley University	University of Massachusetts - Boston
Louisiana State University	University of Massachusetts - Lowell
Loyola Maryland	University of New England
Loyola University New Orleans	University of New Hampshire
MA College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences	University of North Carolina, Greensboro
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts	University of Pittsburgh
Merrimack College	University of Rhode Island
Providence College	Wheaton College
Quinnipiac University	Worcester Polytechnic Institute



Special thanks to the Kelly family and our Grade 2 families for yesterday's wonderful pizza lunch!

[Important Notice for SSCPS Families | The Rapid Antigen COVID-19 Diagnostic Test](#)

Thank you for your continued partnership during this unprecedented school year. In an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19, we have been working closely with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) to offer free rapid COVID-19 testing for symptomatic staff and students participating in any type of in-person instruction.

The Health Office requires your permission to test your child should your child develop symptoms at school. While we have asked all students and staff who are sick to stay home, there may be members of our school community who **first present symptoms while in school**. Being able to test your child at school will not only expedite results and therefore help you determine next steps to protect your student and your family, but also provide some peace of mind that a test is available and can be delivered by a nurse if the need arises. The Rapid Antigen COVID-19 Diagnostic Test is FDA approved and delivers results in 15 minutes. Our school nursing staff has been thoroughly trained on how to administer the test using a nasal swab. The decision to administer the test will be made by the school nurse.

If your child develops symptoms at school, you will be called immediately. You will be asked over the phone if you would like to have a Rapid Antigen COVID-19 Diagnostic Test done. This test will only be administered when you arrive at the school to pick up your student. When you arrive you will call the front desk and let them know you are here. The nurse will then come out in full PPE (mask, gown, gloves, face shield) with your student. You will be directed to pull into a designated spot. At this time the student will sit inside the car, if younger they may sit on your lap. You will be asked to put the car window down. The test will be administered by placing a cotton swab into each nostril about 1 inch and moved in a circular motion. Then the cotton swab will be brought inside where the rapid testing will be completed. At this time you are allowed to start driving home. The test takes 15 minutes to get a result. You will then be notified of the results by telephone and given instructions on further quarantine/isolation guidelines.

If the test results are positive:

- This is a presumed positive test result
- Helps you and us to start contact tracing/notification immediately
- 14 days of quarantine is necessary to return to school

If the test results are negative:

- Your student will remain out of school until a negative PCR test is obtained
- 10 days of quarantine is complete
- Have a doctor note clearing them for school due to another diagnoses

The SSCPS Health Office will report all test results to DPH and positive test results to DESE's Rapid Response Help Unit.

This is a voluntary program and you can enter at any time. To give permission for your student to participate in the Rapid Antigen COVID-19 Diagnostic Test, including permitting the school to share the test result information with the Department of Public Health and Project Beacon (a third party non-profit organization contracted to compile consent for testing and to share test results), please follow the directions you will receive from Project Beacon after creating an account by using the following link:

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

Instructions for Registering Your Child with Project Beacon

1. Enter the site using the above link
2. Be sure to use your preferred contact email address
3. After entering your email address, you will receive an email confirmation link
4. Enter your student's name, date of birth, and address
5. Enter your contact email and telephone number
6. Organization Code: EKMBEX
7. Complete and save the consent agreement

For each additional child:

1. Choose "Create a Patient Profile" at the top of the screen
2. Select "Secondary Profile"
3. Enter your student's name, date of birth, and address
4. Enter your contact email and telephone number
5. Organization Code: EKMBEX
6. Complete and save the consent agreement

All student profiles should list SSCPS under their name (not public test site)

If you have created an account under the parent or guardian name, please create a secondary account for each student using the instructions above.

A paper permission form may be requested if you cannot access the online site.

At South Shore Charter Public School, we are extremely grateful to our committed staff and families that continue to show great flexibility and resilience as we

navigate through this school year. It takes all of us working together to contain the spread of this virus.

If you have questions regarding the Rapid Antigen COVID-19 Diagnostic Test, please reach out to one of the nurses in the SSCPS Health Office.

Thank you,

Susan Dupras, RN sdupras@sscps.org

Darcie Edwards, RN dedwards@sscps.org

Barbara Folan, RN bfolan@sscps.org

Jaime Kjelgaard, RN jkjelgaard@sscps.org

From the Health Office

If your child has received an updated physical including updated vaccines, please send a copy to the appropriate health office. Forms can be mailed, faxed or emailed to the appropriate nurse.

High school: sdupras@sscps.org or bfolan@sscps.org

K-8 school: dedwards@sscps.org or jkjelgaard@sscps.org

Fax # 781-982-4201

SSCPS has an email address to use when your child will be absent. This email address should be used for both In-Person and Remote students. The email is sent to the Health Office as well as both Front Desks.

Email: Attendance@sscps.org

Please include the following information:

- Your student's name and grade
- Reason for Absence
- Contact phone number

If the absence is due to illness the nurse will call you back and ask you questions about symptoms.

COVID-19 Check

Please remember to check your child for COVID-19 symptoms including temperature before arriving at school or getting on the bus. Wellness checks should be completed on School Pass. If your child is absent with symptoms or has been tested, even if negative you must **notify the health office** before your child returns to school. Please use the **attendance email** that is found on the SSCPS website to report a student

absence even if your child is not ill but will be working remotely that day. If it is not reported you will receive a phone call from the school regarding the your child's absence.

Visit the school's [Health Office](#) page for additional information.

COVID-19 FAQ Sheet

The nursing team here at the South Shore Charter Public School Health Office has compiled this COVID-19 FAQ sheet to provide families with information pertaining to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and school-wide procedures.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

- Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
- Cough (not due to other know cause, such as chronic cough)
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Headache, when in combination with other symptoms
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) when in combination with other symptoms

What should I do every morning before my child goes to school?

Perform a wellness check every morning before your student arrives at school. Please check temperatures and check to see if your student has any of the above mentioned symptoms. Please fill out the questionnaire on the School Pass app before sending your child to school.

What happens if my student is sent home from school with COVID-like symptoms?

If your child develops COVID-like symptoms at school they will be sent to the CARE room. They will be sent home and will not be able to return to school until they have a negative PCR COVID-19 test, a medical note clearing them to return, or your student will need to remain home for 10 days. Symptoms need to be resolved and students will need to be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication before they can return.

What is the CARE room?

The CARE room is a separate room where students with any COVID-like symptoms are brought until they are picked up from school. The CARE room is a separate

room from the health office. The students will remain in the CARE room with a nurse until they leave school.

If my child is sent home from school with COVID-like symptoms can their siblings be at school?

No, if a student is sent home with COVID-like symptoms all siblings and household members will also be sent home and cannot return until the symptomatic child is cleared to return to school.

My child has COVID-like symptoms and I am keeping them home, can I send my other children to school?

No, all siblings and household members will need to remain out of school until the child with symptoms is cleared to return to school by a negative PCR COVID-19 test, a medical note clearing them to return, or all household members will need to stay home for 10 days.

My child has COVID-like symptoms and I took them for a rapid antigen COVID-19 test that was negative, can they return to school?

No, a rapid negative antigen COVID test is not accepted as a substitute for the PCR test due to a higher rate of incorrect test results. The student may not return to school until they have a negative PCR test.

A household member has COVID-like symptoms, may my children go to school?

No, the student must remain out of school until the household member has a negative PCR COVID-19 test or is medically cleared by a doctor stating that the symptoms are not due to COVID-19. No student can return to school if a household member has a pending COVID-19 test due to having COVID-like symptoms.

Where can my child or household member get COVID-19 PCR testing?

[Massachusetts COVID-19 Testing Sites](#)

[Mass.gov | Stop the Spread](#)

What should I do if my student is positive for COVID-19?

Please keep your student home and contact the school's Health Office immediately. The student will need to isolate for 14 days. The student will need to be cleared by the school Health Office before returning to in-person school and the student will need to have had a negative PCR COVID-19 test, or a doctor's note clearing them to return. They will also need to have resolved/improved symptoms and be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.

[Mass.gov | COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Information](#)

Do I report my COVID-19 test results?

Yes, both negative and positive test results should be reported to the appropriate Health Office.

Do I need to report a positive COVID-19 test if my student is fully remote?

Yes, the school is required to report all positive cases to DESE, even fully remote students.

How do I contact the school if my student will be absent from school?

Please use the email: attendance@sscps.org or contact the appropriate school health office. If your student has any COVID-like symptoms, please speak to the nurse directly.

HS: 781-982-4202 X 182 or email: sdupras@sscps.org or bfolan@sscps.org

K-8: 781-982-4202 x104 or email: dedwards@sscps.org or jkjelgaard@sscps.org

Why is it important for me to call my student's school nurse when they are home sick?

Keeping communication with your child's school nurse about your student's illness allows for the nurses to track illnesses in the school community and to maximize the health and safety of all students and staff.

What is a close contact?

Per the CDC, a close contact is someone who has been within 6 feet of a person positive for COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes in the previous 48 hours of the onset of symptoms or from a positive COVID-19 result of an asymptomatic person.

What should I do if my student is a close contact to a person positive for COVID-19?

If your student is a close contact to a positive person they will need to quarantine for 14 days from the date of exposure. It is recommended that they have a PCR COVID-19 test on day 5 of being exposed. Regardless of the results they will need to remain in quarantine for a full 14 days from the exposure.

What should we do if a household member is a close contact?

If a household member is a close contact to a person positive with COVID-19 and asymptomatic the student may remain in school. If the household member is symptomatic the student will need to remain home until the close contact has a negative PCR COVID-19 test. If the household member is positive, the student will need to quarantine for 14 days from the date of exposure or 48 hours prior from the date of the test if the person is asymptomatic.

Can my student do remote learning if they are not able to be in person due to quarantining or having COVID-like symptoms?

Yes, students are expected to continue remote learning while in quarantine or are unable to be in school due to the student or family members having COVID-like symptoms. Please reach out to your child's administrators and teachers.

We are traveling to a high risk (red) state. Can my student return to in-person school if they have a negative COVID-19 test?

No, our school policy is that all students who have traveled to a state that Massachusetts has deemed as non low risk need to quarantine for 14 days starting the day after they return from traveling.

[Mass.gov | COVID-19 Travel Order](#)

What supplies does my child need from home for school?

- Water bottle with straw

- 2 face masks
- Chromebook
- School bin (can stay at school for the week)
- Change of seasonal clothing (kids go outside for most weather for recess, mask breaks, snack and specialist classes)
- Warm clothing (students go outside for snack, mask breaks, lunch at the high school and specialist classes)

Should my student bring warm clothing (jacket/hat/gloves) in the cold weather?

Yes, students at the high school have lunch outside in all weather conditions. Specialist classes and snack breaks are also held outside. Windows at 100 will be kept open to improve air ventilation. Students should bring warm clothing.

Why does my child have to wear a face mask?

Face masks are an important measure to take to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Face masks help reduce the spread by containing the infected person's respiratory droplets from traveling to other people.

What type of mask should my student wear to school?

All students and staff are required to wear a mask at school. Appropriate masks are two-ply face masks that stay up around the nose. Masks should be washed daily and students should have an extra mask in their bag. There are disposable masks available if one becomes dirty or breaks while at school. Gaiters, and bandanas, and masks with a valve are not acceptable for school.

What if my student is having difficulty wearing a mask at school?

Masks are required at school for all students and staff. Students will be given mask breaks during the day. If a student is not wearing their mask appropriately at the middle and high school students will be given a warning and a phone call home for the first offense. The second offense will result in the student being sent home.

How do I contact the school if I have questions about COVID-19 or need to report a positive case?

Should your child test positive for COVID-19, have symptoms, or if you have any questions, please contact the appropriate school health office and speak to one of our nurses directly.

High School: 781-982-4202 X 182 or email:

Susan Dupras, sdupras@sscps.org or Barbara Folan, bfolan@sscps.org

K-8: 781-982-4202 x104 or email:

Darcie Edwards, dedwards@sscps.org or Jaime Kjelgaard, jkjelgaard@sscps.org

Thank you for your ongoing support and for your assistance keeping our school community safe.

Susan Dupras, RN

Darcie Edwards, RN

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 Order](#). The South Shore Charter Public School has enacted a strict travel protocol which requires that all students who return from traveling to high risk states or countries, or students who have been on a plane, must quarantine for fourteen (14) days. Students in grades 2-12 are expected to learn remotely during the 14-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 Order. 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 14-day quarantine is required by our school's [Health Office](#).

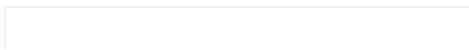
Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

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

Lifeline Cell Phone Service Provider

From the Admissions Office

Intent-to>Returns forms are due today. If you have not yet completed the online form please submit it today. Should you have any questions, please contact Pam Algera at palgera@sscps.org.

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 the Parents Association

The next meeting will be held tonight, Wednesday, February 24 at 6:30pm via [Zoom](#).

[Click here](#) for the meeting agenda.

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. 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.

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

[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

Mon-Thurs	02/22-02/25	Team A In-Person; Team B Remote Learning	
Wednesday	02/24	Intent-to-Return Due Enrollment Application Deadline	
Wednesday	02/24	Parents Association Meeting via Zoom	6:30pm
Friday	02/26	Remote Learning for All Students	8:15a-12:15p
Mon-Thurs	03/01-03/04	Team B In-Person; Team A Remote Learning	
Monday	03/01	2 nd Trimester Ends for Grades K-4	
Wednesday	03/03	Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom	8:00am
Wednesday	03/03	2021-2022 Enrollment Lottery via Zoom	1:00pm

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@sseps.org to submit SSCPS items for publication.

School Documents

[2020-21 School Calendar](#)

[Student and Family Handbook](#)

[SSCPS By-Laws](#)



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Our website address is:

www.sscps.org
