



## **Weekly Update | February 3, 2021**

Vol. 2, Issue 1

When day comes we step out of the shade,  
aflame and unafraid,  
the new dawn blooms as we free it.  
For there is always light,  
if only we're brave enough to see it.  
If only we're brave enough to be it.

Amanda Gorman, National Youth Poet Laureate

Excerpt from "The Hill We Climb"

The Presidential Inauguration of President Biden and Vice-President Harris

January 20, 2021

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## **A Message from Alicia**

February 1 marked the beginning of the third quarter of the school year. Traditionally, this is the mid-year point when our school community takes time to reflect on the current school year and what lies ahead. This year our institutional reflection is paramount as we begin to envision the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This week has been an optimistic one. Throughout the school we have begun the celebration of Black History Month. Each classroom, each grade, each level, has recognized the essential and historic contributions African Americans have made in its own special way. These celebrations and learning opportunities will continue throughout the month. Although we celebrate Black History Month every February, this year studies have taken on new meaning and significance in this time of hope.

Today we also celebrated [World Read Aloud Day](#). This is a special celebration where our school joins the millions in reading a special story aloud. Although many of us

participated virtually this year, we were still able to express ourselves through read aloud by sharing our favorite stories with our students.

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.

### **[SSCPS Annual Family Survey 2021](#)**

Thank you for being part of our school community.

Alicia Savage, Executive Director  
South Shore Charter Public School



NHS Student Brynae Hall (above) and High School Teacher Karl Dreyer (below)  
Ready to Read for  
World Read Aloud Day 2021



More Winter Fun in 2021!







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### [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](mailto:sdupras@sscps.org)

Darcie Edwards, RN [dedwards@sscps.org](mailto:dedwards@sscps.org)

Barbara Folan, RN [bfolan@sscps.org](mailto:bfolan@sscps.org)

Jaime Kjelgaard, RN [jkjelgaard@sscps.org](mailto:jkjelgaard@sscps.org)

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## IMPORTANT

### Weekly COVID-19 Health Report Update

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[The Massachusetts Department of Public Health Weekly COVID-19 Report](#), including the city/town data and map, will be posted again tomorrow. The report from last week identified 30 of our 33 sending cities and towns, over 97 percent, in the red category. This means that over 25 percent of our sending districts have remained red for nine consecutive weeks and over 97 percent of districts have remained red for four weeks.

The January 28 Weekly COVID-19 Health Report may be found [here](#).

Archived Weekly COVID-19 Health Reports may be found [here](#).

On December 12, 2020 the SSCPS Board of Trustees voted to change the determining data indicators for building closure as recommended by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and both the Norwell and Weymouth Board of Health. This means that instead of using the regional calculation metrics found within the DPH Weekly COVID-19 Public Health Report, the school is now using COVID-19 positivity rates within the school as the basis for classroom and/or building closure. Should the school experience 3 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in a specific cohort or building over a rolling five school day period, the school may close classrooms and buildings to mitigate the spread of the virus. The change has been in effect since January 20, 2021.

We continue to ask all members of our school community to follow statewide guidelines so that we may remain open. This includes avoiding out-of-state travel, particularly traveling by airplane, train, or bus. If you must travel,



please adhere to the state requirements of a 14 day quarantine. There is no test out option for in-person attendance. Governor Baker's most recent order from December 23 may be found [here](#). Residents of Massachusetts are also being asked to avoid gatherings, including in-home gatherings, with anyone outside of your immediate family.

We are asking that all families fill out the daily questionnaire on School Pass and conduct daily temperature checks for each member of the household who will be attending school that day. If you need access to a thermometer, or forget to do a temperature check, please let the Health Office know so a nurse may conduct the temperature check on site. We are asking all students to continue to adhere to all distancing, health, and safety protocols in and out of school. Please remember that masks must be worn in school by everyone at all times.

Over the past three weeks the school has been implementing the Abbott BinaxNow Rapid Antigen testing program. The test has proven useful in keeping our classrooms open and safe for all. If you have not done so already, we encourage you to register your child for this voluntary program. Information regarding this testing program and instructions on how to register your child have been sent to all families and may be found above. The school will continue to pursue other testing opportunities as they become available.

Please notify the Health Office immediately should your child test positive for COVID-19. We have been extremely fortunate that families have been helpful and cooperative in keeping the school notified of positive cases within their household. These swift actions have allowed our Health Office to begin contact tracing and determine close contacts rapidly. Notification is an essential component of virus mitigation and we ask all members of our school community to continue to keep us informed of all cases, including our full remote population.

Thank you very much.

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## 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](mailto:sdupras@sscps.org) or [bfolan@sscps.org](mailto:bfolan@sscps.org)

K-8 school: [dedwards@sscps.org](mailto:dedwards@sscps.org) or [jkjelgaard@sscps.org](mailto:jkjelgaard@sscps.org)

Fax # 781-982-4201

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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](mailto: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.

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### **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**

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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](#)

***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](mailto: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](mailto:sdupras@sscps.org) or [bfolan@sscps.org](mailto:bfolan@sscps.org)

K-8: 781-982-4202 x104 or email: [dedwards@sscps.org](mailto:dedwards@sscps.org) or [jkjelgaard@sscps.org](mailto: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](mailto:sdupras@sscps.org) or Barbara Folan, [bfolan@sscps.org](mailto:bfolan@sscps.org)

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

Darcie Edwards, [dedwards@sscps.org](mailto:dedwards@sscps.org) or Jaime Kjelgaard, [jkjelgaard@sscps.org](mailto:jkjelgaard@sscps.org)

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

Susan Dupras, RN

Darcie Edwards, RN

Barbara Folan, RN

Jaime Kjelgaard, RN

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## Travel Advisory

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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

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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](http://www.mass.gov/covidhousinghelp) for more information.

## WiFi Assistance

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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](#)

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From the Admissions Office

All families should have received an email to complete the 2021-2022 Intent-to-Return form.

We ask that all families complete one form for each child they have at the school indicating their enrollment intent for the upcoming school year. Please submit forms by Wednesday, February 24, 2021.

For those of you new to SSCPS, families who would like to remain enrolled do not need to reapply. The Intent-to-Return is the only form we ask our families to

complete.

If your child has a sibling you would like to enroll or if you have a sibling on the waitlist you must complete an new application to be included in the upcoming enrollment lottery. The application may be found at this [link](#). The deadline for all applications is Wednesday, February 24. The Enrollment Lottery will be held on Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

Should you have any questions, please contact Pam Algera at [palgera@sscps.org](mailto:palgera@sscps.org).

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### **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](http://www.coffeepond.com), to login use school password: bluejaguar.

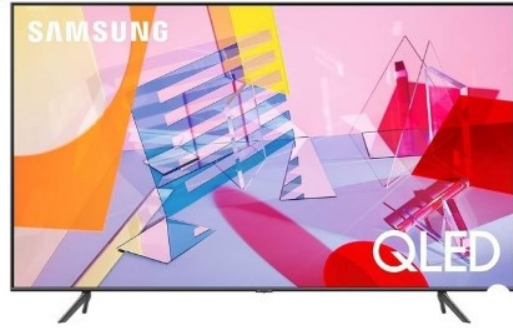
Parents may submit a special personalized page that will appear in the back of the book for their senior at these rates: Full page \$150, 1/2 pg. \$75, 1/4 pg. \$50. Due date is March 30, 2021. Please email Christine at [cbodnar@sscps.org](mailto:cbodnar@sscps.org) with any questions.

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'KICK OFF VACA'  
TV RAFFLE!



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Siobhan & Mark Daly

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Free Gift  
with 5+  
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**DRAWING WILL BE HELD ON 2/12/21 AT  
6PM. ANY PAYMENTS RECEIVED BY 4PM  
ON FEB 12 WILL BE ENTERED INTO THE  
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55" Class Q60T QLED 4K UHD HDR Smart TV (2020)

\*Free Gift while supplies last

Thursday	02/04	Virtual Open House for Grades K-8 <a href="#">Click here to register</a>	10:00am
Thursday	02/04	School Council Meeting via <a href="#">Zoom</a>	4:15pm
Friday	02/05	Remote Learning for All Students	8:15a-12:15p
Mon-Thurs	02/08-02/11	Team B In-Person; Team A Remote Learning	

Tuesday	02/09	Finance Committee Meeting via <a href="#">Zoom</a>	6:30pm
Thursday	02/11	Board of Trustees via <a href="#">Zoom</a> Governance Committee via <a href="#">Zoom</a>	7:30pm 6:45pm'
Friday	02/12	Remote Learning for All Students	8:15a-12:15p
Mon-Fri	02/15-02/19	Winter Vacation – No School	
Mon-Thurs	02/22-02/25	Team A In-Person; Team B Remote Learning	
Wednesday	02/24	Intent-to-Return Due Enrollment Application Deadline	

### ***Important Links***

Weekly Updates are emailed and posted to our website [www.sscps.org](http://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](mailto:palgera@sscps.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](http://www.sscps.org)

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