



Weekly Update | March 24, 2021

Vol. 3, Issue 4

Over the past week our thoughts here at SSCPS have been with our Asian and Asian-American families as we try to comprehend yet another senseless act of hate and violence. As we learn more about the eight individuals who lost their lives in the tragic shooting in Atlanta, we share the grief of the entire Asian-American community. Here at the South Shore Charter Public School, we stand with the Asian and Asian American community as this difficult year unfolds.

The shootings in Atlanta serve as a reminder to us all that words matter. Offensive rhetoric perpetuates hate crimes, which includes violence against women. Just last month a report was released detailing an increase in hate crimes targeting Asian and Asian Americans. There has been a 150 percent increase in hate crimes targeting Asian Americans in cities across the United States. According to police records used for reporting, in Boston alone the number of hate crimes against Asian Americans has increased by 133 percent. This increase has taken its toll on the Asian American community. It is wrong and needs to end.

Racism has no place in our classrooms, hallways, and playgrounds. Here at South Shore Charter we remain committed to do our part to end racism and violence. We will continue the Open Circle Curriculum and Advisory program which teach our students about appreciating differences, the harm of teasing and derogatory language, recognizing discrimination, valuing one another, and respecting cultural and linguistic diversity. The Massachusetts Asian American Commission has listed some additional resources [here](#).

We will continue to monitor our students and their social-emotional well being as acts of violence continue to enter our homes through the news cycle. The news coming out of Atlanta, and even more recently Boulder, has been nothing short of tragic. A good resource for facilitating discussion for parents is [Talking to Students About Violence](#) from the National Association of School Psychologists. If you feel your child needs additional social and emotional support, please reach out so that we may direct you to one of our counselors.

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

Alicia Savage, Executive Director
South Shore Charter Public School

A Message from Angie

We are looking forward to welcoming our students in grades 3-12 back to the building for full in person learning next month. Our facilities team is hard at work measuring rooms, moving furniture, and turning some nontraditional spaces into welcoming places for children to learn. Teachers are busy planning for the academic and social emotional needs of our students, both those who will be returning to the building full time and those who will remain remote. These next few weeks will be busy ones for our faculty, staff and students.

I know that these changes raise questions for parents, guardians, and students. This week and next we are hosting family meetings to answer questions about April's transitions. These meetings will be recorded for those who are unable to attend. We have also collected the most common questions families are asking about opening full in person learning to everyone. Please find answers to those questions below.

Can my child continue to learn remotely? Will students still be able to shift between the remote and full in person models?

Remote learning will remain an option for families for the remainder of the school year. If your child is currently a full remote student we will assume that they will remain remote unless we hear from you. If you plan to send your child back into the building please reach out to let us know. For grades K-2 reach out to me at

apepin@sscps.org, for grades 3-8 reach out to Krista Cafourek at kcafourek@sscps.org, for high school reach out to Joe Kay at jkay@sscps.org.

Students will still be able to shift between remote and in person models of learning. Changes in learning model in grades K-4 will require students to move to a new classroom with a different teacher. In those grades our remote students are taught by a dedicated remote teacher. In grades 5-8 a shift between learning models may impact cohort placement due to the physical constraints of the space. At this time decisions about class placement are largely based on our ability to accommodate students in the classroom while meeting social distancing requirements. Because a shift in learning model often means a classroom change and may require the rearrangement of furniture, changes to spaces for lunch, and additional staffing, we are asking for patience. Learning model switches will likely take more time than they did earlier in the school year.

How will all of the students fit? What will the spacing look like in the classrooms?

In order to fit the additional students we will be moving additional desks into classrooms. Since September we have distanced our students between four and a half and six feet. We will be pushing desks closer together so that they are now three feet apart. The three feet distance is measured seat edge to seat edge front to back and side to side. This is in line with the distancing guidance provided by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

In addition to moving more desks into classrooms, we will be making some classroom switches in order to better match class size to classroom spaces. Our largest classes will move to the largest spaces regardless of grade or level. The number of large spaces in our buildings is limited. We also will be moving some classes to our tents and other nontraditional learning spaces in order to accommodate the required spacing.

What strategies will be used to keep students and teachers safe?

To maintain safety the school will continue to use layers of mitigation strategies that include cohorting, distancing, cleaning, screening/testing, masking, and hand hygiene.

Cohorting: SSCPS will continue to reduce cross contamination by keeping students in cohorts as much as possible. Those cohorts will increase in size to accommodate the additional students. When there is a positive COVID-19 case, the school will continue to work with the Board of Health to contact trace and isolate close contacts. Only faculty, staff, and students may enter the school buildings. The school will continue to have a no visitor policy for the remainder of the school year. Students will continue to sit in assigned seats. Movement in the hallways will continue to be tracked using the virtual pass system.

Distancing: We will continue to follow the distancing requirements set by the DESE. All student desks will be spaced three feet apart and will be facing the same direction. During mask breaks, snack, and lunch students will be six feet apart. Students, faculty, and staff will follow hallway directional maps to ensure distancing guidelines are followed outside of classrooms.

Cleaning and Air Quality: Our facilities team continues to upgrade all HVAC and air purification systems throughout the buildings. The school's extensive cleaning protocols continue to follow the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines.

COVID-19 Screening and Testing: All students, faculty, and staff will pre-screen for COVID symptoms and exposure before entering the school buildings using SchoolPass. SSCPS deployed Abbott BinaxNow rapid COVID testing on January 20, 2021 and pooled testing on March 16, 2021.

Masking: Masks are one of the most important single measures to contain the spread of COVID-19. All students and staff members are required to wear a mask that covers their mouth and nose. Students will continue to be checked for compliance as they enter the buildings each morning. Masks must be worn on the bus, in the buildings, and outdoors. Students cannot remove their masks except during mask breaks, snack, and lunch when they are spaced six feet apart. We will continue to keep a mask inventory in case a student needs one.

Hand Hygiene: Students will continue to use hand washing stations and hand sanitizing stations throughout the school day. Students, faculty, and staff are required to hand wash or sanitize when they arrive at school, before eating, before putting on and taking off masks, and before dismissal.

How does pooled testing work? How do I register my child for pooled testing?

On March 16th we began a voluntary, free weekly COVID-19 testing program to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our buildings. Regular COVID-19 testing of students and staff is intended to help us lower the risk of illness in our school by finding positive cases of COVID-19 quickly and by identifying asymptomatic cases in the community. In a pooled test the swabs of several individuals are tested for COVID-19 together in one sample. This approach increases the number of individuals who can be tested at one time. Increased participation in the program increases safety in our school. Participating students will be tested for COVID-19 once a week by our nursing team here at school. The test is quick, easy, and it does not hurt. It requires only a gentle swab of the lower inner nostril.

To participate in the testing program, please sign a consent form for your student(s). You only need to sign up once for the weekly testing. The form to register for testing can be found [here](#). We strongly encourage everyone to participate to help us reduce the spread of COVID-19.

What changes will there be to lunch, recess, drop off, and dismissal?

Students will remain in cohorts for lunch, recess, and breaks. With more students on campus, these cohorts will necessarily become larger. Students will be six feet apart any time that they are not wearing a mask. This means that we will be using some unconventional spaces for lunch including Great Rooms, outdoor areas, and the tents.

Routines for drop off and dismissal will remain the same. With the higher volume of cars, daily use of the SchoolPass app is increasingly important. Please reach out to me if you need to have your SchoolPass login resent.

What happens if a child needs to quarantine because of COVID-19 exposure? What about a whole class? What about a teacher?

If a child needs to quarantine in grades K-4 they may temporarily be placed in the full remote class so that they will continue to have access to synchronous learning. In grades 5-12 students will continue to use Google Meet to join their classes from home in these situations. If a whole class must quarantine the class will learn remotely until the quarantine is over. There will be situations when a teacher will teach his or her class remotely. In these cases classes will be supervised by another staff member while the teacher joins the class using Google Meets.

What will be done to help welcome students shifting to remote learning and those returning to in person learning?

In many ways the return to full in person learning will feel like the first day of school for our community. While full classes have interacted over Google Meets, Team A students have not been in person with Team B students all year. For some students this may be a source of anxiety. Teachers are aware of this and will be planning activities to help students get to know each other and to build their classroom communities. Students can expect a review of expectations and community building activities to be a prominent part of their first days back full in person.

How has the school calendar changed? What will Fridays look like moving forward?

Beginning on Friday, April 9th all Fridays will be in person half days. Dismissal will be at noon. Teachers will use Friday afternoons for planning and development. This planning time is critical as remote teaching will remain part of our programming for the remainder of the school year. The professional development provides teachers with the time needed to plan for teaching in this challenging environment and for teams of teachers to collaborate as they adjust the curriculum to meet student needs and plan interventions. These adjustments are key as we work to address the learning loss that has resulted from the pandemic.

Thank you for your continued support of our school as we make this transition. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions as you consider the implications of the changes coming in April.

Angie Pepin
Principal, South Shore Charter Public School



Students Enjoying Outdoor Seating



Level I Students at Holly Hill Farm



Level I Habitat Study

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

In-Person Learning Family Information Meetings

All meetings will be held via Zoom

[Grades 3, 4, and 5 Meeting](#)

Wednesday, March 24

1:00pm

[Grades 6, 7, and 8 Meeting](#)

Thursday, March 25

1:00pm

[High School Meeting](#)

Tuesday, March 30

1:00pm

Remote and In-Person Learning Survey Links

[Grades 3, 4, and 5](#)

[Grades 6, 7, and 8](#)

[High School Grades 9-12](#)

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

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. Students may return to in person school once they have a negative PCR test. 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.

Dear SSCPS Families,

We were excited to launch our next round of pool testing. The first round of pool testing went smoothly, the students and staff were extremely cooperative and did a great job. This week the High School was added to our weekly pool testing. If you have not signed up but are interested in having your student participate please follow the below link to register them. You can register at any time, you should register by Thursday if you want to be included in the following weeks pool testing.

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

Please review the pool testing procedure. You will only be called if your student is in a positive pool batch.

If your student is in a pool that comes back positive, we will then test the participants in the positive pool with the BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen test at school. If all the rapid tests come back negative, then an individual PCR test will be done at school on all students in the positive pool batch. Students will need to quarantine until the results of the individual PCR test come back.

If the students are in school when the results come in, they will be removed from class and brought to a designated area for the additional testing. If the student's rapid test comes back positive they will need to be picked up and will need to isolate.

If positive pool results are received after hours the on call nurse will contact you and the students will need to report to school the next morning for the rapid testing. Parents will need to remain at the school until the results of the rapid test come back.

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 Kjelgaard, RN

Barbara Folan, 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 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](#)

[Lifeline Cell Phone Service Provider](#)

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 Parents Association will meet tonight, March 24 at 6:30pm via [Zoom](#).
Click here for the [Meeting Agenda](#)



Let's Raise Funds!

Online Pampered Chef Fundraiser for SSCEF - Happening Now!

Facebook party: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2610933485870540>

Website: www.pamperedchef.com/party/sscps0322

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.

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.

[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 Dannon 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

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

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

Wednesday	03/24	Grades 3, 4, and 5 In-Person Learning Family Meeting via Zoom	1:00pm
Wednesday	03/24	Parents Association Meeting via Zoom	6:30pm
Thursday	03/25	Grades 6, 7, and 8 In-Person Learning Family Meeting via Zoom	1:00pm
Friday	03/26	Remote Learning for All Students	8:15a-12:05p
Mon-Thurs	03/29-04/01	Team B In-Person; Team A Remote Learning	
Tuesday	03/30	High School In-Person Learning Family meeting via Zoom	1:00pm
Wednesday	03/31	Advanced Placement Information Meeting via Zoom	2:00pm
Thursday	04/01	School Council Meeting	4:15pm
Friday	04/02	Good Friday– No School	

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](#)

School Documents

[2020-21 School Calendar](#)

[2021-22 School Calendar](#)

[Student and Family Handbook](#)

[SSCPS By-Laws](#)

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.



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www.sscps.org

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