



Weekly Update | May 19, 2021

Vol. 5, Issue 3

A Message from Haley

Our World Language learners have been very busy this spring. In the past month, twenty students from the high school participated in the Seal of Biliteracy testing. These students tested in Spanish, Portuguese, German and Arabic. We have two seniors that have already qualified for the Seal of Biliteracy. Pending test results, we are very hopeful that several more of our seniors will be awarded the Seal at graduation this year. Look for updates in the fall about testing opportunities!



SSCPS Juniors and Seniors taking the Avant Stamp Assessment for the Seal of Biliteracy.



What is the Seal?

We are excited to now offer the Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy to South Shore Charter Public School students. This is awarded to students who demonstrate proficiency in English (score of 501 on Next-Gen or 260 on Legacy on the English Language Arts grade 10 MCAS test) and at least one additional language. The Seal certifies that a student is proficient in all modes of a language, such as speaking, listening, reading and writing. Students can be assessed for language proficiency their junior or senior year or case by case as an underclassman. Qualified students will receive a seal on their high school transcript to signify the award along with a certificate of achievement.

Who can achieve the Seal?

Any student at SSCPS can apply and work toward attaining the Seal of Biliteracy. The Seal can be awarded for any world language studied at SSCPS or any heritage language learned at home. In order to attain the required proficiency level at SSCPS, students should plan to take four consecutive years of the language and will test their junior and/or senior year. Heritage speakers should be prepared to demonstrate proficiency in both spoken and written language and can test as early as freshman year.

How does the Seal benefit students?

Knowing a second language and understanding other cultures increases students' marketability to both universities and employers. In our global society, cultural competency and language proficiency have become essential skills for the workplace and are required in many fields. The Seal of Biliteracy rewards students who value cultural awareness and can apply their language abilities to real-life settings. The Massachusetts Department of Education is working diligently to present to colleges and universities about the Seal. The list of colleges and universities that accept the Seal continues to grow. Those that currently accept the Seal for credit can be found [here](#). Students who obtain the Seal are encouraged to advocate for credit upon entering their undergraduate degree. If you have any further questions please reach out to [Haley Edmondson](#).

World Language Requirements

At SSCPS, the high school requirement for language is two years, although we encourage students to continue with a language all four years. Taking four years of the same language gives students eligibility to test for the Seal of Biliteracy, as well as

prepares them for college-level language courses. Not all colleges and universities expect students to have the same number of years of studying a foreign language. Some require or recommend two years; others ask for three. Many recommend that you actually commit to the component for all four years of high school. The recommendations and requirements from colleges and universities in regards to language varies and should be reviewed by students and families. A list of college and university recommendations and requirements can be found [here](#).

Recommendation vs. Requirement

In general, competitive colleges require at least two years of world language classes in high school. These classes should be in the same language—colleges would much prefer to see proficiency in one language, rather than a jump from language to language. When a college recommends "two or more" years of a language, they are clearly signaling that going beyond those two years of language study would [strengthen your application](#). No matter where you apply for college, a demonstrated proficiency in a second language will improve your chances of admission. Life in college and after college is becoming increasingly globalized, so strength in a second language carries a lot of weight with admissions counselors.

Haley Edmondson
World Language Curriculum Coordinator

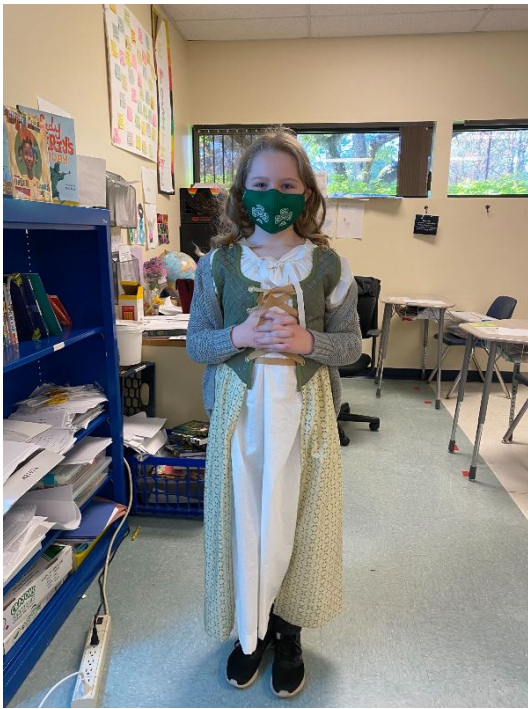
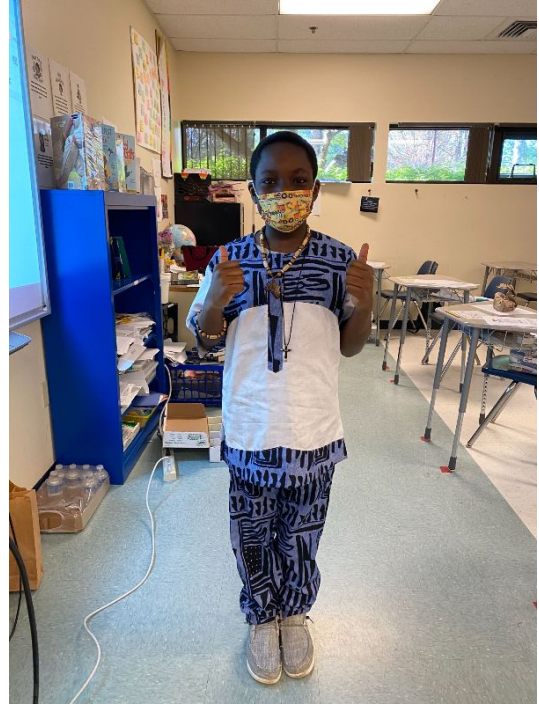
Cultural Celebrations continue at SSCPS with Art and Music Week

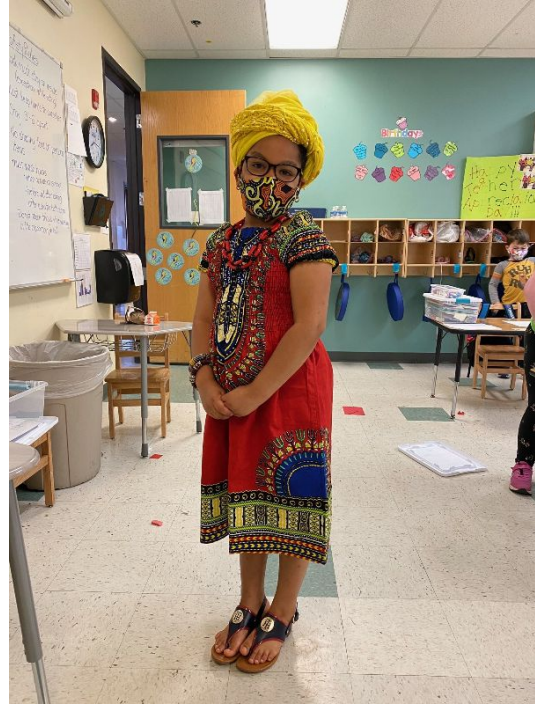
Activities include:

- Exploring Art and music from across the world
- Wish Leaf Project from the Art Department
- Learn Traditional Dance with Chantelle Boateng at the High School

Last week was a great success. Students came dressed in traditional heritage attire for Dress Your Heritage Day. It was an awesome sight!

Pictures captured it all!









From the SSCPS Health Office

With the warmer weather out comes lots of bugs, including ticks. The students are outside more often this year, including for PE class. Please remember to check your student daily for ticks. The school is not allowed to apply bug spray or sunscreen to any student, so please apply at home, at your discretion.

As the weather gets warmer it is important to remember to have your student bring a refillable water bottle every day. There are water refilling stations located around the school

If your student has completed the Covid-19 vaccines, please send the paperwork to the appropriate health office. Students who are fully vaccinated will not be required to quarantine if they are deemed a close contact.

For the high school please email sdupras@sscps.org or bfolan@sscps.org.

For K-8 please email dedwards@sscps.org or jkjelgaard@sscps.org.

The Covid-19 vaccine is not mandatory.

If your child has a history of seasonal allergies and is experiencing their typical allergy symptoms such as nasal congestion, runny nose, sneezing, watery or red eyes they may still participate in person learning. Any student that has fever, vomiting, diarrhea or loss of smell or taste need to remain out of school and have a negative PCR COVID test before returning. Siblings need to remain out until the student has a negative PCR test.

The Health Office continues to run 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 Kjelgaard, RN

Barbara Folan, RN

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.

Email Christine at cbodnar@sscps.org with any questions.

From the Parents Association

PA Nominations for 2021-2022

2021-2022 Parent Association Election for SSCPS!

Survey Closes: This Friday 5/21/2021 – Click the link below to cast your vote:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PAElections2021-2022>

New PA will be announced in Weekly on May 26 and inducted at the June Meeting (Zoom)

Thank you all for coming to cast a ballot for all Parents Association positions. Only SSCPS Parents and Guardians may cast votes.

As your appointed Election Team, we are committed to ensuring the process is efficient, fair, measurable, and accessible to all parents.

- Only current SSCPS Parents or Guardians may vote in this election,
- One vote per parent/guardian will be allowed,
- You must make one selection for each position,
- You are given the option to abstain from voting for a particular position if, for any reason, you choose not to (via an "*I choose not to cast a vote for this position*" option),
- Results will ONLY be shared on an aggregate level (e.g. # of total voters, # of votes per nominee, # that chose not to vote for a position, etc.)
- If there is a tie for a position, a second survey will be sent out only for those who need a tie-breaker,
- If you would like to self-nominate for a position that has no nominees, please insert your name with brief intro. Election will be held at June PA meeting,
- If there is a dispute or demand for a recount, at least one member of the Election Team and one school administrator will be engaged to review or re-count parent/guardian submissions.

The Election Team remains committed and unbiased throughout its work on this process, and we're committed to the integrity of the SSCPS Parent Association.

Thank you for carefully considering the nominees who have stepped up to represent us.

Community Interest



Keep Brockton Beautiful Day

May 22, 2021

9:00 – Noon (Signups begin 8:00)

Brockton High School

Call Recycle Depot 508-580-7827 or
www.brockton.ma.us for more info!



Holly Hill Farm

A Farm for Teaching & Learning

Camp 2021:

Nature-based day programs for ages 9 - 14
at Cohasset's beautiful organic farm.

We give kids a connection to nature
that will last a lifetime!

One week day camp
programs

June 7th - August 20th

Weekdays
1 pm - 4pm *

\$300 per week for Holly
Hill Farm members
or
\$375 per week for non-
members

* all-day programs 8 am -
2pm available for +\$100



Kids can:

- Paint, draw and sculpt in nature
- Write & produce a vintage-style radio program
- Act as farm hands, growing food & caring for farm animals
- Design and implement solutions for real-world farming challenges
- Travel back in time & use nature to create a new civilization from scratch

Full details & registration:
www.HollyHillFarm.org/camp-2021

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

Thursday	05/20	AP World History	12:00pm
Thursday	05/20	Board of Trustees Annual and Regular Meeting	7:30pm
		Governance Committee	6:30pm
		Personnel Committee	6:00pm
Friday	05/21	Professional Development Early Release	12:00pm
Mon-Fri	05/24-05/28	K-12 All In-Person Learning	
Monday	05/24	Grade 10 ELA MCAS	
Tuesday	05/25	AP Chemistry	8:00am

Tuesday	05/25	Grade 10 ELA MCAS	
Wednesday	05/26	Level II ELA MCAS	
Thursday	05/27	Grades 5-8 ELA MCAS	

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

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