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Weekly Update | November 10, 2021

Vol. 11, Issue 2

A quick reminder that SSCPS will be closed this Thursday, November 11th, in honor of Veterans Day. We'd like to share our appreciation for all of the veterans who have served in the military - thank you for your service to our country!



NO SCHOOL THURSDAY NOVEMBER 11TH

A Message from Kristine

School Finances

Hello, my name is Kristine Bingham and I am the school’s Director of Finance and Human Resources.

I have worked at SSCPS for 21 years, and have had the opportunity to assist the school in moving from our original location in Hull to our current location here in Norwell.

Along the way, I’ve been asked many **questions about our school’s finances**, and I wanted to share with you my answers to the top three most common questions I’ve been asked over the years:

1. How is the school funded?

Charter schools are **funded by tuition charges** assessed against the school districts where the students reside. The state provides partial reimbursement to the sending districts for the tuition costs incurred. For each child that SSCPS enrolls, the school receives a **monthly tuition payment** from the Commonwealth of MA, which is calculated by the Department of Education’s school finance office based on the school’s enrollment.



Tuition revenue varies from district to district. Like other public schools, Commonwealth charter schools are eligible to receive **federal and state grants**. Our supporting foundation, the South Shore Charter Educational Foundation, Inc. (SSCEF) provides an annual unrestricted operating grant in the amount of \$10,000 to help offset the cost of instructional programming and \$3,000 for student scholarships. SSCEF also grants the Parent Association (PA) \$5,000 annually to fund grants for **field trips, student speakers, projects/workshops, books, materials**, and other initiatives that SSCPS may not have funded in the initial operating budget.



2. What are the school's operating revenues?

The SSCPS **FY22 Operating Budget** was developed based on a projection that SSCPS would enroll a minimum of 1,055 students using an average per pupil tuition and facilities

aid revenue of \$15,000 or \$15,000,000 in total tuition revenue, which is 95% of the entire budgeted revenues. The school expects to receive \$505,400 in **federal and state grants** and **federal programs reimbursements**. This amounts to 3% of total revenues. That leaves 1% (or \$175,000) in additional school program revenues and 1% (or \$100,000) in private grants and SSCEF's operating grants. Total budgeted revenues are \$15,780,000.

3. What are the school's expenditures?

The school's FY22 budgeted operating expenses include:

- \$12,034,902 (or 76% of total expenditures) in compensation and benefits
- \$1,988,290 (or 16%) in building utilities and occupancy expenses
- \$626,936 (or 4%) for direct instructional program materials and support repairs, masonry repairs, classroom renovations, new technology, and new furniture and equipment
- \$305,872 (or 3%) in general office and other costs
- \$138,929 (or 1%) for professional development
- \$485,000 for depreciation
- and a \$200,000 contingency fund for a total expenditure of **\$15,779,929**.

SSCPS also budgeted \$510,000 in capital expenditures which included funding for a new cooling tower, parking lot repairs, masonry repairs, classroom renovations, new technology, and new furniture and equipment.



"Cultivating and growing our school for our students."

As you can see, the school is heavily dependent on our tuition and facility aid and federal and state grant revenues in order to fund school operations. The school does receive \$938 per student for facility aid - however, **there is a significant gap between the amount that charter public schools receive for facilities compared to district schools**. Charter schools receive \$938 per pupil while district public schools receive \$1,302 per pupil. Unlike

district schools, SSCPS has limited access to funding streams and options for financing the renovation and/or construction of school facilities. For example, charter schools do not have access to MSBA funding. Despite these challenges, we have been able to **cultivate and grow** our school so that more and more children on the South Shore are able to join us in our mission of inspiring every student to excel in academics, service, and life.

Here is a [link for additional information](#) on how the DESE calculates tuition payments for Commonwealth Charter Schools. The school's budget and presentation may be found on our website [here](#) and [here](#).

If you have any additional questions regarding the school's finances, please do not hesitate to call, email, or attend the next Finance Committee Meeting in October.

Kristine Bingham

Director of Finances and Human Resources

kbingham@sscps.org

From the Health Office:

NEW – Meningococcal Requirements

7th GRADERS:

All 7th grade students need a current physical on file. They are required to have the first does of the Meningococcal Vaccine and the Tdap vaccine.

11th GRADERS:

Please send in your 11th graders updated physical as soon as possible. There is a new requirement for the Meningococcal vaccine.

SPECIFICS:

2 doses; second dose MenACWY (formerly MCV4) must be given on or after the 16th birthday and ≥ 8 weeks after the previous dose. 1 dose is acceptable if it was given on or after the 16th birthday.

COVID-19 FAQ 2021-2022

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

COVID-19 Symptoms List

- **Fever (100.0°F or higher), chills, or shaking chills**
- **Difficulty breathing or Shortness of breath**

- **New loss of taste or smell**
- **Muscle aches or body aches**
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Sore throat, when in combination of other symptoms
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea, when in combination of other symptoms
- Headache, when in combination with other symptoms
- 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.

What happens if my student develops COVID-like symptoms in school?

If your child develops COVID-like symptoms at school they will be sent to the CARE room. If they have been registered for in school COVID-19 testing they will be tested at school. If the symptoms are minor they can remain in school with a negative test, for more severe symptoms they will be sent home and may return when they are fever free for 24 hours without meds and symptoms have improved. If students are not registered for COVID testing they will be sent home if they have any of the above bolded COVID symptoms or if they have multiple symptoms on the list and will need a COVID test before returning to school.

My student has a pending a COVID-19 Test but feels better. Can they return to school while we wait for results?

No, students cannot return to school unless the health office has received a copy of the students negative results.

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 or outside 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?

Yes, siblings may remain in school as long as they remain symptom free.

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

Yes, if a household member has symptoms but the student has no symptoms they may be in school. If the household member was to test positive for COVID-19 the student would

need to be picked up immediately.

Can I test my student using an over the counter rapid COVID-19 test?

No, we cannot accept OTC tests. Only tests administered through a healthcare facility are accepted.

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 be isolated for 10 days. The students will need to be cleared through the health office before returning. They will also need to have resolved/improved symptoms and be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication. All siblings will need to remain home and quarantine unless they are fully vaccinated and have provided the appropriate Health Office with a copy of their vaccination card.

Do I report my COVID-19 test results?

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

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

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

If your student has any COVID like symptoms please speak to the nurse directly.

A household member tested positive COVID, can my student be in school?

Students must quarantine if a family member is positive unless they are fully vaccinated and remain symptom free. Students who are not vaccinated will need to quarantine. Please contact the health office to discuss when students may return to school.

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 a 24 hour period in the previous 48 hours of the onset of symptoms or from a positive COVID-19 result of an asymptomatic person.

The following close contacts are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols:

- Asymptomatic, fully vaccinated close contacts: Individuals who are asymptomatic and fully vaccinated are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- Classroom close contacts: An individual who is exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual in the classroom while both individuals were masked, so long as the individuals were spaced at least 3 feet apart, is exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- Bus close contacts: Individuals on buses must be masked according to federal requirements. As such, individuals who are masked on buses when windows are open are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- Close contacts who have had COVID-19 within the past 90 days: An individual who has been previously diagnosed with COVID-19 and then becomes a close contact of someone with COVID-19 is exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols if:
 - The exposure occurred within 90 days of the onset of their own illness AND
 - The exposed individual is recovered and remains without COVID-19 symptoms.

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 outside of school or if they choose not to participate in Test & Stay if they are school close contact (within 3' of a positive student) they will need to be quarantined. If students remain symptom free they can test on day 5 after exposure and if they continue to remain symptom free may return to school on day 8 after exposure. If students opt not to test they will need to quarantine for 10 full days and may return on day 11 as long as they remain symptom free. Students will need to monitor for symptoms for a full 14 days and return to quarantine and retest if they develop any symptoms.

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

If a household member is in close contact with a person positive with COVID-19 and asymptomatic, the student may remain in school, unless the household member tests positive for COVID-19.

What is Test & Stay?

Students deemed close contacts (within 3' of a positive student in the classroom) will report to school each morning and have a rapid antigen test performed for 7 days. Students may remain in school if they continue to have negative tests and remain symptom free. Parents must remain close to the school for 15 minutes, until the results are in. Results will be sent via text message or the health office will call you if positive and you must immediately come pick up your student. Students who are close contacts due to outside of school exposure can not participate in this program. Your student will have to wear a mask during outside time, like recess or specialist, except for snack and lunch while participating in Test & Stay.

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, bandanas, and masks with a valve are not acceptable for school.

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.

Testing Programs

For more information on the testing programs, please visit the [SSCPS Health Office](#) webpage.

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

Barbara Folan, RN bfolan@sscps.org

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

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

Important Notice from DESE:

Extension of DESE Mask Requirement Through At Least January 15, 2022

Extension of Mask Requirement: On Tuesday, October 26, DESE announced that after consulting with medical experts and state health officials, the mask requirement in all K-12 public schools is extended through at least January 15, 2022. [Guidance](#) and a [press release](#) are available online.

The second time's a charm!



If you are dissatisfied with your child's student portrait and would like another try, you have the opportunity for a retake on: 11/18/21

Please return the undamaged portrait package to the photographer on Retake Day. If your school has class photos, please keep it and just return the individual portraits. If you have any specific instructions for the photographer, please jot them down so they show through the envelope window and can be easily spotted.

Retake packages will be distributed at the school approximately 3-5 weeks following Retake Day.

For refund information, please visit www.coffeepond.com
Email us at lifeguards@coffeepond.com
Call us in Eastern MA at (508) 907-6633 ext. 0
or outside Eastern MA at (800) 632-2323 ext. 0

Art Department News:

***Original Works* orders due today: Wednesday, November 10!**

If you are interested in purchasing any pieces, please send your child back with the artwork, order form in duplicate and check made out to SSCPS by today - Wednesday, November 10, 2021.

All orders can be put in the envelope marked "Original Works" in your student's cohort or at the front desk.

If you have any questions, ask your child's Art Teacher.

From the Yearbook Committee:

The 2022 yearbook is coming - now is your chance to order yours! The normal yearbook price is \$40, but if you order before January 1st, you can get yours for **\$37!**

Head to the [Coffee Pond website](#) and enter Password "bluejaguar".

Parents of seniors can have a personalized page in the yearbook as well.

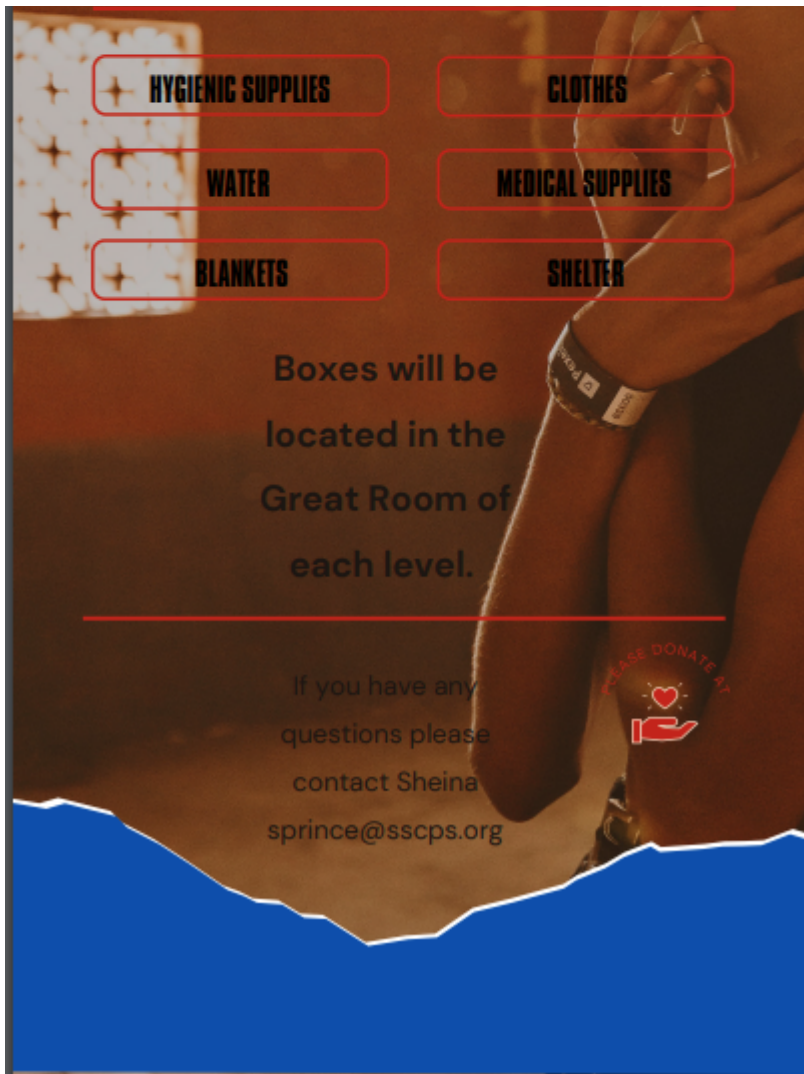
SENIOR AD PRICING:

-full page: \$150

-half page: \$75

-1/4 page: \$50





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 click below for more information.

HOUSING HELP

Food Service - Breakfast and Lunch Program

November Breakfast and Lunch Order Forms are now available!

All students enrolled at SSCPS qualify for Free Breakfast and Lunch for the 2021-2022 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.

From the Parents Association

There are two vacant positions on the PA: Treasurer and Level 3 Rep.

Any parent or guardian interested should please contact the PA at: sscpspa20.21@gmail.com before November 16th.

Elections will take place at the PA next meeting on November 17, 2021.

amazon

wishlist



help our teachers!

The Parents Association is working to ensure teachers can fill their classrooms with the items they need. To help support our teachers and their classrooms, please view the wishlists below. Thank you!

VIEW WISHLISTS

COMMUNITY INTEREST



Elks National Hoop Shoot® Free-Throw Contest

Compete. Connect. Succeed

Contests Location: Weymouth High School Gym – 1 Wildcat Way, Weymouth, 02190

Date: November 20, 2021 - **Start Time:** 9:30 **Registration – Contest at, 10AM to 12:00PM**

Hosted By Elks Lodge: Weymouth/Braintree Lodge for local Community Towns

Lodge Hoop Shoot Director: John MacDonald, 617-827-0889

Fast Facts:

- The Elks Hoop Shoot is free to boys and girls who will be between ages of 8-13 on April 1, 2022. All Kids from our local South Shore Community Towns are welcome to participate.
- Winners advance through District, State and Regional Hoop Shoot contests
- Regional winners qualify for a free trip to compete at the Hoop Shoot National Finals held April 30, 2022, in Chicago, IL
- National Champions will have their names permanently inscribed on a plaque in the Basketball Hall of Fame

Learn more at www.elks.org/hoopshoot

This Week | Up and Coming

Thursday	11/11	Veterans Day – No School	
Tuesday	11/16	MCAS ELA Retest	
Wednesday	11/17	MCAS ELA Retest	
Wednesday	11/17	Parents Association Meeting via Zoom	6:30pm
Thursday	11/18	Picture Retake Day	
Thursday	11/18	School Council via Zoom	4:30pm

Thursday	11/18	Board of Trustees	7:30pm
		Governance Committee	6:00pm
		Finance Committee	6:30pm
		Personnel Committee	7:00pm
		All meetings will be held at 700 Longwater Drive and via Zoom	

IMPORTANT LINKS

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

- [Back-to-School Information](#)
- [Food Service](#)
- [COVID-19 Protocols 2021-22](#)
- [Health Office](#)
- [Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance](#)
- **Visit the [Parents Association Website](#)**
- **Visit our new online option to [purchase SSCPS apparel!](#)**

School Documents:

[2021-22 School Calendar](#)

[Student and Family Handbook](#)

[Arrival and Dismissal Procedures](#)

[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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