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Weekly Update | October 6, 2021

Vol. 10, Issue 1



A Message from Alicia

October has arrived. With one month of teaching and learning under our belts, we find ourselves at the point of being able to look back on the beginning of the school year and realize how much we have learned from those early days in September. Our full return to school has been a time of discovery. In one month we learned of how strong we have become as a school community. Our ability to come together, to support each other's well being through uncertain times, and to sustain teaching and learning have brought us to the point where we are now thinking about building back

all that the pandemic has taken.

On September 21, the Massachusetts Department of Education released Spring 2021 MCAS scores for all public charter schools and school districts. MCAS scores were consistently lower throughout the state. For our school there were areas of academic strength as well as areas of needed improvement. The good news is that this work began with many of our students over the summer. Using school-based assessments, we have already seen early signs of improvement in reading in the lower grades. Today we sent out the DESE individualized MCAS score reports to families. These reports contain your child's MCAS results, providing you with data to see where your child scored in the spring. There will be a Zoom MCAS Principal's Coffee on Thursday morning, October 14, 9:00 - 10:00. The purpose of this Zoom meeting is to provide you with an overview of the information on your child's report. We encourage you to attend to learn more about your child's progress as well as our ongoing literacy and math initiatives. The Zoom is linked in the calendar below and we will be sending out additional information over the next few days.



Here at school our teachers know what has been lost. We know our students are adjusting to classroom routines and hallway behavior. We know students are working hard to pace themselves each day. Growing into the school year has meant effort from each one of our students on every grade level. What has remained constant is how excited and happy our students are to be back together again, in our classrooms and hallways every day, growing and learning together.



It is important to celebrate each step we take toward normalcy. Last Saturday was an excellent example of such a celebration. Thank you to all who participated in the Back-to-School Picnic and One Mile Walk at Wompatuck State Park. It was a terrific morning filled with fun events and a great opportunity for us to be together again. Special thanks to our Parents Association, particularly Katie Vecchione and Andrea Poudrier who worked tirelessly to plan a safe morning of fun activities. The tie dye table was a wonderful addition; it has been thrilling to see so many students wearing their newly designed t-shirts to school over the past three days. Thank you to our facilities team for the terrific set up and break down on Friday and Saturday. Additional special thanks to our participating teachers, Rowena Samuels, John Toland, Theron Leonard, Christine Bodnar, and Laurie Dannison for pulling it all together. Thank you to all of our sponsors for the unrelenting support. And of course, special thanks to our high school students in Christine Bodnar's Workshop who designed our sponsor boards, Natalie Olsen, Arya Patel, Imani Sainterling, and Alice Rogene. It was great to have this day back.

Thank you for being a part of our school community.

Alicia Savage
Executive Director





From the Health Office

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 November 1, 2021**

At the special meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) on August 24, 2021, the Board voted to declare "exigent circumstances" pursuant to the Student Learning Time (SLT) regulations, 603 CMR 27.08 (1), and authorized the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education to require masks for public school students (age 5 and above) and staff in all grades through at least October 1, 2021. The mask requirement is an important additional measure to keep students safe in school at this time.

Consistent with the authority provided by the Board, and after consulting with medical experts and state health officials, the Commissioner is extending the mask requirement through at least November 1, 2021.

Requirements and the full notice may be found [here](#).

As of October 15, 2021, if a school demonstrates a vaccination rate of 80 percent or more of all students and staff in the school through an attestation form submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), then vaccinated individuals in that school would no longer be subject to the

mask requirement. In alignment with [statewide guidance](#), unvaccinated students and staff would be required to continue wearing masks. Additional information about the Vaccination Rate Threshold is available [here](#). DESE will continue to work with medical experts and state health officials to review and consider additional metrics to determine when individuals in schools would no longer be subject to the mask requirement.

Art Department News

Original Works is Back!

In a couple of weeks, your students will be bringing home a packet with their special art creations and information about the Original Works Program that the High School Art Workshop coordinates for the school.

You will have the opportunity to reproduce this art on items that can be purchased through the program. Anything ordered and returned by November 5th will be created and returned to school by the beginning of December.

We have worked with this program for 15 years and are pleased with their results.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Marianne F. Buckley Curran at mbuckleycurran@sscps.org or call 781-982-4202 x 304.

THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE AND HURRICANE HAS LEFT HAITI DEVASTATED.

So many people urgently need our help.

Now that pathways are clearing we are hoping to be able to send supplies to the people of South Haiti still struggling to survive.

- HYGIENIC SUPPLIES
- CLOTHES
- WATER
- MEDICAL SUPPLIES
- BLANKETS
- SHELTER

Boxes will be located in the Great Room of each level.

If you have any questions please contact Sheina sprince@sscps.org

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.

Food Service - Breakfast and Lunch Program

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.

Wednesday	10/06	High School Back-to-School Night at 700 Longwater Drive	6:00-7:00pm
Thursday	10/07	10 th Grade Field Trip to Tree Top Adventures	
Monday	10/11	Indigenous People's Day – Observed - No School	
Monday	10/11	Columbus Day – Observed – No School	
Wednesday	10/13	Junior Class PSAT Exam Day	
Thursday	10/14	MCAS Principal's Coffee via Zoom	9:00am
Thursday	10/14	School Council via Zoom	4:30pm
Thursday	10/14	Board of Trustees	7:30pm
		Personnel Committee	5:30pm
		Governance Committee	6:00pm
		Finance Committee	6:30pm
All meetings will be held at 700 Longwater Drive			

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

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

[2021-22 School Calendar](#)

[Student and Family](#)

[Handbook](#)

[Arrival and Dismissal](#)

[Procedures](#)

[SSCPS By-Laws](#)



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www.sscps.org

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