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Weekly Update | September 1, 2021

Vol. 9, Issue 1



Welcome Back!

A Message from Alicia

Welcome and welcome back to the new school year and all the excitement of a new beginning. These early days of school are an important time for students, teachers, and families. Watching students entering the building on Monday and Tuesday was a special experience. The early days of school are always a special time, and this year even more so. For some students, the day held all the excitement of something entirely new. For others, the day was one of a long-awaited return and happiness in seeing friends and teachers, some for the first time in eighteen months. The day was filled with new teachers, new schedules, meeting friends for the first time, and reconnecting. Watching new students being made to feel welcome reminds us of what makes our school special. Thank you for all of your efforts at home to make these early days of transition work as smoothly as possible. Your patience with these first few days, especially in the drop off and pick up lines, has been greatly appreciated.

There has been much preparation leading to the first day of school. Last week faculty and staff began the school year with three days of professional development. Teachers participated in curriculum workshops, diversity training, lesson design sessions, health and safety protocols, and level meetings. Despite the challenge of beginning the year with COVID-19 still prevalent, we are ready to meet those challenges with patience and flexibility. As we look forward to an exciting new year, we welcome new faculty and staff members to the SSCPS community. Please join me in welcoming our new faculty and staff as they begin their journey here at SSCPS.

Levels I and II

Karen Foy | Classroom Paraprofessional

Joining Deana pod is Karen Foy. Karen comes to SSCPS from Boston University Academy where she served as a school counselor. Karen holds a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in School Counseling from Boston University, a Master of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland. We are excited to welcome Karen as she enters this new chapter of her profession.

Bryan Gammon | Level II Paraprofessional

We are excited to welcome Bryan to Level II. Bryan, who graduated from SSCPS in 2013, is returning to SSCPS from the Medford Public Schools where he served as a special education paraprofessional. It's always so terrific when an alum returns! Bryan's professional experience includes Men's Wearhouse and Whole Foods where he worked in customer service.

Jennifer Moore | Level II Paraprofessional

Joining Level II is Jennifer Moore. Jennifer has been a homeschool teacher for the past nine years, during that time serving as a teacher and administrator with the LIFE Homeschool Co-op. In addition to teaching, Jennifer's professional experience includes retail inventory management at Michaels and supervision and coordination at South Shore Hospital. Jennifer holds a Master of Education in Elementary Education from Bridgewater State University, and a Bachelor of Arts from Westfield State College where she minored in Outdoor Education.

Samantha Passamonti | Level II Paraprofessional

Joining Level II as a classroom paraprofessional is Samantha Passamonti. Samantha comes to us from The Learning Experience where she served as an assistant teacher for one year. Samantha completed her student teaching with the Lowell Public

Schools and holds a Bachelor of Education from the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

Chynna Pires | Classroom Paraprofessional

Chynna has joined Crystal's Pod on Level I. Chynna comes to SSCPS with eleven years of experience in early childhood education, both as a teacher and a program director. Chynna has taught in preschool and toddler programs at The Chestnut Hill School, Kindercare, and most recently, the Temple Shalom Nursery School. Chynna completed her Child Development Associate program at Massachusetts Bay Community College in May, 2020.

Kayla Shaw-Marshall | Classroom Paraprofessional

Joining Jessica's Pod on Level I is Kayla Shaw-Marshall. Kayla has five years of teaching experience. Kayla served as a group assistant at the Blackstone Valley Boys and Girls Club, a teacher assistant at the Burrillville Middle School, and has been a group assistant at Burrillville Extended Care. Kayla has most recently been a paraprofessional at the South Shore Educational Collaborative and with the Abington Public Schools. An interesting fact about Kayla is that she assisted and taught Therapeutic Horseback Riding when she was a high school student.

Levels III and IV

Jamie Allen | Science Curriculum Coordinator, Grade 7 Science Teacher

We are excited to announce that Jamie Allen has returned to SSCPS as our new grade seven science teacher and will be resuming her position as Science Curriculum Coordinator. Here at SSCPS Jamie has taught a number of high school science courses including Biology, Marine Biology, Human Biology, Chemistry, and Topics in Science. Jamie is experienced in curriculum backward design and has written modified curricula for both AP Biology and Honors Chemistry.

Before arriving at SSCPS, Jamie worked in a drop-out prevention program in Florida, and a Medical Magnet program. During her time in educational outreach, Jamie developed environmental and marine science curricula for students from preschool to university level. While working at The Pier Aquarium in Saint Petersburg, Florida Jamie wrote grants and built partnerships with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the National Organization of Air and Atmosphere (NOAA), and the University of Southern Florida. Jamie holds a Master of Education degree from American International College, a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Science with a concentration in Biology from Eckerd College in Saint Petersburg, Florida.

Matthew Collins | Learning Services Paraprofessional

Matthew Collins comes to the SSCPS Learning Services department following an extensive career in retail management and operations. Matthew holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English with a concentration in Education from Bridgewater State University.

Danielle Lopez | Learning Services Teacher

We are excited to welcome Danielle Lopez to Level IV. Danielle comes to us following ten years of service at the May Institute. While at the May Institute Danielle's experience was extensive. She served as a residential teacher assistant, an assistant program coordinator, a classroom counselor, a senior lead teacher, and a training specialist. Danielle holds a Bachelor of Arts from Sam Houston State University and a Master of Education from Bridgewater State University.

Lauren Mullen | Learning Services Paraprofessional

Joining the Learning Services department is Lauren Mullen. Lauren comes to us with extensive early childhood experience having taught at Pope John Paul II Catholic

Academy and at the Ruth Darling Child Care Center in Boston. Lauren holds degrees from Quincy College in Early Childhood Education and Paralegal Studies.

Justin Silva | Learning Services Paraprofessional

Joining us on Level IV is Justin Silva. Justin comes to SSCPS following twelve years of service in law enforcement in addition to two years working in education. Justin has taught as a substitute teacher and special education paraprofessional at the Boston Renaissance Charter Public School in Boston. Justin is a graduate of the Plymouth Regional Police Academy and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Southern New Hampshire University and a Masters of Education degree in Moderate Disabilities from Worcester State University.

High School

Brandon Du Fresne | English Department

Joining the high school as our new English teacher is Brandon Du Fresne. Brandon comes to SSCPS from Weymouth Public Schools where he taught high school English and History for ten years. Brandon has extensive experience in the development and creation of action plans for historical objects and artifacts. His expertise in the area has led to keynote speeches, radio and television interviews, as well as being featured in newspapers and media. Brandon holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bridgewater State College where he double majored in English and History.

Sarah Innocent | Math Department

Sarah has joined the high school Math Department. Sarah comes to SSCPS from Crossroads Christian Academy in Panama City, Panama where she taught Algebra I, Pre Algebra, and Precalculus. Prior to her international experience, Sarah taught math for six years at College Place Public Schools. Sarah completed her student teaching at Milton-Freewater High School. Sarah holds a Master of Arts degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics from Walla Walla College in College Place, Washington.

School Wide

Suzanne Adduci | Van Driver

SSCPS is pleased to welcome our new van driver, Suzanne Adduci. Suzanne comes to SSCPS from Judco where she transported students from the ages of 4 to 22. Suzanne holds a 7D van certification and is certified in CPR and first aid.

Paul Barrett | Music Teacher

Joining SSCPS as our new music teacher is Paul Barrett. Paul comes to SSCPS from the Powder Mill School in Southwick where he served as a chorus and general music teacher for three years. In his spare time, Paul has been a volunteer for My Brother's Keeper and has served as the vice president of Young Singers of Greater Westfield. Paul holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Westfield State University and is taking coursework towards a Master of Music Education at Gordon College.

Donika Darabus | K-12 Math Curriculum Coordinator

We are pleased to announce that our new Math Curriculum Coordinator will be SSCPS high school math teacher, Donika Darabus. Donika has served as a math teacher here at SSCPS for nine years. In that time Donika has taught and designed lessons for Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Precalculus, Statistics, Quantitative Reasoning, and AP Statistics. In addition to her role here in the math department, Donika has served as the High School Level Coordinator. Her extensive experience in this role includes high school budget preparation, coordinating formal assessments, using district data to establish programming, and teacher mentorship.

Prior to coming to SSCPS, Donika taught Earth Science at Quincy High School and was a Lego Engineering Instructor. Donika holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering

from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a Master of Education in Middle/Secondary Mathematics from the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Olivia Kimla | Learning Services Administrative Assistant

Olivia Kimla comes to SSCPS from Frasca Companies where she served as an administrative assistant working in business development. Olivia has worked in administrative support at New England Hospice and has served as a core processing associate at Boston Financial Data Services. Olivia holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Brittany Motley | School Psychologist

Joining SSCPS as our new School Psychologist is Brittany Motley. Brittany comes to SSCPS from Stonebridge Behavioural Services where she served as an ABA Therapist. Brittany completed her school psychologist internship with the Boston Public Schools working in three schools with students from many Boston neighborhoods. Brittany has also served as a therapeutic learning classroom paraprofessional with the Whitman Public Schools. Brittany holds an Associate of Arts degree from Massasoit Community College, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Bridgewater State University, and a Master of Education in School Psychology from the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Our school community is fortunate to have so many wonderful faculty and staff joining SSCPS this year. We are grateful for their commitment to our ongoing mission of inspiring every student to excel in academics, service and life.

Alicia Savage
Executive Director

From the SSCPS Health Office

Thank you for your continued support as we kick off the 2021-2022 school year. At SSCPS, keeping your students safe and in school is our top priority. We have learned more about COVID-19 over this past year and our current guidance and procedures reflect the most updated recommendations from the CDC and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

For the 2021-22 school year, we are offering an extra layer of protection to prevent the spread of COVID-19, our COVID-19 testing program at school. This program has three components: symptomatic testing for students who show symptoms of COVID-19 at school, routine COVID safety checks to prevent the spread of the virus undetected among students who are not showing symptoms, and test and stay for students who may have been exposed while in school but are not showing symptoms. Each of these is a quick, non-invasive nasal swab that is collected under the supervision of a school nurse or trained health provider. Unlike COVID-19 tests of the past, these are not uncomfortable and easy for students to do themselves.

Students only participate with permission from a parent or guardian. It is important to our school that you are fully informed regarding the process and that we can answer any questions that you might have in advance of asking you to sign the [linked consent form](#). Below we describe each of the three parts of our testing program, how they are conducted, and what they are used for.

Symptomatic testing is used when a student is showing symptoms of COVID-19 during school; students should not come to school if they are feeling sick while at home. Some symptoms of the virus look identical to other illnesses like the cold or flu, and this test tells us whether a symptomatic student has COVID-19 or not. This is a rapid test, and we receive the results of this test within 15 minutes. If a student has minimal symptoms and tests negative, they can remain in school.

Routine COVID safety checks minimize disruption to learning by helping us catch potential spread of the virus before it starts. Each student administers the safety check on a weekly basis. Samples are collected at school in groups of 5-10 individuals. The samples are grouped together at school. Once the samples get to the lab, all the samples in the group are tested for COVID-19 together. In almost all cases, it will take less than 24 hours to receive safety check results. Students can continue to come to school while awaiting safety check results; they do not need to quarantine while awaiting results. If a safety check test is positive, the students in the group will take individual tests to determine which student(s) in the group produced the positive test.

Test and stay allows students who have had close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 while at school to stay in school if the student is not showing symptoms. Instead of needing to quarantine and miss school, these students will take a daily rapid test while they remain in school as long as they are not symptomatic. Students participate in test and stay for at least five days after they may have been exposed.

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, they must quarantine at home for the CDC-recommended ten days since symptoms appeared or ten days after the positive test before returning to school. The student must also be without a fever for 24 hours.

Although students who are vaccinated are much less likely to spread or contract the virus, it is important for us to create an inclusive environment for both vaccinated and unvaccinated students.

To participate in the program, you must complete the [linked consent form](#) on behalf of your student. There is no charge for participating. It is our hope that these measures will work together to keep our schools safe and your children in school. Thank you again for your support.

Please see the [Health Office](#) page on the SSCPS website for more information on COVID-19 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 Kjellaard, 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.

Food Service - Breakfast and Lunch Program

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.

A Message from the South Shore YMCA

Dear SSCPS Families,

The SSYMCA is excited to be back and continue to expand towards where we were pre-COVID offering an afterschool program at SSCPS for the upcoming 2021-2022 academic year! We appreciate your patience and understanding while we work to get afterschool programming back up and running for SSCPS. We have approval to open for K-5 students afterschool and are working towards some additions to programming for the future.

If you intend to have your child(ren) attend our programming, please contact the Afterschool Director, Shirley Zayas, for an Enrollment Packet so that we can start the registration process. **The process is first come first serve, so get yours in to get the spot reserved as space is limited.** Your child **must** be enrolled in order to participate in the afterschool program. More details to come for the next school year in the fall about programming as we conclude the current one.

Shirley Zayas
Director of Before & Afterschool
South Shore YMCA
Emilson Branch
1075 Washington Street
Hanover MA 02339
Phone: 781-826-7900 Ext. 5241

Early Morning Drop-Off Program

The Early Morning Drop-Off Program is designed to support families within our school community whose schedules require that they bring their children to school

before 7:45 a.m. Click here for more information: [Early Morning Drop Off Program](#)

From the Parents Association

CARPOOL CONNECT: The Parents Association is collecting information from families interested in carpooling with other local families for the 2021-2022 school year. This information will be available for parents on our website (www.SSCPS-PA.org) to connect with one another in order to set-up their own carpool scheduled.

Thursday	09/02	Kindergarten - Early Release	12:00pm
Friday	09/03	K-12 Early Release	12:00pm
Monday	09/06	Labor Day – No School	
Wednesday	09/08	Executive Committee Meeting via Conference Call	8:00am

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](#)

[SSCPS By-Laws](#)



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www.sscps.org

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