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Weekly Update | September 29, 2021

Vol. 9, Issue 5

A Message from Jamie

The face of education as we know has changed over the course of the past 2 years. Students, teachers and families have responded to these circumstances and should be applauded for their hard work, ability to adapt quickly and with minimal disruption to the educational process.

Our science curriculum here at SSCPS fosters an environment in which we let our students tap into their inquisitive nature. Our goal is to provide opportunities for our students to grow and develop as young scientists, as well as to practice the fundamental skills that are essential to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). With the unprecedented time we find ourselves in during this pandemic, it has been a challenging feat to adapt our instruction to both meet the needs of our students as well as fit the demands of grade level standards. With that being said, there is also the added pressure to ensure that our young scientists are not presenting gaps due to disrupted education, as well as staying on path for learning and staying engaged.

Our teachers have been working incredibly hard to make sure that not only are our students able to access the curriculum they are teaching, but also ensuring that it is remaining inquiry based, hands-on and making real world connections. Our teachers are providing the necessary remediation, recitations or enrichment that are fundamental to the skill development of your student. Our team of educators is ensuring that by the end of their education journey in grade 12, all students will have an appreciation for the wonder of science, possess sufficient knowledge of science and engineering to engage in public discussion on related issues, and be careful consumers of scientific and technological information and products in their everyday lives. Their journey in science here at SSCPS will prepare them for the reality that most careers require some scientific or technical preparation. We will strive to

increase their interest in and consideration of careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. As our mission states, we strive to prepare our students in academics, service and life. The following practices ensure this.

While content is still specific to grade level, there are certain practices that we now use universally throughout all grades and throughout the school year to deliver and assess the state standards. These are the Science and Engineering Practices, which include:

- Asking questions and defining problems
- Developing and using models
- Planning and carrying out investigations
- Analyzing and interpreting data
- Using mathematics and computational thinking
- Constructing explanations and designing solutions
- Engaging in argument from evidence
- Obtaining, evaluating and communicating information

Below are images of our students here at SSCPS. Students are engaged in lessons that are composed of standards based content supplemented with diagrams, videos, interactives, and hands-on investigations. Students are encouraged to live science through the scientific method, specifically using observation and questioning. Teachers are taking advantage of these challenging times to reinforce skills, build relationships, model teamwork, and utilize all that the outdoors has to offer. These images capture our students using these science and engineering practices in their classrooms and these are the STEM leaders of our future.



Stay safe and healthy!

Jamie Allen
Science Curriculum Coordinator

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.

A Message from the SSCPS Health Office

COVID-19 Testing is being offered in school this year to limit learning disruptions to the greatest extent possible. The program for the 2021-2022 school year has three

components: **Symptomatic** for students who show symptoms of COVID-19 at school, **Test and Stay** for students who may have been exposed while in school but are not showing symptoms, **Weekly COVID Safety Testing** to prevent the spread of the virus undetected among students who 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 to do.

An overview of the three different testing programs we are planning to offer this year is below.

Symptomatic rapid antigen testing for students that become ill while at school. *Students with mild symptoms will be able to remain in school with a negative rapid test. Students with more severe symptoms will need to go home, but may return to school when symptoms have resolved. Students with negative rapid tests will not need a backup PCR test this year.*

Test and Stay rapid antigen testing for unvaccinated students that are deemed close contacts from a school exposure. *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.*

Weekly COVID Safety Testing, which will be a grouped weekly PCR test. *This program is similar to last year's pool testing. If students are in a positive pool they will report to school for a backup rapid antigen test the next day. If an antigen test is negative, students may remain in school. Tentative start date TBD.*

We are currently up and running for Symptomatic Rapid Antigen Testing and the Test and Stay Rapid Antigen Testing. If you would like to have your student participate in these programs sign up using the link below. Students **MUST** be pre-registered to participate in these programs. If you choose not to have your student participate they will need to remain out of school if they are close contacts or if they are symptomatic for the above COVID-19 symptoms.

<https://pbcovid.cic-health.com/register/with-code?code=KDHEHV>

To register a second student, please create a secondary profile and enter the school code: KDHEHV

*****Due to the overwhelming number of schools that have signed up with the state to run COVID testing programs, we have been moved to CIC Project Beacon testing platform. If you had previously registered your student under the CIC consent from the newsletter, you will need to sign them up for this testing platform in order for them to participate.**

If your student has received their COVID-19 vaccine please send in proof of immunization. Vaccinated students will not be required to quarantine if they are considered close contacts unless they become symptomatic.

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

If your child is ill or has any of the above mentioned symptoms please have the child remain home and reach out to the appropriate Health Office:

100 Longwater (K-8)
Darcie Edwards, RN
dedwards@sscps.org
781-981-4202 x104

Jaime Kjelgaard, RN
jkjelgaard@sscps.org
781-981-4202 x104

700 Longwater (9-12)
Barbara Folan, RN
bfolan@sscps.org
781-982-4202 x182

In addition to a fully staffed Health Office during school hours, there is an SSCPS nurse on call every evening and on weekends to facilitate contact tracing outside of regular school hours. Should you or a family member test positive in the evening or during the weekend, please contact the nurse on call. The nurse on evenings this week and for the upcoming weekend is Barbara Folan, bfolan@sscps.org.

School Picture Days

Wednesday, September 29, 2021 - All Students in grades K-8

Thursday, September 30, 2021 - All High School Students, Grades 9-12

All students will have their pictures taken, whether families are buying packages or not

Order forms will be sent home on Monday, September 27

We encourage families to order photos online.

To order:

- Go to Coffeepond.com
 - Click on "Order School Portraits"
 - Select town: Norwell, MA
 - Select school: South Shore Charter
 - For K-8 - choose Lower and Middle
 - For 9-12 - choose Upper
 - Choose your package and any other items you'd like
 - **CONFIRMATION SHEETS DO NOT NEED TO BE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL ON PICTURE DAY!**
-



Save the date for our Back to School Community Picnic and Walk to be held on Saturday, October 2nd from 10am-12 at Wompatuck State Park Visitor Center.

We hope you will gather your family members and join us for a fun morning to connect with other SSCPS families. We will have vendors, games and raffles and will start the One Mile Heart Healthy Walk at 10am. The one mile walk is a beautiful flat course that is stroller and dog friendly.

Suggested family donation is \$10. Sign up and donate [HERE!](#)

If you have any questions, please reach out to Laurie Dannison at ldannison@sscps.org.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you next month!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

SSCPS Community Walk & Back to School Picnic

Saturday, October 2

Wompatuck State Park

10:00 – 12:00

Sign up [HERE](#) to help with this fun-filled community event!

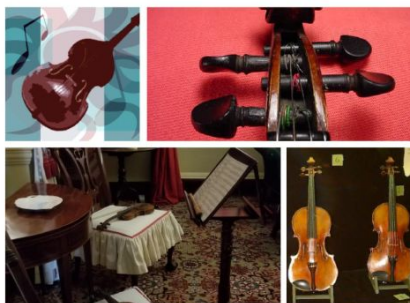


SSCPS Level 3-High School Before School Concert Band



SSCPS Music Room @ 100 Longwater Tuesdays & Thursdays 7:00-8:00 am
Have you been playing a band instrument for a year or more? Then Concert band is for you!
If interested please complete [this form](#).

Please direct all questions to: tleonard@sscps.org



SSCPS Level 3-4 After School Strings



South Shore Charter Public School Music Room Wednesdays and Fridays 3:00-4:00
Do you have and interest in learning the Violin or Cello? Join the after school string program.
If interested please complete [this form](#).

Please direct all questions to: tleonard@sscps.org

If interested in the Before School Band or After School Strings please complete [this form](#).
For more information contact, Theron Leonard at tleonard@sscps.org.



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.

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.

Wednesday	09/29	K-8 Picture Day	
Wednesday	09/29	Level I and Level II Back-to-School Night at 100 Longwater Circle	6:00-7:00pm
Thursday	09/30	High School Picture Day	
Thursday	09/30	Virtual Junior Parent Meeting with Guidance	6:00pm

Friday	10/01	Professional Development Early Release	12:00pm
Saturday	10/02	Back-to-School Picnic and Walk at Wompatuck	10am-12pm
Wednesday	10/06	Board of Trustees Executive Committee Meeting	8:00am
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	

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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