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Weekly Update | September 8, 2021

Vol. 9, Issue 2



A Message from Angie

Welcome back! It is wonderful to have all of our students and teachers back to teaching and learning in person. Now that we have a full week of school behind us, students and teachers are quickly falling into their school year routines. Despite the protocols that are in place, in many ways things are very much back to the normal we were accustomed to before March 2020. This is largely due to the incredible flexibility of our faculty, staff, and students. As a school community we continue to work to ensure that students have the school experience that they deserve in as safe an environment as is possible. Thank you for your continued support as we navigate this new school year together.

With students back in school in person, we know that families are eager to meet teachers and to see the spaces where their children spend their days, especially after a school year when parents were unable to enter our buildings. At the same time we know that many families appreciated the virtual opportunities to engage with teachers and the school that we made available with the emergence of the pandemic. The [School Improvement Plan](#) developed by the [School Council](#) included a benchmark in the family communication and engagement goal that requires us to “Plan for family meetings, parent-teacher conferences, and school events taking into consideration which events have worked well virtually during the pandemic.” Our goal is to strike the right balance between in person and virtual family engagement.

This year we will be holding Back-to-School nights in person as we did prior to the pandemic. This will allow for an initial meeting between parents and teachers that is face to face. During these events parents and guardians will have the opportunity to

meet their child's teachers and to learn more about the curriculum. Please find the Back-to-School Night dates below. These events will run from 6:00pm - 7:00pm. Additional information will be available as the events approach. As a reminder the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education has implemented a mask mandate in all Massachusetts public schools. That mandate applies not only to students and staff but also to any visitors in a school building. Parents and guardians are required to wear masks when attending school events.

Back-to-School 2021

Grades 5-8 - Thursday, September 23rd
Grades K-4 - Wednesday, September 29th
High School - Wednesday, October 6th

We will continue to hold the majority of our parent-teacher meetings virtually this school year. This includes our parent-teacher conferences that are scheduled for December 10th and December 17th, informal parent-teacher meetings, and our informational parent nights. Information, including meeting links, will be shared by email and will be included in the Update throughout the year. Other meetings, such as our Board of Trustees meetings, will have both an in person and virtual options. Please know that we are carefully following the guidance issued by the state and may need to make adjustments as the health crisis continues to unfold. Thank you for your patience.

I look forward to seeing you in person and through the computer screen throughout this school year. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. It is going to be a great year!

Sincerely,
Angie Pepin
Principal, K-12



Save the date for our Back to School Community Picnic and Walk to be held on Saturday, October 2nd from 9-12 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 and can be paid on this [site](#).

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!

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 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.

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.

Upcoming Events!			
Wednesday	09/15	9 th Grade Field Trip to Tree Top Adventures	
Thursday	09/16	Yom Kipper Observed – No School	
Friday	09/17	10 th Grade Field Trip to Tree Top Adventures	
Friday	09/17	Level III Field Trip to Nantasket Beach	

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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