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Weekly Update | February 15, 2023

Vol. 2. Issue 3



A Message from Donika

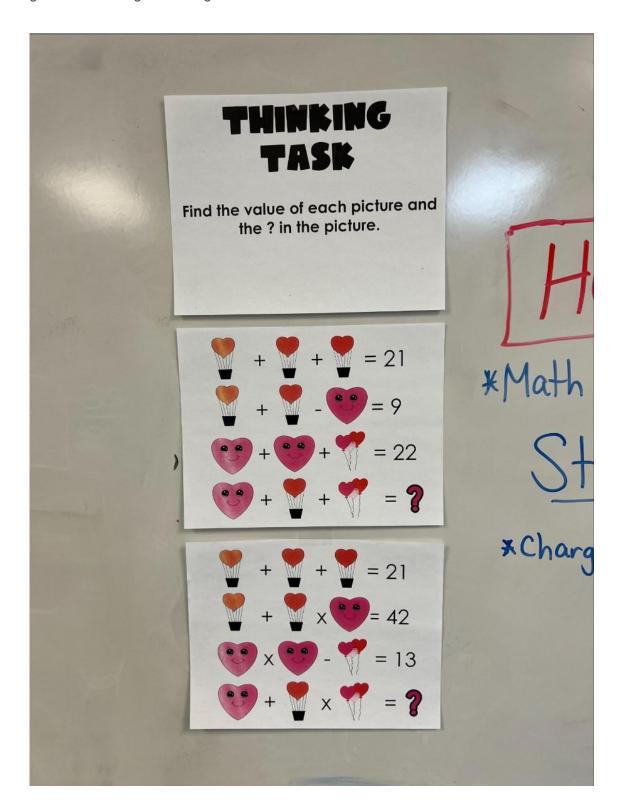
Meet the 5-12 Math Department!

It has been a busy and exciting year in the math department. We have many new teachers and have spent a lot of time reviewing best practices, norms, and establishing our team goals.

Krista Cafourek, 5th grade Math, 19 years at SSCPS

The 5th grade classes are extremely lucky to have Krista leading them through the challenging world of ratios and fractions. Krista has incorporated many hands-on activities and dynamic lessons to show students how their learning can take shape. Krista has been

at SSCPS for 19 years and has taken on various roles. She has taught 3rd ,4th, 5th and 6th grade math classes. This range and expertise are vital in making sure the students understand what background knowledge they need and where they are headed. Krista's classes are currently working on addition and subtraction of fractions and mixed numbers. Krista says that she loves that SSCPS is a K-12 school and she enjoys watching students grow from kindergarten to high school.



Thinking task in Krista's classroom on Valentine's day

Ben Anderson, 6th grade Math, 18 years at SSCPS

After working eight years at Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, MA, Ben joined the SSCPS community as a paraprofessional and student teacher. Ben was a student teacher in Angie Pepin's 5th/6th grade math class and then transitioned into taking on his own math classes. His experience shows and his students enjoy his teaching style and commitment to math learning. Ben's classes are focusing on the skills they need to be successful in next year's math course. They just learned several properties of addition and multiplication, including the distributive property, and how to evaluate and write expressions. Ben's students have shown a lot of progress and growth on the IXL platform and are increasing their familiarity with computer based testing on Edulastic which helps prepare them for MCAS. When asked what he enjoys about working at SSCPS, Ben said "I enjoy the connections my students and I make throughout the year and how these connections."

Chinki Kumari, 7th grade Pre-Algebra, 1st year at SSCPS

Chinki came to us this year bringing her experience of working as a middle school math teacher in Chelsea Public Schools and also tutoring in the Carney Hospital Adolescent Psychiatric unit. Chinki has brought many exciting aspects to life in the 7th grade classroom. Students in Chinki's classes work on IXL during *Technology Thursdays* where they have completed 80,000 questions in February alone, and practice fluency skills during *Fluency Fridays*. Students share and solve questions as a class and work on handwriting and note taking skills. Chinki has incorporated a clock buddies *Think, Pair, Share* strategy and also has encouraged more class participation by using ice cream sticks. Her classroom is an engaging one and students are working on expressions and equations. Chinki said "I love that the students here are from diverse backgrounds and the school really goes lengths to meet the diverse needs of the students, right from inclusion classrooms to SEI/ELL students."



White board solutions in Chinki's classroom

Janet Fortier, 8th grade Algebra Concepts, Theatre Project, 6 years at SSCPS

In Janet's time here she has truly mastered the 8th grade curriculum. She helps students advance their skills in preparation for high school math classes. Students in Janet's classes learn the importance of practice and perseverance and are given multiple representations of problems and skills. 8th grade students are working on rate of change problems and identifying how this is noted as rise over run, the slope of a line, and being introduced to the slope-intercept formula. Students will begin the City Slope Project where students will plot buildings, connect the buildings, and determine the slope and y-intercept of the roadways connecting the buildings. A nice introduction to how important math is for city planning. Janet's passion for math shows in her instruction and how she fosters mathematical curiosity in her classroom.

Shalini Shweta, 9th grade Algebra 1, Robotics Workshop Co-Leader, 1st year at SSCPS

After four years of substitute teaching at SSCPS, Shalini joined the math department and has been teaching three sections of Algebra 1 and one section of Algebra 1 honors. She has a master's degree in Medical Biochemistry from Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Science in India. She joined Sikkim Manipal as lecturer for the college of medical science. After moving to the U.S. she decided to get back into teaching and states that it has always been her passion and she loves working with children. Shalini holds her students to high expectations and provides a level of rigor needed in the Algebra 1 content. This is a crucial time for students as they learn important skills for the rest of their high school math career and beyond. Shalini's students are currently working on exponent rules and how to apply them to algebraic equations. They have participated in *Exponent Bingo* and completed an

exponent rules maze. Shalini is looking forward to incorporating more fun activities into her classroom. She says that she "enjoys the supporting environment the SSCPS faculty creates every day, and it makes me excited to come into school every morning. "

Jerry Ford, 10th grade Geometry, Financial Literacy Workshop, 1st year at SSCPS

After teaching for 2 years at Carver Middle high school, Jerry is in his 5th year of teaching and 1st year at SSCPS. Jerry worked for nearly 25 years in corporate positions ranging from producing shoes to selling life insurance. This background allows Jerry to incorporate many real world examples in his content and he also runs the Financial Literacy Workshop. His classes and workshop are full of fun and students like the interactive workplace. The Geometry classes are currently working on relationships in triangles leading up to the unit of Similarity and Right Triangle Trigonometry. This unit will include a competition between all of Jerry's students and classes to determine the height of the flagpole in front of the school. Jerry states that "In my previous position, the togetherness of the teachers and students was not as apparent as here at SSCPS. I love that all the teachers work together to make sure the daily activities of the students get them to be the best they can be."

Sophia Maniscalco, 10th/11th grade Algebra 2, Optimize Me Workshop, 1st year at SSCPS

After receiving a degree and working in the field of Mathematics, Sophia began teaching the Algebra 2 and Algebra 2 Honors courses in January. Sophia's math content knowledge allows her to support and challenge her students. Sophia is in her element and students are thriving in their Algebra 2 coursework. Students are currently working on calculating and graphing key characteristics of quadratic functions. The content learned and mastered in Algebra 2 sets students on a path to higher level mathematical concepts. This course acts as a gateway to Pre-Calculus and AP Statistics. Students are lucky to have Sophia guiding them on their math journey. Sophia also took on the Optimize Me workshop which focuses on meditation techniques and methods to improve brain function, learning, and best practices for mental health.

Greg Roaf, 11th/12th grade Precalculus, Jaguar Mutual Fun Workshop, 7 years at SSCPS

Greg came to SSCPS after working for 10 years in a private school. He has worked in Level IV and has been a dedicated high school teacher for the majority of his years here. Greg's upper level content can be challenging for students, but Greg cultivates an inclusive and successful learning environment for students. The relationships he forms with students make them want to take his course and they are fully engaged in each lesson. Greg teaches Precalculus, Precalculus Honors, and Math SAT prep. Currently in Precalculus, students are working with polynomials. They are focusing on finding key characteristics

and solving for roots. He also runs the Jaguar Mutual Fund workshop which focuses on investing in stocks. Students love gaining this knowledge and how it can impact their future. Greg spends his free time playing and teaching students how to play chess. The math world expands in all forms in Greg's classroom. Greg says "What I have loved most about working at SSCPS is the freedom it gives to try things in unique ways to find what works best for my students. I also love the opportunity I have to get to know my students not just in the classroom but in the many different environments our school affords."



Greg playing chess with Junior Amogh Athimamula

Kim Williamson, 9th/10th grade Geometry, 12th grade Quantitative Reasoning, School Store Workshop, 1st year at SSCPS

Kim came to SSCPS this year and has already made a resounding impact on our students and student community. She has taken on the Senior Quantitative Reasoning course and she states that it "is an especially enjoyable class because students are seniors, essentially adults, about to embark on real life, so the topics they are learning are easily relatable to the near future. Some of our favorite projects have included determining interest rates of student loans, future value and net worth, and investigations into the housing market. All related to Exponential Growth & Decay, during the World Cup, one student even attempted to predict Neymar's net worth."

Additionally, Kim took on the School Store Workshop. With approximately twenty students, they have created a comfortable atmosphere where students can buy snacks during Break and Lunch every day. To make it a little more than a snack shack, after February Vacation they will begin to offer SSCPS apparel and hopefully help add to the SSCPS school spirit. While teaching workshop students begin to understand the essence of entrepreneurship.



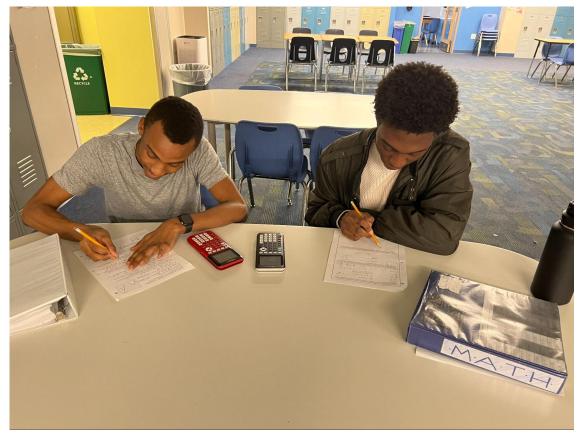
Donika Darabus, 11th/12th grade AP Statistics, AP Calculus AB/BC, 11 years at SSCPS

In my 11th year at SSCPS I can say that I have taught every high school math course we have to offer. This has given me an increased understanding of the skills needed to be a successful math learner. The three AP math courses act as a culmination of math understanding K-12. Students in these courses work through rigorous content all while

moving at college board level pacing. Their dedication to learning is at the forefront and they are motivated to set up a foundation of success for their future college majors and careers. The AP statistics students are currently in the early stages of inference testing. They have just learned how to perform a significance test for 1 sample proportion. The AP Calculus AB students and AP Calculus BC students are working through contextual applications of differentiation. Most recently, students are calculating related rates using derivatives. AP Calculus students also learned how to use the derivative to find where profits can be maximized using the marginal cost and marginal revenue functions.



Juniors in AP Statistics



AP Calculus BC Students working on straight line motion problems

Donika Darabus

Math Curriculum Coordinator and Teacher



ANNUAL FAMILY SURVEY

As we are now entering the third quarter of the school year, and rapidly approaching the 100th day of school, we are looking ahead and seeking input from all of our SSCPS families. As we do every year at this mid-point, our school community takes the time to reflect on the first five months of the school year and to plan for the remainder of the school year. In an effort to gather input from all families, we are requesting that each SSCPS family participate in the 2023 Annual Family Survey. The survey will be available until Friday, March 3, 2023. Your feedback is important as we work to continuously improve and provide the best educational experience for our students.

The data collected from the Annual Family Survey is crucial for the Annual Report and for institutional planning during the July Board of Trustees meeting. During this meeting, the Board of Trustees will review key measures that define student achievement and institutional strength, and the data from this year's survey will play an important role in school-wide planning. We will be using the information provided by families to establish programs, design next year's schedule, evaluation transportation, and improve the day-to-day experience for SSCPS students. Maintaining a positive school culture and enhancing

student life remains a top priority for us. In the past three years, family participation in the survey has been high and we hope to continue to have a high participation rate this year as well. Your input is valuable to us, so please make sure to complete the survey linked below to have your voice heard.

ANNUAL FAMILY SURVEY

MASSHEALTH RENEWALS

We are sharing with you important information that will impact MassHealth (Medicaid and CHIP) health insurance coverage for children and families.

MassHealth has maintained members' coverage and benefits due to continuous coverage requirements that started during the COVID-19 emergency. MassHealth will soon return to our normal renewal process. All MassHealth members will need to renew their health coverage.

If MassHealth has enough information to confirm your eligibility, your coverage will be renewed automatically. If MassHealth is not able to confirm your eligibility automatically, we will send a renewal form in a blue envelope to the mailing address we have on file.

What you need to do now:

- Make sure MassHealth has your most up to date address, phone number, and email so you do not miss important information and notices from MassHealth. If they are not able to contact you when you are selected for renewal your coverage may change or you may lose your coverage.
- Report any household changes. Please continue to report any changes in your household, like a new job, address, changes to your income, disability status, or pregnancy. MassHealth wants to make sure we have the latest information for you and all members of your household.
- Update your information and report changes using your MA Login Account at http://www.mahix.org/individual. Don't have an account? To create one call MassHealth Customer Service at (844) 365-1841. Find out more about MA Login Accounts Online at mass.gov/masshealthlogin.

Questions?

If you have questions, need help with your MassHealth coverage, or if you have lost coverage, please contact MassHealth Customer Service at (800) 841-2900.

MassHealth members will soon need to renew their health coverage.





What you need to do now

Make sure MassHealth has your most up to date address, phone number, and email so you do not miss important information and notices from MassHealth.

If we are not able to contact you, your coverage may change or you may lose your coverage during your renewal. Report any household changes. These include a new job, address, changes to your income, disability status, or pregnancy.

Update your information and report changes using your MA Login Account at www.mahix.org/ individual.

Don't have an account?

If you are under 65, visit mass.gov/masshealthlogin or scan the QR code:



HOLLY HILL FARM







Jessica Everett's pod visits Holly Hill Farm!





APPLYING SKILLS IN THE COMMUNITY

One of the highlights of our SSCPS community is how richly diverse our student body is. This diversity presents itself in a variety of ways. One such way is the learning styles and needs that our students portray. As a fully inclusive school, our student body is composed of many unique learning profiles and abilities, and we believe that our school, as a whole, is truly better because of these differences. Our mission statement is "Inspiriting every student to excel in academics, service, and life" and to this end, a sector of our students at 100 are being given the opportunity to uniquely explore their learning in that last component: life.

A small group of students within the building are participating in monthly Community Skills Outings, with the purpose of engaging in goal-based, functional activities within the local community. These students are focusing on building upon their emerging communication and daily-living skills so that they can interact with people outside of the comfort of our school. What began as a kernel of an idea at the end of last school year on Level II, started by a parent's desire for their child to use these types of skills more regularly, has emerged into a cross-level initiative to include those students who can benefit and shine from such experiences. Several of these students utilize Assistive Augmentative Communication devices (AAC's) and all of them use their strengths with visuals during the trips. We, as teachers and support staff, wanted to take this time to update the school community on these outings.



Thus far, this group of students has taken four trips this school year, engaging in a variety of activities. In November, we went to the Dollar Tree in Hanover in order to buy a gift for a family member. The students worked on skills such as using proper greetings, navigating a store safely, communicating wants and needs, engaging employees in conversation, following a check-list, money and purchasing skills, and demonstrating good manners. The adults and staff who accompany the students also help them follow safety rules and give prompts for expected behaviors in the community setting. Needless to say, the students did a wonderful job on their first outing!



December's trip was two-fold, with the students visiting a local nursing home and singing holiday carols they had practiced at school to the residents, while also distributing some holiday cards. Each student was proud to introduce themselves to the residents, and sang along energetically while Paul, our amazing music teacher, accompanied them on the

piano. The second stop on that trip was to McDonald's, where the students practiced selecting food items from a menu, engaged in all the steps necessary to purchase their food, and then ate together as a group.

During the month of January, the outing was to the Big Y grocery store, where the students identified an item to purchase and donate to a food pantry (and also selected a snack for later!). They then went next door to TJMaxx in order to select something to donate to SSCPS Kindness Bundles for the Homeless drive, organized by a Level III project. The staff was impressed with how well the students navigated the stores and aisles, gave thought into their purchases, and patiently waited in line to pay. It was certainly a successful trip for all involved.



Weekly Update | February 15, 2023



During our most recent outing last week, we traveled to Dunkin Donuts, where the students worked on ordering skills once more for a late breakfast. At this point, nine students in the school are being included in the outings, all with a variety of strengths and challenges. After devouring donuts and hashbrowns, we made our way to Stop and Shop, to choose and buy bouquets of flowers that we delivered to the nursing home we had previously caroled at. All students on Level II had created hand-made Valentine's Day cards, and a couple of students on the outing gave the flowers and cards to a nurse and resident at the home. Even though they were wearing masks, it was clear to see how much they enjoyed receiving the gifts!

To say we are proud of the accomplishments this small (but mighty) group of students has made during these outings would be an understatement. They are all fully invested in participating in the activities and skills involved in each trip, and their progress has been remarkable. Furthermore, their friendships and social skills have really grown, and it has offered them the opportunity to feel comfortable and confident. Those of us who have organized and joined in on these outings are grateful for the chance to witness their growth and excitement. Thank you to Matt Tondorf, Director of Learning Services, for recognizing the value in this initiative and helping to promote it, to our school vans that we utilize for transportation, and to ALL members of our school community, students and staff, who take the time to include everyone as much as possible, on a daily basis. Your support is invaluable and assuredly appreciated.

THIS WEEK IN PROJECTS AND WORKSHOPS

Level III Community Service Project

Kindness bundles for the homeless

Date's:1/9-2/17 Where: Drop at the front or in Laura's room (101) We are collecting: Travel-sized toiletries, for example: Toothbrush and paste Dry shampoo Deodorant Chapstick Hand lotion Hairbrushes Razors and shaving cream Water snacks of all kinds Socks Warm hats Gloves Hand warmers, Feet warmers, etc Pencil & Paper Dunkin Donuts \$5.00 gift card (if possible) GALLON SIZED ZIPLOCK BAGS



THANK YOU! -Level 3 Community Service Project

The Level III Community Service Project is collecting several items needed to assemble kindness bundles for the homeless. Last year we were able to put together 900 bundles that were distributed to the homeless in the Boston area. We would love to be able to meet

or exceed that number this year! Please send the items listed below in with your student. The Dollar Tree is a great place to pick up many of the needed items. Donations may be left at the front door of 100 Longwater Circle or in Laura's room (101). Thank you!



FEBRUARY GIVING PROJECTS & WORKSHOPS

During the month of February, the South Shore Charter Educational Foundation will be fundraising toward the different Projects and Workshops at SSCPS. Experiential learning is an integral part of our school's mission, and is best exemplified through the various Projects and Workshops for students at all Levels.

Extracurricular subjects and activities allow students to explore different interests, find new passions, and develop critical skills as they advance in their education year after year. All of our lower Level Projects and our high school Workshops incorporate the components of technology, communication, community service, and entrepreneurship, and their demands and complexity increase as students progress through each grade.

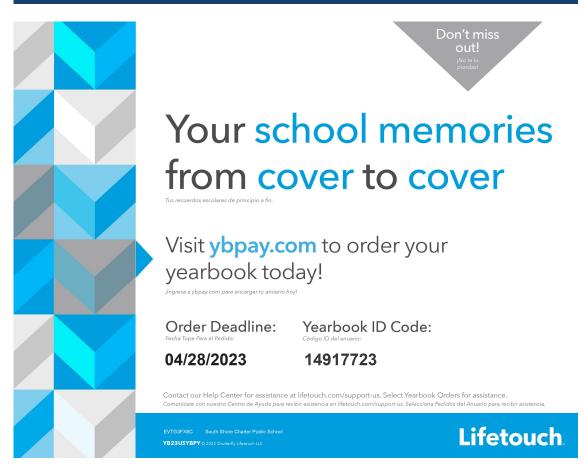
The South Shore Charter Educational Foundation sets financial goals each school year that we work hard to reach with the help of our community. These goals are set with the intentions of supporting our students, staff, and community to the best of our ability in order to provide the most excellent learning environment possible. For the 2022-2023 school year, the SSCEF has set a goal of \$50,000 for our Annual Fund. So far this year, we've raised over \$9,000, or 18% of this goal, thanks to you.

If you'd like to help us reach our fundraising goal this year and make a donation in support of the many Projects & Workshops at SSCPS, please use the button below to make a contribution.

Thank you!

DONATE NOW!

ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK!



The Yearbook Design Team kindly requests any interested students to submit a design for the cover page of the yearbook. Students will have the opportunity to choose their first choice from a list. Interested parties of designer students will have until-mid February to submit their creations. The competition is open to the entire school and the theme should be anything SSCPS!

SOUTH SHORE YMCA

the

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT® FOR HEALTHY LIVING FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

SOUTH SHORE YMCA AFTERSCHOOL

The South Shore YMCA offers a quality Afterschool Program that takes place in a safe, supportive environment that fosters the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional growth of each child. We strive to support the family unit and provide developmentally appropriate enrichment programs that encourage not just learning, but also the love of learning.

- Monday through Friday from school dismissal until 6pm
- Afterschool options, 1-5 days per week
- Grades K-8
- Early Release programs from school dismissal until 6pm
- Homework assistance
- Freedom to explore materials, games, and equipment
- Engage in daily indoor/outdoor physical activities
- Enhance social skills through positive interactions with peers and YMCA staff
- USDA approved healthy daily snacks

We believe in positive methods of child guidance/ discipline. Our staff establishes age-appropriate, reasonable yet consistent limits to help children function in their world. We strive to strengthen each child's own cultural identity while reinforcing respect and celebrating differences through play and positive interactions.



Financial assistance is available thanks to the charitable donations made possible through the South Shore YMCA's Annual Campaign. Monies secured ensure that all are welcome to participate. Applications are available at the Emilson Branch and online at ssymca.org. Please consider donating your time, talent and treasure to this year's campaign!

To inquire about our Afterschool Program please contact:

Shirley Carrier scarrier@ssymca.org Phone: 781-826-7900 x 5241

Liam McSweeney Imcsweeney@ssymca.org Phone: 781-826-7900 x 5240



In 2022 the SSCPS Parents Association created a new chair, Diversity and Inclusion. The Parents Association is looking for a few parent volunteers to help design what we want this role to look like. If interested please attend this months PA meeting on 1/18/2023 at 6:30pm or email <u>cindylyons1337@gmail.com</u>.

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

PA Meeting Schedule | 2022-2023 School Year

Below you will find the meeting dates for the 2022-2023 school year:

- September 21, 2022
- October 19, 2022
- November 16, 2022
- December 21, 2022
- January 18, 2023
- February 15, 2023
- March 15, 2023
- April 26, 2023
- May 17, 2023
- June 14, 2023 (Transition Meeting)

Be on the lookout for upcoming volunteer opportunities. Information on the Back to School Picnic will be coming soon as well.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out. Our website can be found <u>here</u>.

Cindy Lyons Parent Council Chair Cindylyons1337@gmail.com

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Global Civic Education Coalition

Find more information about the upcoming virtual Global Civic Education Coalition meeting below:

Date: 02/27/2023 Time: 7:30pm Place: Virtual Zoom ID: 431 634 2691 **Password:** 264149

Topic and Agenda: Discussions on providing trainings/focus groups on diversity/inclusion and cultural sensitivities, sharing ways to reframe conversation, bring awareness and deepen understandings.

For more information, contact Helen Li at lilymomloveyou2@gmail.com

FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

With the winter season upon us we wanted to send out some reminders from the Health office. We are seeing an increase in viral illness in our school community and would like to remind everyone of the policy about staying home when ill.

Please keep students home from school for the following:

- Fever greater than 100.0
- Vomiting/diarrhea in last 24 hours
- Not able to manage cough/nasal congestion
- Test positive for COVID

When can my student return to school

- Fever free for 24 hours without medication (if you give tylenol or motrin in the morning, please keep student home from school)
- No vomiting/diarrhea for 24 hours
- Well enough to stay at school for the day

If your student becomes ill at school, please pick your student up within 45 minutes. If it important to pick up your student

Home COVID tests were sent home with every student prior to Thanksgiving break. Please do an at home COVID test if your student has cold like symptoms (sore throat, headache, cough, runny nose, or fever)

The school does not provide masks. If you would like your student to wear a mask at school, please send them to school with one on and extras

Kids are going out in all weather, please make sure your student has appropriate winter clothing. It is also important to have a change of clothes at school for days they get wet or need to change clothes for other reasons.

All students should be bringing a water bottle to school every day and can refill at the water refill station.

You can now access the 2023-2024 school calendar <u>here</u> and down below under School Documents.

THIS WEEK | UP AND COMING

Tues-Thurs	02/14- 02/16	Senior Class Debates	
Wednesday	02/15	Parents Association Meeting at 100 Longwater Circle and Zoom	6:30pm
Thursday	02/16	Special Meeting of the Finance and Ad Hoc Facilities Committees to discuss Minor Amendment / Student Enrollment	5:30pm -
		7 00 Longwater Drive and via <u>Zoom</u> <u>February Executive Director Report</u> <u>February Executive Director Presentation</u>	7:30pm
Mon-Fri	02/20- 02/24	Winter Vacation – No School	
Monday	02/27	Enrollment Application Deadline Intent-to Return Forms Due	
Wednesday	03/01	Executive Committee Meeting	8:00am
Thursday	03/02	School Council Meeting via Zoom	4:30pm
Friday	03/03	Professional Development Early Release	12:00pm
Friday	03/03	2023-2024 Enrollment Lottery	1:00pm

IMPORTANT LINKS

Weekly Updates are emailed and posted to our website <u>www.sscps.org</u> every Wednesday.

- Back-to-School Information
- Food Services
- Health Office
- <u>Massachusetts Department of Transitional</u>
 <u>Assistance</u>
- Visit the Parents Association Website

School Documents:

2022-23 School Calendar

2023-2024 School Calendar

<u>Student and Family</u> <u>Handbook</u>

Here are links to upcoming events and other items of interest. Please contact Pam Algera at <u>palgera@sscps.org</u> to submit SSCPS items for publication. <u>Arrival and Dismissal</u> <u>Procedures</u>

SSCPS By-Laws



SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

INSPIRING EVERY STUDENT TO EXCEL IN ACADEMICS, SERVICE, AND LIFE.



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