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Weekly Update | January 4, 2023

Vol. 1. Issue 1



A Message from Alicia

Happy New Year! I hope this first weekly update of 2023 finds you well and looking forward to all that is up and coming during these next few weeks. January is always a busy month, but this year we have something special scheduled, a visit from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The Office of Charter Schools and School Redesign will be conducting an accountability site visit here at South Shore Charter. As a Massachusetts charter school, we seek renewal of our charter every five years. Some of you may remember our last renewal in 2020. Now that we are just past the midpoint before we apply for our next renewal, representatives from DESE will be coming to our school to learn more about our school community and our unique educational model.

The purpose of the visit is to gather information for a written report that will become part of the evidence the DESE uses when our charter comes up again for renewal in 2025. All charter schools in Massachusetts must seek renewal every five years. This site visit serves as a check-in to our school's progress on three important areas of charter school accountability: faithfulness to charter, student academic performance, and organizational viability. Representatives from DESE will assess our school on five performance indicators from the Charter School Performance Criteria. Included Criteria are listed below.

Criterion 1: Mission and Key Design Elements

Inspiring every student to excel in academics, service, and life.

The South Shore Charter Public School has an ambitious mission. As our school community grows, we call on our mission as the compass to navigate faithfulness to this mission. Over time it has become even more essential that our school community shares a belief in our mission and that this belief is reflected in all that we do as an educational institution serving students throughout the South Shore.



Kindergarten students return from recess

Criterion 2: Access and Equity

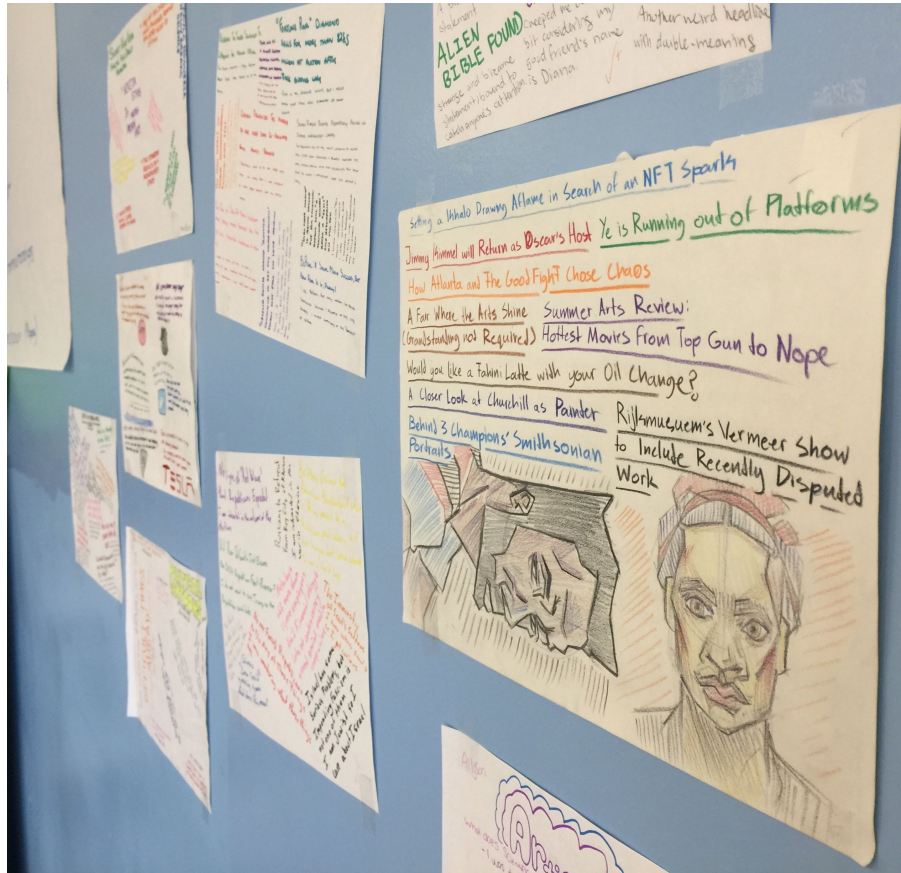
Over time, the most important words in our mission statement have proven to be *every student*. Access and equity speak directly to our mission and our need to ensure that every student has access to our school equally and fairly. Beginning with recruitment, we need to demonstrate equal access to all students eligible to attend. Across Massachusetts school enrollment is inherent to access and equity. In our case, that is every student residing in one of our 26 sending districts. Unlike many of our sending districts, our school population is diverse. We are very fortunate to have a diverse student population and strong family support.

Our school must also demonstrate equal access to rigorous and appropriate academic coursework as well as extra curricular and athletic programs. The DESE reviews our Advanced Placement enrollment, our learning services programs, and our tiered supports. Family communication is reviewed, including our website and weekly updates to families. Of particular importance is that school communication is readily accessible to speakers of languages other than English. Our electronic communication must be easily translated in a browser and other translated materials are available.

Our efforts are well documented. Admissions policies and practices may be found in the [SSCPS Enrollment Policy](#). The student recruitment and retention plans may be found at the end of the [SSCPS Annual Report](#). Each year we update both plans to reflect our most current practices in enrolling and sustaining a student population reflective of our sending districts.

Criterion 3: Compliance

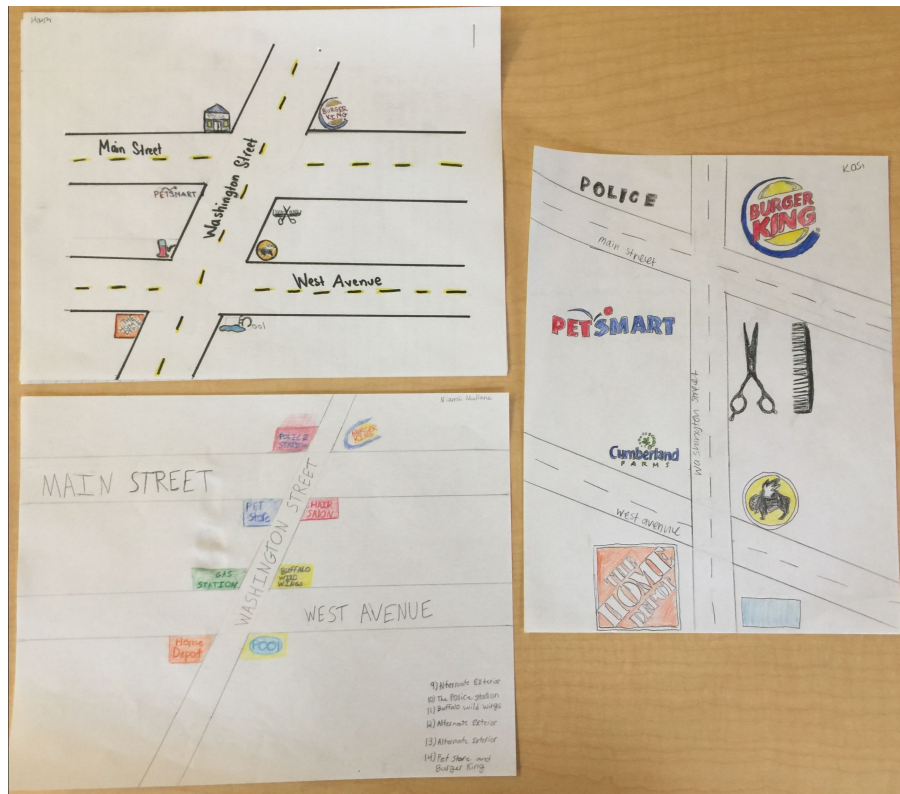
During and prior to the site visit, the DESE will review documents and practices that demonstrate our school's compliance with all applicable state and federal laws. Included on the federal level is the the [Every Student Succeeds Act](#), [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#), [Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964](#), [Equal Education Opportunities Act of 1974](#), [Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972](#), [Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#), and [Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990](#). The school must show evidence that all state related legal requirements are being followed as well. Compliance with these requirements directly ties into our commitment to access and equity.



Student Headlines Project in ELA Communications class

Criterion 5: Student Performance

Student achievement is at the forefront of all we do here at South Shore Charter. Over the past two years, our school has amplified the focus on social-emotional well being. The two are inextricably linked. On January 31 the DESE site visiting team will be visiting classrooms, attending teacher and school leader focus groups, and reviewing school data. The visiting team will be reviewing formative and summative assessment data in addition to state assessments. State assessments include MCAS data, dropout and graduation rates, and other information available in our school's profile on the DESE website.

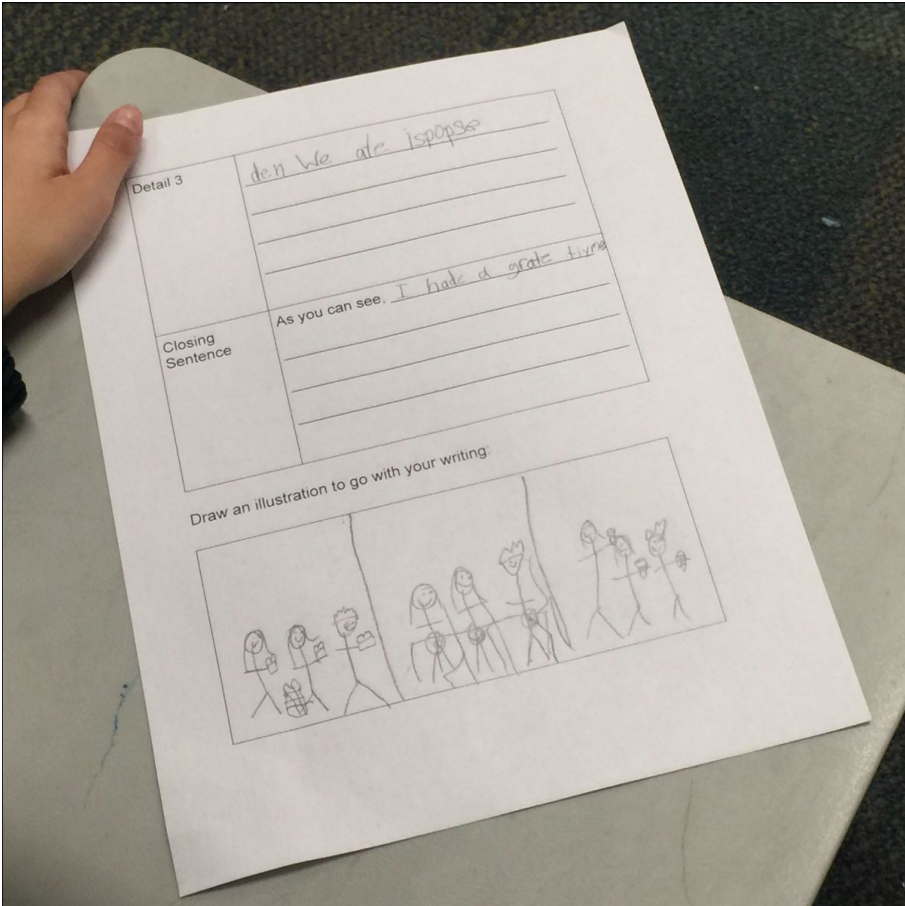


Geometry students build maps using parallel lines and transversals



Criterion 6, Key Indicator 6.2: Instruction

In addition to classroom visits and meeting with focus groups, the site visit team will be reviewing our school curriculum looking to see how frameworks and learning standards are being implemented in the classroom. This is important to our school because it will provide the DESE with a snapshot of the teaching and learning that occurs in classrooms every day. During classroom visits, the site visiting team will be able to see teachers implementing instructional strategies to support a diverse student population. As a full inclusion school, we have received positive feedback from prior visitors.



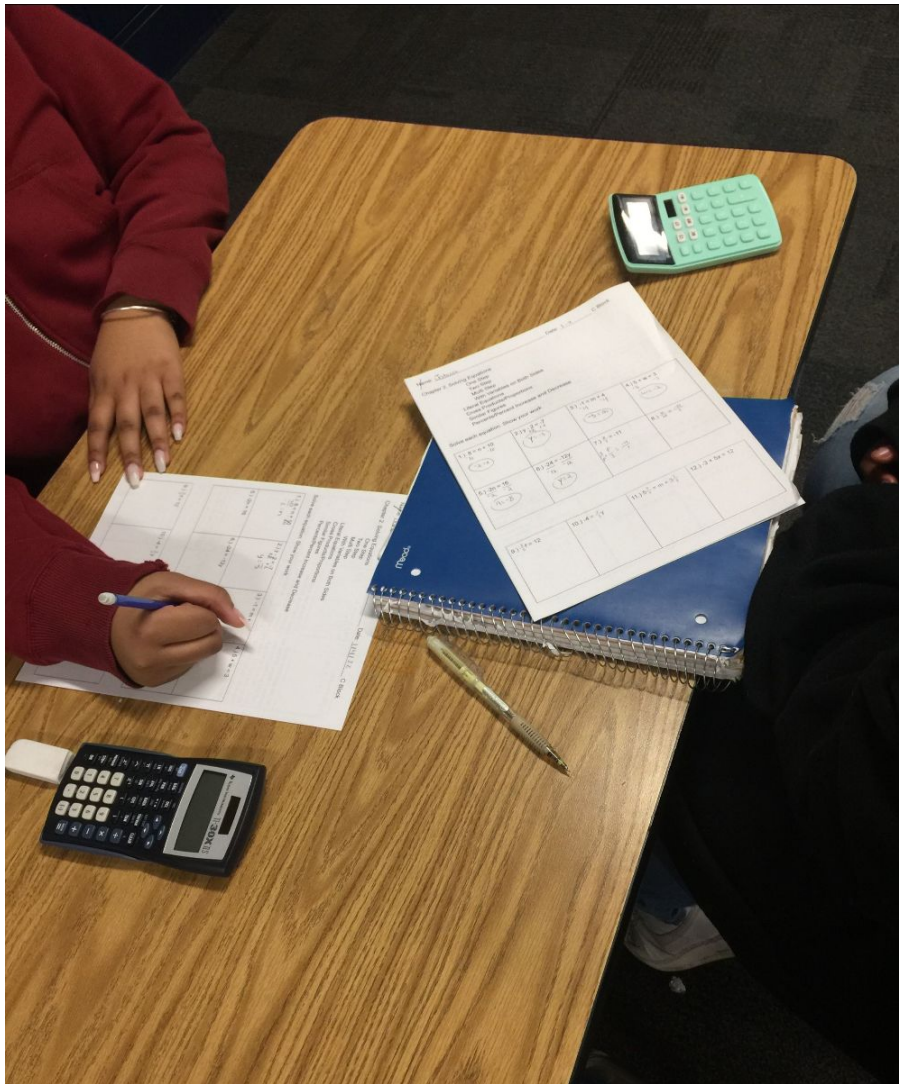
Level II students explore the writing process

Criterion 9: Governance

The DESE will meet with members of the SSCPS Board of Trustees prior to the January 31 visit. This focus group will be about the most important legal and fiduciary responsibilities of the Board. The SSCPS Board of Trustees work hard and collaborate with school leadership throughout the school year to focus on institutional improvement and growth.

Criterion 10: Finance

This final criterion is for the DESE to ensure that the school is a financially viable institution and that the school budgets and plans responsibly. This criterion is assessed by looking at the school's financial indicators submitted to DESE each December. Site visitors will also review the school's annual budget checking to be sure that our school can be sustained by enrollment revenue. Each year DESE reviews the finances included in the Annual Report as well as the school's independent audit and end of year financial report.



Solving equations on Level IV

We look forward to the upcoming DESE site visit and the opportunity to showcase the teaching and learning occurring every day. We look forward to sharing the educational program and our commitment to achievement for every student. The South Shore Charter Public School is a unique and wonderful place. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

Alicia Savage
Executive Director

ATHLETICS

BASKETBALL

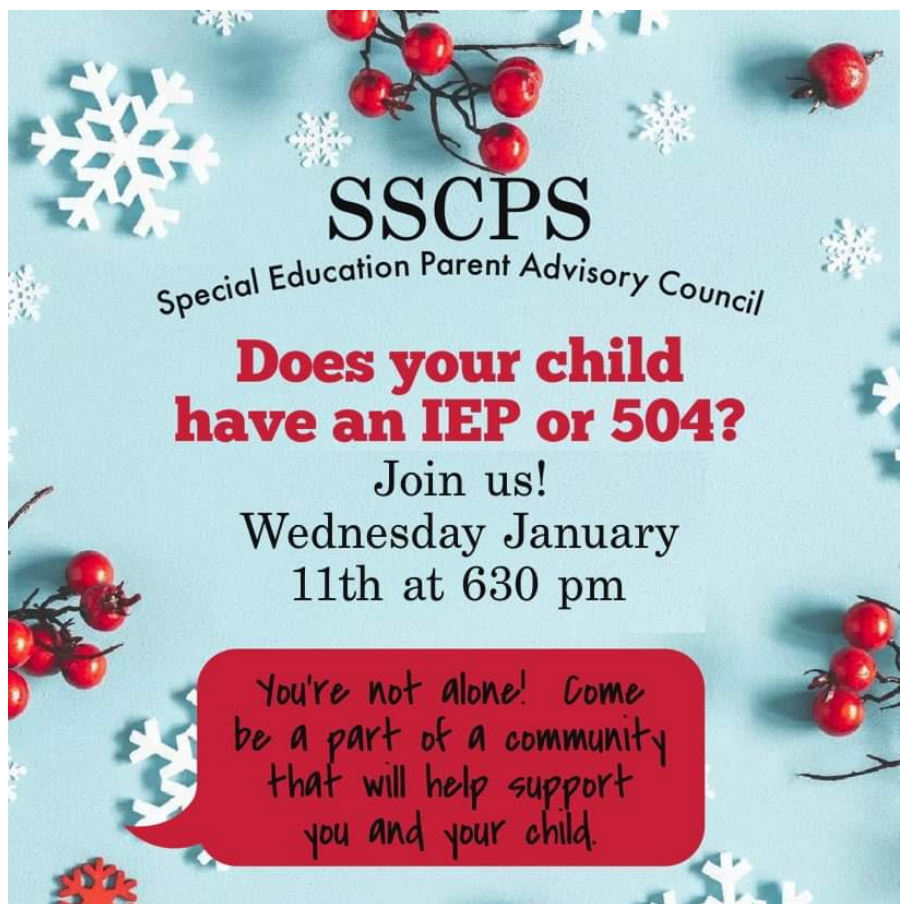


Right before December break, our boys Varsity Basketball team won 66-35 against Rising Tide. This upcoming Thursday both girls and boys basketball team will have a home game vs. Academy of the Pacific Rim from 3:00-4:30 PM.

(photos shared by @sscps_sports on Instagram)

#GoJaguars 🐾

UPCOMING EVENTS



This event will take place in-person at 100 Longwater Drive. If you would like to attend virtually, please send an email request to mtondorf@sscps.org and a link will be provided 30 minutes prior to meeting time.

MassHire South Shore Information

Have you ever considered a career in
**Carpentry, Culinary and Entrepreneurship,
HVAC, or Manufacturing?**



**Free Classes Start
February 13th!**

Monday -Thursday 4-8pm

SOUTH SHORE Technical Institute

476 Webster Street,
Hanover, MA 02339

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be 18+ years old
 - Must have HS Diploma or equivalent
 - Unemployed/ Underemployed
 - Be able to commit to completion of program hours
- Actively recruiting Veterans & Military Personnel

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Michael Santos, Upskilling Navigator
MassHire South Shore
MSantos@Masshires.com



Scan to apply!

Carpentry

This 220 hour introductory course is designed to prepare students for entry-level jobs in Carpentry. Students will have opportunities to learn residential, commercial, and industrial construction. This training will give proper use of hand tools and equipment, framing, small projects on a work site and so much more.

- OSHA 10
- Certified Lead Carpenter Credential

Culinary and Entrepreneurship

This 220 hour introductory course is designed to prepare students for the culinary arts industry with a dash of food truck entrepreneurship. The student will learn the art of culinary in a state of the art industrial kitchen and a new food trailer. This will allow the student to start with the essential skills needed for the culinary industry.

- OSHA 10
- Serve Safe
- Food Allergen Certified
- Food Truck Permitting

HVAC

This 220 hour introductory course is designed to prepare students for entry-level jobs in HVAC. Learn to install and service HVAC and refrigeration systems. After completing this course students will be able to torch, braze, and solder pipes and fittings to install or repair compressors, condensers, chillers, and pumps in a wide range of environments.

- OSHA 10
- EPA -608

Manufacturing

This 220 hour introductory course is designed to prepare students for entry-level jobs in Manufacturing. The student will learn in a real machine shop environment that will provide essential skills to secure employment in one of the fastest growing industries in Massachusetts.

- OSHA 10
- MACWIC level -I



Interested in working? Need help getting started?

MassHire South Shore Youth Services introduces

BOOST

Building Our Occupational Skills for Tomorrow

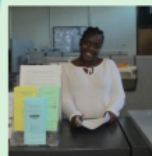
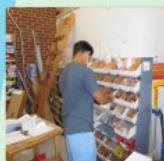
Participants receive:

- Individualized assessment & action plan
- Career readiness coaching
- Financial literacy workshop
- Nationally recognized industry credentials
- 80-hour paid internship

*Applicants must be 16-24 years old and meet eligibility requirements.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Taylor Fry, Youth Career Counselor
MassHire South Shore
1515 Hancock St., Quincy MA
617-657-4973



FROM THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION



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 [here](#).

Cindy Lyons
Parent Council Chair
Cindylyons1337@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 is 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.

The Flu: A Guide for Parents

Click [here](#) to view this information. Click [here](#) for additional details on how to discuss the flu with your child.

Please see the [attached letter](#) from the Department of Public Health and the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics about steps families can take to prevent illness and stay healthy this season.

You can also find the Spanish version [here](#). These letters will also be posted [online](#).


Massachusetts Chapter
INCORPORATED IN MASSACHUSETTS

 American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN

November 1, 2022

Dear Families,

The Commonwealth, the Northeast and much of the US are seeing increases in respiratory illness in infants and children. Some of these infants and children are requiring hospitalization for support with breathing and hydration. Emergency departments and other acute care health facilities have been managing significant increases in the number of patients requiring care.

Most of these illnesses are caused by respiratory viral infections, including common seasonal viruses like respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), rhinovirus and enterovirus, and influenza. Infants and children may be particularly susceptible to seasonal respiratory viral infections during the 2022-2023 fall and winter because they have had limited previous exposure to these respiratory viruses. We anticipate that there could be more respiratory illnesses as RSV continues to spread and influenza season ramps up.

The Department of Public Health and the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics want to remind parents and families about steps to take to prevent illness and stay healthy this season:

1. **Vaccinate your children ages 6 months and older against influenza** as soon as possible.
2. **Vaccinate your children ages 6 months and older against COVID-19**; children 5 and older who had their primary series more than 2 months ago should receive an updated COVID-19 booster as soon as possible.
3. **Remember, you can get a COVID-19 vaccine and flu shot at the same time.**
4. **If your infant has been offered treatment with protective antibodies** due to their prematurity or another condition, keep on schedule with their monthly treatments.
5. **Practice hand hygiene** frequently with soap and water or hand sanitizer. **Cover coughs and sneezes** with a tissue, or if a tissue is not available, cover them with an elbow, not a hand.
6. **Clean high touch surfaces** in your home frequently with household disinfectants.
7. **Keep children home from daycare or school** who have fever, especially with a cough, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, congestion, runny nose, or sore throat, until they are fever-free for 24 hours without medications that reduce fever.
8. **Avoid social gatherings if you or your children are ill.**
9. **Contact your pediatrician or healthcare provider if you believe your child needs medical care.** Your provider can offer advice on whether your child needs to be evaluated in person, tested for COVID or flu, and the best location (doctor's office, urgent care, emergency room) for care.

Thank you for doing all you can to keep you and your family healthy during this fall and winter season.

Dr. Estevan Garcia, Chief Medical Officer
 Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Dr. Mary Beth Miotto, President
 Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

This Week | Up and Coming

Sunday	01/08	Ski Club to Wachusett Mountain	
Wednesday	01/11	High School Mock Trial to Holbrook High School	2:30-6:00pm
Wednesday	01/11	SSCPS Special Education Parent Advisory Council - 100 Longwater Circle If you would like to attend virtually, please send an email request to mtondorf@sscps.org and a link will be provided 30 minutes prior to meeting time.	6:30pm

Friday	01/13	Professional Development Day – No classes for students	
Monday	01/16	Martin Luther King, Jr Day – No school	

IMPORTANT LINKS

Weekly Updates are emailed and posted to our website www.sscps.org every Wednesday.

- [Back-to-School Information](#)
- [Food Services](#)
- [Health Office](#)
- [Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance](#)
- **Visit the** [Parents Association Website](#)

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.

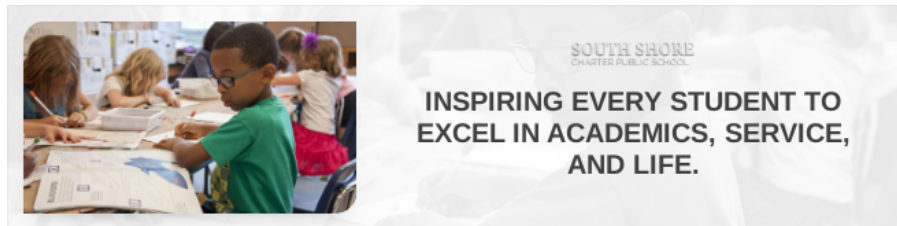
School Documents:

[2022-23 School Calendar](#)

[Student and Family Handbook](#)

[Arrival and Dismissal Procedures](#)

[SSCPS By-Laws](#)



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