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**Weekly Update | September 13, 2023**

Vol. 9 Issue 2

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**SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL  
CONGRATULATES**



**JORDAN ALEXANDRE**

## NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SEMIFINALIST

We are pleased to announce that Jordan Alexandre was named a National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalist for 2024. High school juniors are screened for the National Merit Scholarship Program through the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®); semifinalists are the highest-scoring entrants in each state. Jordan's achievement is especially impressive considering the high cutoff for qualification in the state of Massachusetts. He is among only 16,000 semifinalists named nationally, representing less than one percent of high school seniors nationwide.

Jordan's academic achievements go far beyond his stellar performance on the PSAT. He has consistently both demonstrated a strong work ethic and achieved at the top of his class since his first days at SSCPS on Level III. The College Board named Jordan an AP Scholar with Distinction following the 2023 AP exam score release, an honor rarely earned prior to the end of senior year. He is a John and Abigail Adams Scholarship recipient and as a senior is enrolled in our most rigorous course offerings. Having exceeded our in house math curriculum by excelling in AP Calculus BC as a junior, Jordan is currently enrolled in multivariable calculus through Johns Hopkins University and is simultaneously taking AP Statistics at the high school.

Jordan's achievements transcend academics as he is a leader at the high school and is involved in both extracurricular activities and athletics. He has been part of student government since he was in middle school and currently serves as our high school Executive Student Board President, with many initiatives planned for this school year. Jordan is also an active member of the National Honor Society, a leader in the Black Student Union, and a member of the soccer team. He is involved in service projects within both his school and home communities and holds down an afterschool job.

We congratulate Jordan, his family, and the educators who have supported him during his academic career.


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### A Message from Donika


It is an exciting new year for mathematics at SSCPS. The K-8 mathematics department has officially unveiled the iReady math program. In the third week of implementation, students across grade levels have taken the iReady diagnostic, engaged in the new math classroom structure, and are setting the foundation for becoming lifelong problem solvers. This comprehensive program places students at the forefront of their learning. Utilizing daily integrated learning routines, our educators are empowered to lead students in discourse-driven instruction, enhancing their grasp of mathematical concepts.

The iReady program is set up with the "Try-Discuss-Connect" framework. This framework allows students to persevere in problem solving, evaluate one another's thinking, compare different mathematical representations and apply different strategies to their own thinking and work. Teachers are equipped to guide students through three types of lessons (understand lessons, strategy lessons, and math in action lessons) that are then divided into three types of sessions (explore, develop, and refine). Students will continue to learn program vocabulary that will enhance their mathematical understanding and will carry them through all K-8 grade levels and connect to the secondary level.


## Try–Discuss–Connect







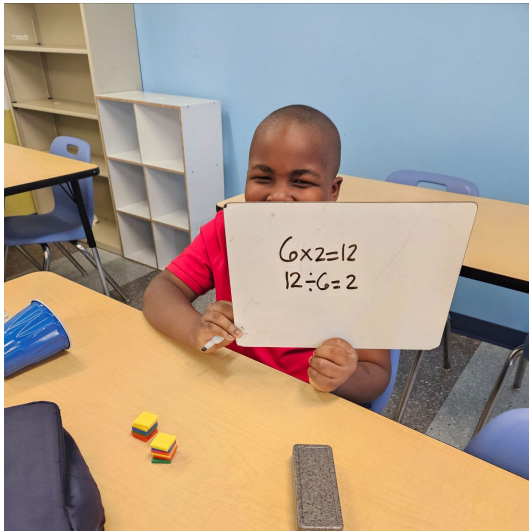
*i-Ready Classroom Mathematics* is a program that uses the Try–Discuss–Connect framework to spark meaningful partner and whole class discussions. This strengthens students' understanding and helps them become independent learners.



Curriculum Associates
i-Ready Classroom Mathematics

Student work texts are visually engaging, provide cultural connections, and sessions are easily differentiated for all learners. Manipulative kits provide students with hands-on learning that is essential in the mathematics classroom. The digital toolbox is an extensive resource for students and teachers. Along with learning games, and assessments, diagnostics will be taken three times a year to assess student understanding and mathematical ability in comparison to grade level. These diagnostics are adaptive so question sets change depending on students' answers. Games are built in as "brain breaks" and scores are used to inform teacher planning and implementation. Diagnostic data provides targeted growth scores for each student and the end of year diagnostic will identify student success at meeting these goals.





Teachers attended a full professional development day in August and have sessions scheduled throughout the year to support their implementation of this program. Feedback from teachers and students has been overwhelmingly positive and the math classrooms are a fun and exciting place to be.

### i-Ready Math Classroom Presentation

i-Ready Mathematics: Family Guide (Grades K-1)

i-Ready Mathematics: Family Guide (Grades 2-8)

**Donika Darabus**

Math Curriculum Coordinator and Teacher

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# IMPORTANT REMINDER

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th**

**EARLY RELEASE AT 12PM  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**



## INVENT <sup>THE</sup> SUMMER

We are so very proud to announce that for the fourth consecutive year SSCPS's students participated in the Invent the Summer program. Invent the Summer is an online program in which students K-7 take on the research and design of engineering problems identified and presented to them each week over the course of the summer. This past summer 12 students participated in the program submitting 45 challenges. By having the most entries of the summer SSCPS was awarded the Grand Prize: \$1,000 for maker check and engineering supplies. Further, in addition to the students listed below submitting challenges we had two additional students Stella Vessid and Siddharth Monagari join the Board of Engineers who help create, vote on and present the challenges. For the Summer Highlight Reel showcasing some of our student's work and awards, please click here: [Invent the Summer 2023 Highlight Reel](#). An Invent the Summer sling bag went home with the 12 participating students this week. Invent the summer is a non-profit organization established

by students, for students whose mission is to "...inspire creativity, resourcefulness, innovation, problem solving and leadership."

Please join us in congratulating the following student participants:

**Carter Lipscomb**

**Lilah Lipscom**

**Jaxson Lofstrand**

**Nikith Monagari\*\***

**Elleyen Nazir\***

**Sharif Nazir**

**Holly Newell\***

**Samuel Newell\***

**Zachary Newell**

**Riya Ravi**

**Grier Sears-Sutton**

**Abhinav Selva**

\* signifies a weekly submission award detailed in the highlight reel

\*\* a weekly submission award and Jr Inventor of the summer and 2023 Hall of Fame recipient for entering all 8 challenges

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## PROJECTS AND WORKSHOPS

ACADEMICS. SERVICE. LIFE.

### Cultural Diversity Workshop

The Cultural Diversity Workshop, led by our high school students and their teacher Nadine Sullivan, focuses on the rich cultures here at South Shore Charter. The goal of this workshop is to connect students with each other's culture and heritage and encourage sharing their culture with others school wide. Students examine how culture shapes individuals and nations and extend this knowledge beyond the classroom by connecting with their communities through partnerships with sister schools. Students exchange ideas worldwide on different aspects of culture like food, dance, traditional wardrobes, native language, and history.



Students of the Cultural Diversity Workshop launch outstanding initiatives to enhance our school community every day. Their strong commitment to service is reflected in their fundraising efforts schoolwide selling Italian Ice, handmade bracelets, and Valentine's Day gifts. Students in the Cultural Diversity Workshop create beautiful hallway displays and informational billboards that reflect the cultural tapestry of our school community. Last year students traveled to the lower school to share literature, games, and lessons about the cultures found throughout the world. Their work has left a meaningful impact on our school community and the world around us.

This August students in the Cultural Diversity Workshop received a letter from Karla Albert, President of the United Foundation for the Children of Haiti, thanking them for their ongoing fundraising efforts.

*"I am so impressed that you have continued this tradition for a few years now...these funds are not only a financial help, but also a great source of encouragement to our staff in Haiti. It reminds them that they are not forgotten.*

*Thank you for taking the time to do something tangible to help neighbors in need. It gives me hope for the future of our country when I see young people working to make a change and finding ways to make a difference for good in this world.*

*On behalf of the staff and children at our Village in Haiti, I say a big THANK YOU!"*

- Karla Albert, President USFCH



Students in the Cultural Diversity Workshop are looking forward to another year of working hard to provide support for global organizations as well as make a difference throughout our school community. Look for their hallway displays as we begin celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month on Friday, September 15, 2023.

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## MEET THE COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

**Ashley Ross, LMHC, Adjustment Counselor, TASC  
Program Coordinator, High School - [aross@sscps.org](mailto:aross@sscps.org)**

This is my sixth year at South Shore Charter School. I have provided counseling services in the school setting for 10 years. Prior to working at the charter school, I worked as a School-Based Clinician for the Home for Little Wanderers in the Boston public school system.



I received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from California State University, San Bernardino, and a Master's in Counseling from Lesley University. I have specializations in Art Therapy and trauma-informed counseling, and I am certified in social/emotional-centered yoga. I have enjoyed working at the charter school over the years and I am looking forward to having a great school year.

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**Michael Dupuis, Adjustment Counselor, High School  
- [mdupuis@sscps.org](mailto:mdupuis@sscps.org)**

This is my second year at SSCPS. After graduating from Stonehill College, I worked in accounting and finance for eight years before earning my Master's in Counseling from UMASS Boston. Immediately prior to SSCPS, I worked as an Adjustment Counselor in a behavioral program for New Bedford Public Schools for four years. I am extremely thankful for being part of the SSCPS community and look forward to the upcoming school year.



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**Tanya Ames, M.Ed, Adjustment Counselor, K-8**

- [tames@sscps.org](mailto:tames@sscps.org) x294

2023/2024 marks my sixth year working at South Shore Charter Public School. My educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology/Sociology from Middlebury College, as well as a Master of Education degree in School Counseling from the University of Massachusetts Boston.



Prior to working at SSCPS, my other counseling experiences include long-term residential care at Harbor Schools, short-term acute inpatient care at Amesbury Hospital, individual therapy at Leeward Counseling, trauma-informed summer camp counseling for inner-city teens at Wediko Children's Services, and various aspects of involvement with DCF and the foster care system. My draw to SSCPS is the rich diversity of the student body. I feel honored to be part of such a special community.

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**Alicia Scafidi, LCSW, Adjustment Counselor, K-8, She,**

**her, hers** - [ascafidi@sscps.org](mailto:ascafidi@sscps.org)

This is my 20th year at SSCPS! My educational background includes a B.A Degree in Humanities/Spanish. Prior to working here, I was employed at Boston University while getting my Masters in Social Work. I have years of experience working in diverse urban educational settings in the Boston Area including an alternative high school. In addition, I am a Certified Yoga Teacher. I have really loved seeing our school community grow and evolve over the years! I think this is a very special place and am looking forward to supporting students, families, and staff this year!



**Karen Foy, M.A., C.A.G.S., Adjustment Counselor, K-12 -**  
**[kfoy@sscps.org](mailto:kfoy@sscps.org)**



This is my 3rd year as a member of the SSCPS community and my first full year as an Adjustment Counselor. My educational background includes B.A. and M.A. degrees in the field of Psychology (B.A. and M.A.), School Counseling (C.A.G.S.) as well as certification in Clinical Trauma Counseling from the Silver School of Social Work at New York University.

Before my time at South Shore Charter, I worked as a Project Coordinator in the Department of Psychiatry at Boston University School of Medicine and as a School Counselor at Boston University Academy.

My goal as an Adjustment Counselor at South Shore Charter School is to create a safe and nurturing environment where students can achieve their full potential. I am looking forward to working with students and families this academic year.

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**Mary Carter, Director of Guidance 9-12,**

**[mcarter@sscps.org](mailto:mcarter@sscps.org) *She, her, hers***



This year marks my 22nd year at SSCPS and my 25th year in education. Prior to working at SSCPS, I was an Assistant Director of Financial Aid at Newbury College in Brookline. I have my B.A. in Political Science from Stonehill College and my Masters in Educational Counseling from UMass Boston and I hold a Professional Licensure in School Counseling, 5-12. As a guidance counselor, I focus on a student's academic development and transition from high school to post-secondary life.

The mission of the guidance department is to meet students where they are and encourage them to achieve their unique, individual potential. This is done through individual and group counseling, classroom guidance, and utilizing our college guidance platform, Naviance along with CollegeBoard and Common App.

My responsibilities include academic and college counseling, creating guidance programs for juniors and seniors, SAT and PSAT Test Coordinator, AP Coordinator, Dual Enrollment Program, and managing students' Exit Standards and Graduation Requirements.

I have enjoyed watching both our student and counseling faculty grow over the years. I am looking forward to an amazing year!

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**Angeline St Germain (Angel) Guidance Counselor 9-10 - [astgermain@sscps.org](mailto:astgermain@sscps.org)**

This is my first year at SSCPS. I joined the team as the guidance counselor for grades 9-10. For four years, I worked as a special education teacher at UP Academy Boston. Prior to that, I spent 5 years working as a preschool and kindergarten teacher. In 2017, I received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Lesley University. After working for some time, I made the decision to return to school to earn my master's degree. I received my Master's in School Counseling, 5–12, from Cambridge College in 2023.

My responsibilities include assisting students with scheduling questions or concerns, as well as academic assistance, transitioning into high school, and any other problems they may be experiencing.

I look forward to a fantastic year and getting to know each and every student!

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**Brittany Motley, School Psychologist, M.Ed/Ed.S, NCSP,  
K-12 - [bmotley@sscps.org](mailto:bmotley@sscps.org)**

This is my third year working at SSCPS. My educational background includes a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Bridgewater State University and a master's degree/specialist license in School Psychology from the University of Massachusetts (Boston).



Prior to my career with SSCPS, I gained experience in working with children and families through my time as a paraprofessional in a therapeutic classroom, as an at-home ABA therapist, and as a residential counselor at McLean Hospital's adolescent residential unit.

I am honored to be a part of such a wonderful community of students and staff. I look forward to spending another year working with SSCPS students and families!

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**Annie Plummer, MA, CAGS, NCSP, School Psychologist,  
K-12 - [aplummer@sscps.org](mailto:aplummer@sscps.org)**

This is my fourth year working at SSCPS. My education includes a bachelor's degree in psychology from Regis College, as well as a master's degree in professional psychology and a certificate of advanced graduate studies from William James College. I gained experience and training through SSCPS as a practicum student during my second year of graduate school and was excited to rejoin the SSCPS community after I graduated!



Prior to working at SSCPS, I worked in various inclusive and therapeutic environments with children, including Wediko Children's Services and the Y. I am grateful to be part of the SSCPS community and look forward to working with students, teachers, and families this year!

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**Margaret Bennette, Bachelor of Science in Psychology,  
Masters Level Counseling Intern, K-12  
- [mbennette@sscps.org](mailto:mbennette@sscps.org)**

I am the 2023-2024 school year counseling master-level intern K-12. I am excited to meet everyone! I am at Bridgewater State University in the counseling program. I went to Endicott College for Psychology. I have previously interned with DCF, Plymouth schools, and Duxbury schools. I have previously worked at Beverly schools, Silver Lake schools, and Inly Montessori School in Scituate. I currently have another internship at an outpatient clinic for individual therapy in Pembroke. I look forward to meeting and working with everyone! I feel so lucky and grateful to be here; this will be a great school year!



## BEFORE SCHOOL CHOIR

Students on Level II will once again have the opportunity to participate in Before School Choir. The program will run on Tuesday mornings from 7:30am - 8:00am and will begin on September 12th. Please find an informational flyer below. If you would like to register your child for the program, please use the Google Form link below.

**REGISTER HERE**



# Level 2 Before School Choir



## Level 2 Choir- Before School

Where: Music Room- 100 Longwater

When: Tuesdays 7:30-8:00 am

Start Date: September 12, 2023

What: Learn to sing in a choir, perform in two concerts, choose some of your own music, have fun!

Questions: email Paul Barrett - [pbarrett@sscps.org](mailto:pbarrett@sscps.org)

Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/MwwHU9rpPw8ngMzS7>

## SCHOOL PICTURE DAY



**Picture Day is Coming!**

**Grades K-4 and High School:** Monday, September 18

**Grades 5-8:** Tuesday, September 19

**Picture Day ID: EVT6JJH2T**

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**The 2023 Race for Space 5K**

**REGISTER NOW**



# 2023

# RACE FOR SPACE 5K

*SUPPORTING OUTDOOR LEARNING AT SSCPS!*

**SATURDAY, SEPT 30TH**  
**9:00 AM - 10:30 AM**  
**WOMPATUCK STATE PARK**



**SPONSOR THE RACE!**  
**SPONSOR A STUDENT!**  
**VOLUNTEER!**  
**MAKE A DONATION!**

**REGISTER TO RUN THE RACE TODAY!**



SSCPS SEPAC presents

# Kids & Friendship

Join **Katy Boucher**, founder of **The Accord School**, for an evening of lively conversation on how to help our kids navigate their ever-changing social world.

**Thursday October 19th**  
**6:30-8:00pm**  
**South Shore Charter Public School**  
100 Longwater Drive, Norwell



Parents will walk away with practical guidance that they can put to use the very next day!



Remember when kids just worked out problems in the backyard?

It seems like kids are so much meaner than when we were young.

Friendship is just so much more complicated for my kids than it was for me.

When did middle school drama start happening in 3rd grade?!



[www.theaccordschool.org](http://www.theaccordschool.org)

# LITERACY LANE | K-6



SCAN FOR MORE  
INFO

## A LITERARY-THEMED TRUNK OR TREAT AT 100 LONGWATER!

Join the SSCPS community for an afternoon of celebrating literature through car trunk displays, character costumes, and more! Students will have the opportunity to wander from car to car to visit trunks decorated to represent a favorite book, character, or literary series. Students are encouraged to dress up as their favorite literary characters. The Community Service Project will also be collecting donations of nonperishable food items for local food banks!



SATURDAY  
21 OCT 2023



2:00 PM -  
4:00 PM

### Activities Include :

- Live Music
- Free Book Fair
- Refreshments
- Photo Booth
- Volunteer Opportunities (7-12)

***This is NOT a drop-off event.***



## COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

**SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL**

# COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

### The Race for Space 5K needs student volunteers!

SSCPS students are able to run and volunteer at this year's road race to earn community service hours. Students are encouraged to find 2+ personal sponsors to earn more hours and support the race! Use the form below to submit sponsor information.

### BREAKDOWN OF HOURS:

- **4 community service hours** will be given to students who run the race and volunteer with set up and break down.
- **2 additional hours** will be given to students who get 2 or more sponsors.



**SPONSOR FORM**

For more information about volunteering or getting sponsors, contact Joe Kay:  
[jkay@sscps.org](mailto:jkay@sscps.org)

## FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

If your student takes prescription medication during the school day, including epipens or inhalers, the medication will need to be dropped off to the school nurse by an adult. Medication cannot be sent on the bus with students. All medication needs to be accompanied by a prescription medication form. Your doctor may fill out their own

medication form, an Asthma Action Plan, Allergy Action Plan, or the school's [Prescription Drug Form](#). No medication can be accepted without the proper paperwork. Parents/guardians will also need to sign the form to give permission for medication to be administered in school. Students can not bring in over the counter medication. All medication needed at school must be held in the Health Office and have the proper paperwork in order for it to be administered at school.

If your student is planning on playing a school sport in the fall they must have a current physical dated within the past 13 months. Students who do not have a current physical will not be allowed to try out or participate in sports. You may submit health forms to:

**K-8: Jaime Kjelgaard, RN** [Jkjelgaard@sscps.org](mailto:Jkjelgaard@sscps.org) 781-982-4202 x 104

**High School: Barbara Folan, RN** [Bfolan@sscps.org](mailto:Bfolan@sscps.org) 781-982-4202 x 182

**Fax: 781-982-4201**

Students entering K, 4th, 7th & 10th grade must submit current physical forms and vaccine records.

The K through 8 school is a **peanut/nut free** building. Please make sure you do not send your child to school with any food that contains peanuts or nuts or the label reads "may contain nuts or traces of nuts". Caffeinated beverages are not allowed in the elementary school. Please send your student to school with a reusable water bottle as the school does not provide water bottles. Level 1 students should have a full change of weather appropriate clothes that is kept at school.

Please reach out to your school nurse and teacher if your student is sick. Students who have vomiting, diarrhea, or a fever of 100 or above need to remain out of school until the symptoms or fever have resolved for 24 hours. If your student has strep throat, conjunctivitis or any other contagious illness they will need to remain out until they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours. Students who develop any of these symptoms during the school day will need to be picked up from school promptly. Please make sure your contact information with the school is up to date. Absences can be reported to [attendance@sscps.org](mailto:attendance@sscps.org).

If your student tests positive for COVID-19 please reach out to your school nurse so it can be determined when your student is able to return to school. Thank you!

--

**Jaime Kjelgaard**

SSCPS School Nurse

## THE WEEKLY CALENDAR

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>09/13</b>	<b>Senior Parent Virtual Meeting – <a href="#">Meeting Link</a></b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>09/14</b>	<b>Level I and Level II Parent Back-to-School Night at 100 Longwater Circle</b>	<b>6:00-7:00pm</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>09/15</b>	<b>Professional Development Early Release</b>	<b>12:00pm</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>09/18</b>	<b>Picture Day for Grades K-4 and 9-12</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>09/19</b>	<b>Picture Day for Grades 5-8</b>	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>09/20</b>	<b>Level III and Level IV Parent Back-to-School Night at 100 Longwater Circle</b>	<b>6:00-7:30pm</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>09/21</b>	<b>Board of Trustees Meeting</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>
		<b>Personnel Committee</b>	<b>5:30pm</b>
		<b>Governance Committee</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
		<b>Finance Committee</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
		<b>Development/Ad Hoc Facilities Committees</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
		<i>All meetings held at 700 Longwater Circle and via Zoom</i>	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>09/22</b>	<b>Level III Field Trip to Nantasket Beach</b>	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>09/25</b>	<b>Yom Kippur Observed – No School</b>	

## IMPORTANT LINKS

**Weekly Updates are emailed and posted to our website [www.sscps.org](http://www.sscps.org) every Wednesday.**

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

**School Documents:**

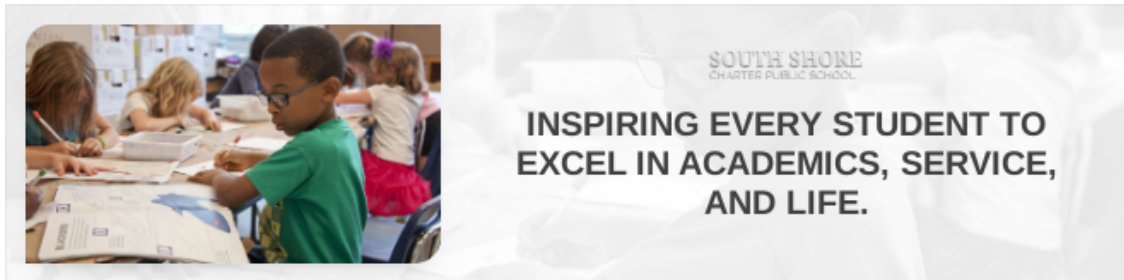
[2023-2024 School Calendar](#)

[Student and Family Handbook](#)

[Arrival and Dismissal Procedures](#)

[SSCPS By-Laws](#)

**Here are links to upcoming events and other items of interest. Please contact Pam Algera at [palgera@sscps.org](mailto:palgera@sscps.org) to submit SSCPS items for publication.**



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