

Weekly Update | April 9, 2025

Vol. 4 Issue 2

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A Message from Michelle

The Power of Perseverance: Celebrating the Special Education Journey

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I want to take a moment to celebrate the remarkable power of perseverance that is at the heart of our special education community. Every day, our students show us what it means to face challenges with determination, resilience, and an unwavering belief in their potential.

The journey through special education is often one of overcoming obstacles and defying expectations. Our students work tirelessly to achieve their goals, whether mastering a new skill, learning to navigate social situations, or finding their voice. Their perseverance is a testament to the strength of the human spirit, and it inspires all of us—teachers, parents, and peers alike—to embrace our own challenges with the same courage and resolve.

Celebrating Small Wins and Big Milestones

In special education, progress is often measured in small steps, and each step forward is a victory worth celebrating. Whether it's a student learning to tie their shoes, express their feelings, or solve a complex math problem, these moments are the culmination of hard work, persistence, and the support of a dedicated team of educators and family members.

It's important to remember that every achievement, no matter how small it may seem, is a reflection of your child's perseverance. By celebrating these victories, we reinforce the message that effort leads to progress and that every step forward is significant.

Fostering a Growth Mindset

Perseverance thrives in an environment where challenges are seen as opportunities for growth. Encouraging a growth mindset in our students means teaching them that struggles are not signs of failure but opportunities to learn and improve. When students understand that their abilities can grow with effort and practice, they become more resilient in the face of challenges.

As parents and educators, we can nurture this mindset by praising effort over outcomes, helping students set realistic goals, and reminding them that setbacks are a natural part of any learning journey.

The Role of Support

The perseverance of our students would not be possible without the support of their families, teachers, and peers. Together, we create a network of encouragement that empowers our students to keep going, even when the road gets tough. Your role as a parent or guardian is essential in this journey, and your patience, understanding, and advocacy make a world of difference in your child's success.

Likewise, our dedicated educators work tirelessly to provide individualized support, adapting lessons, and finding creative ways to meet the unique needs of each student. This partnership between home and school is the foundation upon which perseverance is built.

Inspiring Us All

The perseverance of our students is not only inspiring but also a reminder that we all have the strength to overcome challenges. Their determination encourages us to face our own difficulties with resilience, knowing that persistence will lead to progress. They remind us that success isn't always about the destination—it's about the journey and the growth we experience along the way.

As we move forward, let's continue to celebrate the power of perseverance and the incredible achievements of our special education students. Their stories are a powerful example of what is possible when we believe in ourselves and never give up, no matter the obstacles we face.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to your child's education. Together, we can make a lasting impact on their journey.

Wishing you a springtime filled with joy, growth, and the power of perseverance.

Michelle Gallagher Special Education Coordinator

School Calendar & Announcements

Click here for the complete SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar



SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

PSAT/SAT Exam Updates

A message from the High School Guidance Department:

Reminder that the Digital SAT and PSAT is coming to South Shore Charter Public School on Friday, April 11, 2025. All Juniors will be taking the SAT Day Exam at school; Sophomores will be taking the PSAT 10, and students in grades 8 and 9 will be taking the PSAT 8/9. All test administrations will be digital. There is no cost to take the exam and students do not need to register for the exam - the school will take care of it.

Why are students taking the PSAT this spring?

Taking the digital PSAT 8/9, 10, and 11 offers you a chance to get familiar with the digital SAT and to practice taking the test. This can help you reduce anxiety and save time on your digital SAT test day.

Additionally, the PSAT/NMSQT can help you gauge your readiness for the SAT, so you know which areas you need to focus on in order to improve your score. Your PSAT/NMSQT score report will show you a breakdown of the kinds of questions you missed, which is useful for directing your SAT prep. For example, if you miss several Inference questions on the PSAT/NMSQT Reading and Writing section, then you may want to spend extra time going through Khan Academy's Inference videos, articles, and skill practice exercises to get better at those questions.

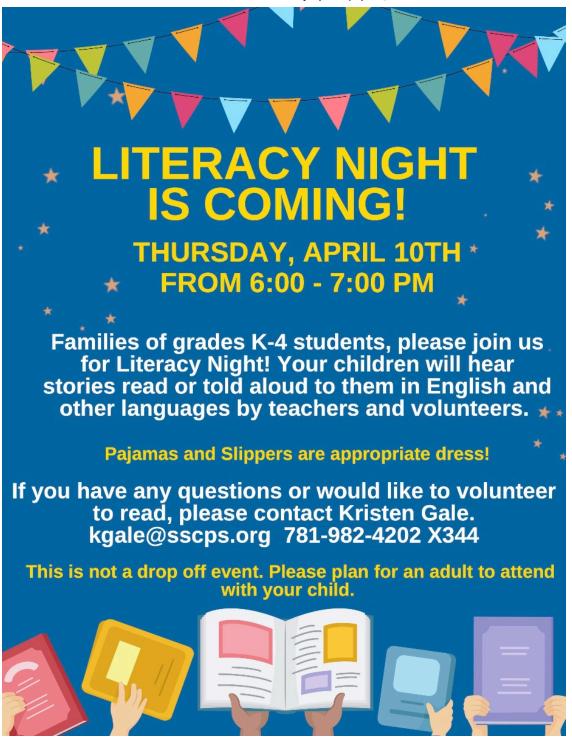
Also, the digital PSAT is still the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT). That means students who score well on the digital PSAT/NMSQT <u>may be eligible</u> <u>for college scholarship opportunities</u>.

**VERY IMPORTANT - LAPTOP INFORMATION FOR DIGITAL TESTING **

Students must have their school laptop fully charged on the day of the exam. Students cannot use a personal computer for the SAT/ PSAT Day Exam. There will be limited loaner laptops and chargers.

Upcoming School & Community Events

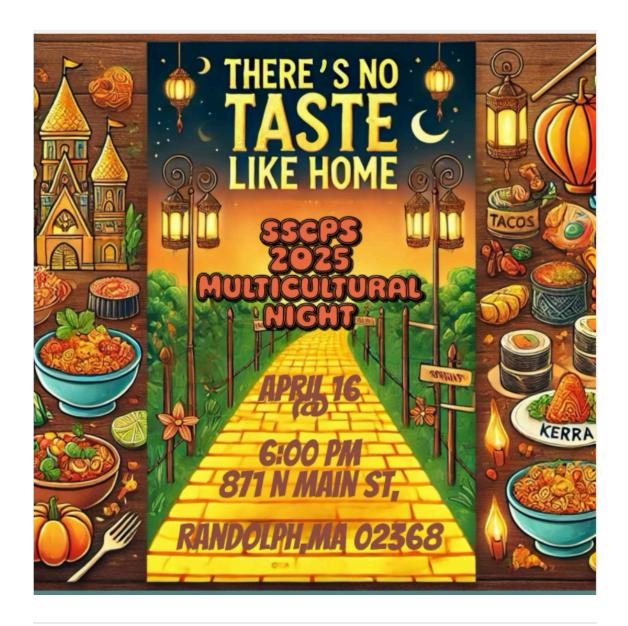
Literacy Night at SSCPS



Multicultural Food Night

Join SSCPS for our annual Multicultural Food Night this April and celebrate the rich diversity of our school community! Families are invited to share a favorite dish that represents their culture and enjoy an evening of delicious food, connection, and cultural appreciation. Come taste flavors from around the world, meet new friends, and celebrate the traditions that make South Shore Charter Public School so special.

RSVP HERE



SSCPS Spring Fair

Join us again this year for our second annual SSCPS Spring Fair! Our dedicated student volunteers will come together again on Saturday, May 3rd starting at 12PM to host this event with tons of awesome games and activities for all who attend. We'll have a great

selection of food and ice cream trucks, a bouncy house and other inflatables, team games, arts & crafts, and lots of other fun activities right here at 100 Longwater Circle! You can find more information <u>here</u>, and use the button below to get your tickets today.

Buy Tickets



Junior-Senior Prom 2025

Juniors & Seniors - join SSCPS for "An Enchanted Time" at prom on May 16th! The dance will be held at the Tirrell Room in Quincy, MA from 7:00 - 11:00PM. Tickets are on sale now - use the button below to purchase!

Buy Tickets

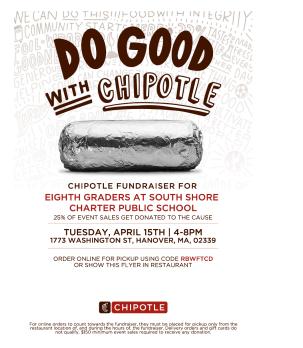


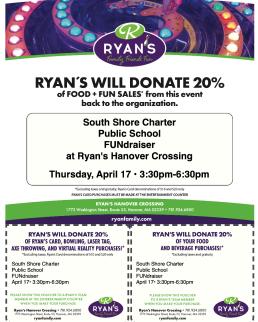
Grade 8 Fundraising Opportunities

Eighth graders at South Shore Charter are raising money to help fund our field trips and group activities at the end of this year! We have two field trips coming up: one to Washington D.C. and one to Boston, and we'd love your support.

A number of local restaurants and businesses have upcoming fundraising opportunities in April that can help support our initiatives, from dining out or ordering from certain restaurants to spending time at activity centers with the family! Click on the flyers below for more details about the next two opportunities.

For any questions, please contact Kristen Mullin-Connolly at **<u>kconnolly@sscps.org</u>**





Community Programs & Events





Spring 2025 Juried National Exhibition

Night, Light, & Half Light

April 3rd - May 10th, 2025

Juror: Kristine Feeks Hammond, Co-Director, Galerie d'Orsay, Boston

Opening Reception: Thursday, April 3rd, 6-8 PM



The South Shore Art Center will be showing its *Night*, *Light*, & *Half Light* exhibition beginning tomorrow, April 3rd.

SSCPS art teacher Pam Golden will have a piece included in the exhibition - a clay wall sculpture entitled "Spring Moon" - that the community can view until May 10th!

Exhibition hours are from 10am - 4pm on Mondays-Saturdays.

SSCPS YEARBOOKS ON SALE NOW! Our SSCPS 2025 yearbooks are available to order now! Use the information below to order yours today. Yearbook: Order Here Code: 14917725

10% OFF SCHOOL PICTURE ORDERS!

CODE: **F2024100FF**Expires July 31, 2025

CLICK HERE TO REDEEM

Don't forget to order your FREE Digital SmileSafe card!

From the Foundation

The JJ Facey SSCPS Scholarship







Attention SSCPS Seniors!

SSCPS seniors are encouraged to apply for the new JJ Facey SSCPS Scholarship!

The JJ Facey SSCPS Scholarship was established to provide financial assistance to a graduating senior student athlete who exemplifies the characteristics of sportsmanship, integrity, character, and respect. Our first ever SSCPS recruited college athlete, JJ Facey, graduated from South Shore Charter Public School in 2024. He influenced the student body, faculty & staff with his welcoming disposition, character, athleticism, and smile. His uplifting balance of work and fun provided us with a model of well-rounded citizenship and taught us how to approach life with a sense of humor. To quote JJ, "Hard

work is easy," and the recipients of this scholarship will carry on this ideology.

2025 SSCPS graduate(s) awarded with this scholarship plan on attending either a postgraduate 5th year program, trade school, or a two or four year college. Seniors can find the application and more information using the button below.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Celebrating 30 Years of SSCPS

CELEBRATING 3® YEARS

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL Est. 1995

For the last 30 years, South Shore Charter Public School has been a pillar of innovation, community, and academic excellence. This school year, as we celebrate this incredible milestone, we're reminded of the power of generosity in shaping our journey and strengthening our future. As we launch this year's 30th Anniversary Annual Fund Campaign, our goal is to raise \$50,000 and have 100% family participation. Donations will be collected through the remainder of the school year, and you can choose which department or area of SSCPS you'd like your donation to be put toward.

Every donations makes a difference, no matter the size. Help us celebrate 30 years of SSCPS and contribute to our future successes for 30 more years and beyond!

Make a Donation



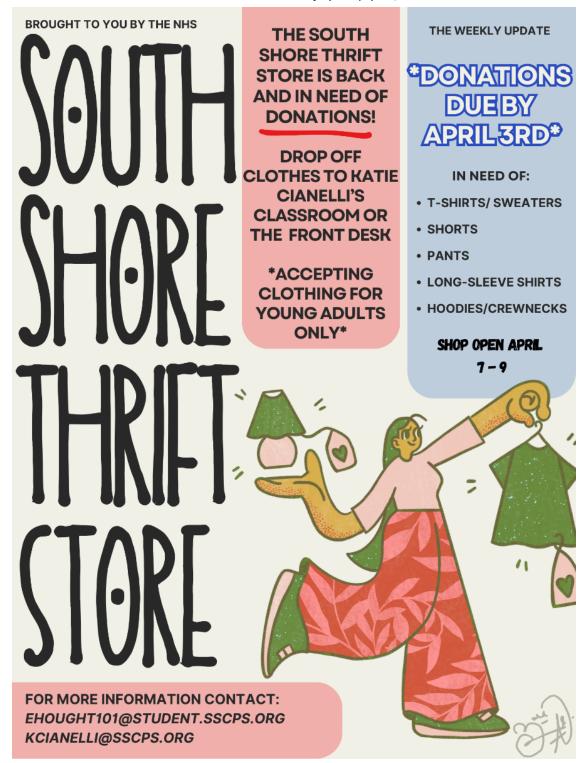
On the Levels

UAT High School Conference

On Thursday April 3rd, Mary Carter (Director of Guidance) and Jamie Allen (Science Curriculum Coordinator) brought nine juniors to MIT for the UAT High School Conference to hear SSCPS Alum, Emmanuel Anteneh, Class of 2021 speak on the Perlin Noise algorithm and creating Minecraft worlds. Students from SSCPS attended the conference in Cambridge along with other local high schools to listen to MIT undergraduates give a 15 minute talk on various topics that the students have been involved in as undergraduates.



NHS Thrift Store



What's New in Projects & Workshops

Beatles Concert | High School Music Workshop

Join SSCPS **today**, **April 9th** for a Beatles Concert performed by the High School Music Workshop! The concert will be held in the PE space at 104 Longwater Drive starting at 6:00PM.



Level III Community Service Project

Click the message or button below to support the Level III Community Service Project!

Hello SSCPS Community,

"The Level III Community Service Project is planning a trip to the local nursing home to host a craft day and we need your help. We would be so grateful if you could help us purchase an item from our <u>Amazon Wish List</u>. All the elderly would be so grateful to wake up on Valentine's Day morning and have a bunch of crafts to do to brighten their day."

Sincerely,
The SSCPS Community Service Project



Visit the Wishlist

Afterschool Enrichment Program 2024-2025

Afterschool Enrichment Program Wrap-Up

What an exciting journey it's been in the Afterschool Enrichment Program! As the program ends for the year, students can look back on an incredible time filled with exploration, creativity, and hands-on learning. From launching fizzy geysers with mentos and soda to creating beautiful art, from learning the art of kickboxing to journaling their thoughts and ideas, and from blending nature with art to sharpening their basketball and soccer skills, students truly embraced it all. While we're sad to see the program end, we're already looking forward to launching more exciting enrichment sessions in the new school year. A heartfelt thank you to all the students, instructors and families who made this program such a success!

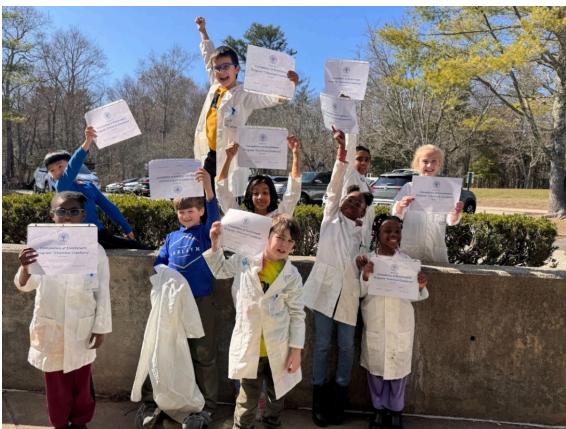
















Community Service

Community Service Opportunities

Need help finding a community service opportunity? Below is a link to our regularly updated Community Service Table filled with CS opportunities around the South Shore. Descriptions of organizations, contact information, and more are included.

Community Service Table

Submit Community Service Hours

If you've started your Community Service for the **2024-2025** school year, it's not too early to start recording those hours today!

Use the links below to submit your community service hours.

Level I Community Service

Level II Community Service

Level III Community Service

Level IV Community Service

High School Community Service

Health Office

In the coming weeks, the Health Office will be starting screenings for vision, hearing, weight, and heights. These screenings are based on grades. If you would like to exempt your student from any or all of these screenings please email:

K-8: Jaime Kjelgaard (<u>Jkjelgaard@sscps.org</u>)

High School: Barbara Folan (<u>Bfolan@sscps.org</u>)

Exemptions must be done annually.

Please remember if your student has a fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or an infectious illness (such as strep throat) they need to remain out of school. Students with a fever need to remain home until they are fever free with no medication for 24 hours. Vomiting and diarrhea needs to be resolved for a full 24 hours before returning to school. Students with an infectious illness need to stay out until symptoms have resolved or they have completed a full 24 hours of antibiotics.

Students go outside for recess in most weather. Please make sure that students have

proper clothing to be outside. Students should also have a refillable water bottle daily.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to reach out to the Health Offices.

781-982-4202

Jaime Kjelgaard, RN - K-8 building (x104)
Barbara Folan, RN - High School building (x182)

Parents Association, SEPAC, & ELPAC

Parents Association



Other Ways to Get Engaged in Our School Community

Did you know there is more than one way to get engaged in our school community? Visit the PA website <u>Parent Volunteer Opportunities</u> page to learn more about the following three way you can get engaged:

- 1. Search through <u>parent volunteer opportunities list</u> This dynamic list houses one-time and ongoing volunteering opportunities at the school.
- 2. Join a PA Committee Email the PA if you want to join one of our standing committees including Outreach, Events, and Fundraising PAatSSCPS@gmail.com
- 3. Join the **SSCPS Connect** Database SSCPS Connect is a community engagement platform that connects the skills, talents and expertise of our community members to our school's faculty, staff, and community leaders to support our mission to "Inspire students to excel in academics, service, and life." Through a comprehensive survey, we gather how individuals want to contribute, allowing school leaders to easily search and connect to the resources that exist right here in our community.

PA Website Quick Links

SSCPS Parent Directory Update

We are pleased to announce that the Parent Directory is now active on our <u>PlusPortals</u> website. The Parent Directory provides families with a means to connect with other SSCPS families. In order to be listed in the Parent Directory, you must opt-in. Information will not be shared without your consent.

The first step is to activate your <u>PlusPortals</u> account. If your account is not yet activated you should have received activation instructions in a separate email.

Next, click on your name and choose "Directory Listing."

From this page, select the information that you would like shared with the community.

Please find detailed instructions **here**.

Important Links

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

- 1. Afterschool Enrichment Program
- 2. DESE Student Attendance Letter Translated:

 (<u>Arabic</u>, <u>Cape Verdean Creole</u>, <u>Chinese</u>, <u>Haitian</u>

 Creole, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese)
- 3. Back-to-School Information
- 4. Food Services
- 5. Health Office
- 6. <u>Massachusetts Department of Transitional</u>
 Assistance
- 7. Community Service
- 8. Visit the Parents Association Website

School Documents

2024-2025 School

Calendar

Student and Family

Handbook

Arrival and Dismissal

Procedures

SSCPS By-Laws

Next Year: <u>Updated 2025-</u> 2026 School Calendar

Protect Your K-12 School-Issued Device!





South Shore Charter Public School has chosen Worth Ave. Group as the insurance provider for school devices. To opt into the Voluntary Group Program click here.











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