



Weekly Update | August 28, 2024

Vol. 8 Issue 1

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A Message from Alicia

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year. Whether you are a long-time SSCPS family or new this year, there is much we look forward to celebrating together. Summer days may be fun and festive, yet they pale in comparison to the elation of the new school year. These early days of school are rightfully ones of excitement and promise, and yesterday was no exception. The thrill of the new school year is pervasive — moving through classrooms, spilling out into the hallways, and overflowing the playgrounds. Preparing for a successful new school year begins with all you have done at home. Thank you for all of your efforts to ensure a smooth transition to these important first days of school.

This year we are delighted to celebrate the 30th anniversary of South Shore Charter Public School. Events celebrating our school community will be happening throughout the school year. Additionally, every five years South Shore Charter submits an application for our charter renewal to the Massachusetts Department of Education (DESE). All Massachusetts charter schools are required to do so. Representatives from DESE will be conducting a site

visit on Tuesday, September 17. The South Shore Charter Public School Application for Renewal was written over the summer. The SSCPS Board of Trustees approved the application in July. This document may be found linked on our [website](#).

We are now in our third year of the regional transportation program. The success of this program is the result of ongoing collaboration among families, school administration, faculty, staff, and the hard working people at First Student. Special thanks to Karen Boyle, Director of Transportation, and Pam Algera, Director of Admissions, for all of their work over the summer. We are grateful that the regional transportation program will continue to be an important resource for families throughout the South Shore.

Here on campus we owe a great deal to our facilities team, led by Wayne Heuer, who had the building gleaming and the campus grounds welcoming for all. Fresh paint, new carpeting, stunning landscaping, and an updated library have greeted us on the first day of school. Special thanks to the volunteers last week who worked hard to beautify the campus.

There are some exciting staffing changes for the new school year. Matthew Collins is now a Level I Learning Services teacher. Siobhan Daly will be teaching Grade 5 Humanities. SyRael DuFresne will be teaching Grade 12 Ethics. Kayla Doyle will be the new High School Learning Services teacher. Dan Fish will be teaching 7th Grade Science. Paul Santucci has moved from High School Learning Services to Level IV Learning Services. Kate Seavey will be teaching 9th Grade Pre-AP English Language Arts.

Just as we welcome new families to our school community each year, we also welcome new teachers and staff. This year we have some wonderful educators new to SSCPS that we would like to introduce to our school community.

Levels I and II

Felicia Dell | Grade 1 Paraprofessional

Felicia holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Clark University and a Master of Arts Degree in Teaching Elementary Education from Northeastern University. Felicia comes to South Shore Charter from the Gan Elohim Early Learning Center in Wellesley where she was a Transitional Kindergarten Lead Teacher. Felicia has taught in the Newton Public School system, both as a substitute teacher for grades K-5, and in the after school program. Felicia will be the new paraprofessional in June's first grade classroom.

Stephanie Harrington | Level II Learning Services Teacher

Stephanie holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education and Psychology from Bridgewater State University where she is also a Master of Education candidate. Stephanie comes to South Shore Charter from Codman Academy Public Charter School in

Dorchester, where she served as a Literacy Specialist. Her teaching experience also includes the Edgar B. Davis K-8 Community School, Brockton.

Levels III and IV

Alexander Maddestra | English Language Arts Teacher | Grade 7

Alex holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Secondary Education and English from Stonehill College. Alex comes to South Shore Charter from Oliver Ames High School where he completed his student teaching. Alex's professional experience includes content creation, camp counselor, and as the general manager and on-air personality at WSHL Stonehill College Radio.

High School

Aidan Gallagher | Biology Teacher

We are happy to officially welcome Aidan Gallagher to South Shore Charter. Aidan holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biological Sciences from Vassar College and is currently seeking a Master of Education in Curriculum and Teaching. Aidan began at SSCPS teaching high school Spanish last year. This year Aidan will be a member of the science department and be teaching Biology and a Workshop on Medical Research and Medical Careers. Aidan has served as a Teacher Assistant in the Department of Biology at Vassar College and has worked in medical research for seven years publishing work in two medical journals; the *Journal of Intellectual & Developmental Disability* and *Blood, American Society of Hematology*.

Ahminchie Estime | Guidance Counselor

Ahminchie holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Science from the University of Massachusetts, Boston and a Master of Counseling degree from Cambridge College. Ahminchie comes to South Shore Charter from Taunton Public Schools where she was a school counselor. Ahminchie has also worked as a School-Based Therapist at Franciscan Children's, a Clinical Responder at the Justice Resource Institute, an In-Home Clinician at Children's Services of Roxbury, and as a Crisis Clinician at Aspire Health Alliance.

Jenny Kostka | Physics and AP Computer Science

A tremendous welcome back to Jenny as she rejoins the Science Department following her work in the private sector. Jenny holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Physics and Secondary Education from Rhode Island College and a Master of Education in Technology, Innovation, and Education from Harvard University. Jenny has served as a Technology Integration Specialist, a Science Curriculum Developer for Great Minds, a Director of Education for Sylvan Learning Center, and a Learning Experience Designer for pi-top in London, UK. Here at South Shore Charter, her teaching experience includes Physics,

Astronomy, AP Physics, AP Computer Science Principles, Physical Science, Engineering, Chemistry, and a Maker's Workshop.

Steven Simon | Learning Services / English Language Teacher (Grades 7-12)

Steven holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Educational Studies from Brandeis University and is a candidate for a Master of Education degree majoring in Teaching English as a Second Language at Bridgewater State College. Steven comes to South Shore Charter from Williams Elementary School in Newton where he completed his Student Teacher Internship. Outside of education, Steven's experience includes work as a Residential Lending Intern and a stagehand for Local 11 Labor Union. Steven has also been a camp counselor and youth baseball umpire in Hanover.

Thomas Smiley | Algebra II

Thomas holds a Bachelor of Mathematics degree and a Master of Science in Mathematics degree from Salem State University. Thomas comes to South Shore Charter from Lynn English High School where he taught math.

Kristin Zuckerman | Spanish

Kristin holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from Indiana University-Bloomington. Kristin comes to South Shore Charter from Rising Tide Charter School where she taught Spanish at the middle and upper school. Kristin has served as a district tutor for the Scituate Public Schools, and as a flight attendant for American Airlines where she used her language skills in Spanish and Korean. Kristin's international experience includes teaching English at the Chungdahm April Institute in Seoul, South Korea, and she has worked as a residential volunteer teaching English at Rigon Tashi Choeling, Kathmandu Valley, Nepal. Kristin is also a certified yoga instructor.

And so we approach this new year excited for all that is new, and grateful for all that is familiar. Thank you for being a part of the South Shore Charter Public School.

Alicia Savage

Executive Director

School Calendar

SSCPS WEEKLY CALENDAR AUG 28 - SEPT 4

<p>Wed 28</p> <p>Kindergarten Early Release at Noon</p>	<p>Thu 29</p> <p>Kindergarten Early Release at Noon</p>	<p>Fri 30</p> <p>K-12 Early Release at Noon</p>	<p>Sat/Sun</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LABOR DAY WEEKEND 🇺🇸</p>
<p>Mon 2</p> <p>Labor Day - No School</p>	<p>Tue 3</p>	<p>Wed 4</p>	<p>Upcoming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept. 10 - PA Meeting Sept. 12 - K-4 Back to School Night Sept. 13 - Professional Development Early Release <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Click the calendar for more details.</p>



IMPORTANT REMINDER

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30TH
EARLY RELEASE AT 12PM

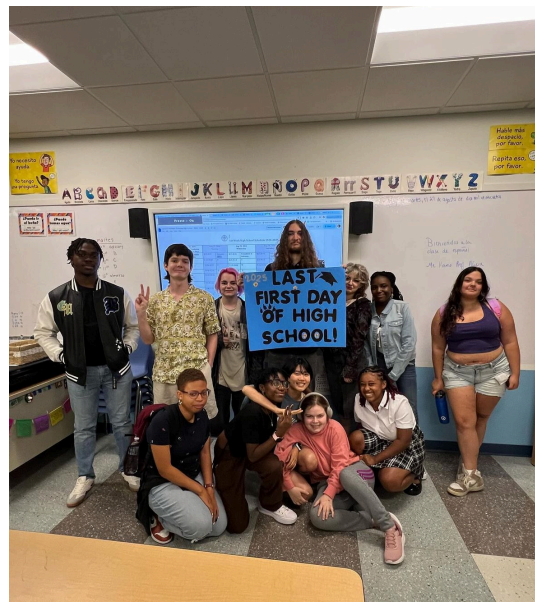
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND
NO SCHOOL

LABOR DAY WEEKEND!

On the Levels

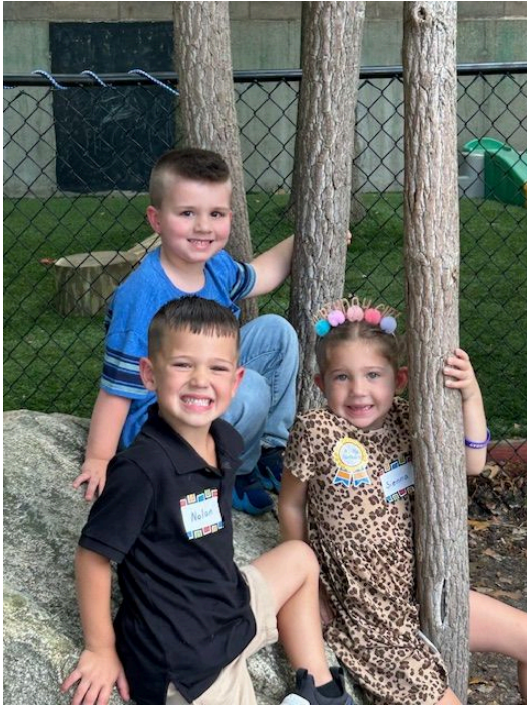
Last First Day of High School for Seniors!







And...First Days of Kindergarten!



Community Service

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](#)

Parents Association



Welcome Back to School: We're thrilled to welcome everyone back for the new school year! We hope you had a wonderful summer and are as excited as we are to kick off another fantastic year at SSCPS.

1. SSCPS Road Race 2024:

- Join us on September 28, 2024, at 9:00 AM for the SSCPS Annual Road Race as we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of South Shore Charter Public School! This event is a fantastic opportunity to come together as a community, honor our school's rich history, and support its bright future. For more details and to register, please visit our [Road Race page](#).

2. PA FAQ Document:

- Our PA FAQ document has been updated to provide answers to common questions and guidance throughout the school year. You can find it on our PA page [here](#). If you have any additional questions, don't hesitate to reach out to us at PAatSSCPS@gmail.com—we're here to assist and will update the FAQ as needed.

3. Get Involved – Upcoming PA Meetings and Events:

- **PA Meetings:** The PA needs your ideas and involvement! Our **meetings** are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 PM, both in person at the High School and on Zoom. The next meeting is on September 10th, 2024, at 7 PM. This is a great

opportunity to contribute to our school community and help shape the initiatives that matter to you and your children.

- **Morning Coffee Receptions:** Join us for a relaxed **coffee reception** at 9 AM on September 13, 2024. These informal gatherings are the perfect chance to connect with fellow parents, share your thoughts, and get to know the PA team in a more casual setting.
- **PA Committee Kick-off:** We're also planning a PA **Committee Kick-off** where we'll dive into proposed projects for the year. Your participation is crucial to the success of our initiatives.

4. Join a PA Committee:

- **Get Involved with Our Committees:** We're currently looking for volunteers to join our PA Committees. Whether you're interested in outreach, event planning, or fundraising, there's a role for you! Learn more about each committee's responsibilities and how you can contribute by visiting our [PA Committees page](#). Your involvement is key to making our initiatives successful, so we encourage you to step up and help make a difference.

Nakeya Miller

Chair, Parent Association and Co-Chair for Levels I & II

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 new prescription medication form each year. 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. Please check expiration dates of medication before sending it in. Medication that expires during the school year will need to be replaced before it expires. Please reach out to your school nurse if you have any questions about medications.

K-8: Jaime Kjølgaard, RN jkjolgaard@sspcs.org 781-982-4202 x104

High School: Barbara Folan, RN bfolan@sscps.org 781-982-4201 x 182

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 of the start of the sports season. 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 781-982-4202 x 104

High School: Barbara Folan, RN 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.

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.

Level I students should have a full change of weather appropriate clothes that is kept at school.

From the Foundation

**South Shore Charter Public School Annual Road Race
Saturday, Sept. 28th!**

SIGN UP HERE

#30ANDSTILLRUNNINGSSCPS

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL



30TH ANNIVERSARY ROAD RACE

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28 @ 9:00AM
WOMPATUCK STATE PARK
ALL ARE WELCOME!

MORE



INFO

BECOME A COMPANY SPONSOR

We encourage all to participate in our Annual Fund Giving Campaign by donating through the form below. We appreciate your continued support!

Donate Here

Important Links

Protect Your K-12 School-Issued Device!

Application valid for 2024-2025 school year

Protect Your K-12 School-Issued Device

Avoid costly repairs and replacements with comprehensive protection.

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
NORWELL, MA

NOT Covered: Manufacturer Defect & Mechanical Failure, Cosmetic Damage, Wear & Tear, and Unrestrained Loss.

Device	Coverage	Deductible	Price
ACER/LENOVO/SAMSUNG CHROMEBOOK	Device	\$0.00	\$19.00

Policy Term:
08.29.2024 - 08.29.2025

Deadline to purchase coverage: **SUNDAY 10.06.2024**

To purchase please visit:
<https://gpo.worthavegroup.com/southshorecps>

Customer Support: Phone: (800) 620-2885
Hours: 8am-5pm M-F CST
Online Chat: www.worthavegroup.com

We accept Visa, Mastercard, American Express & Discover

50+ Years in Business | Leader in K-12 Device Insurance | Backed by an "A" Rated Underwriter | Fully Licensed Insurance Agent

Worth Ave. Group P.O. Box 2077 Stillwater, OK 74076 | www.worthavegroup.com | (800) 620-2885

Solicitud válida para el año escolar 2024-2025

Proteja su dispositivo escolar

Evite reparos y reemplazos costosos con una protección completa.

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
NORWELL, MA

No se cubre: Defecto del fabricante y falla mecánica, daños cosiméticos, desgaste normal, o pérdida inesperada.

Dispositivo	Cobertura	Deductible	Precio
ACER/LENOVO/SAMSUNG CHROMEBOOK	Device	\$0.00	\$19.00

Plazo de la póliza:
29.08.2024 - 29.08.2025

Fecha límite para comprar cobertura: **DOMINGO 06.10.2024**

Para comprar, visite:
<https://gpo.worthavegroup.com/southshorecps>

Atención al cliente: Teléfono: (800) 620-2885
Horas: 8a.m.-5p.m. L-V CST
Chat en línea: www.worthavegroup.com

Aceptamos Visa, Mastercard, American Express & Discover

50+ años en el negocio | Líder en seguros de dispositivos K-12 | Respaldo por un asegurador calificado "A" | Agente de seguros con licencia completa

Worth Ave. Group P.O. Box 2077 Stillwater, OK 74076 | www.worthavegroup.com | (800) 620-2885

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](#).

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

School Documents

- [Afterschool Enrichment Program](#)
- [DESE Student Attendance Letter Translated:](#)
[Arabic](#), [Cape Verdean Creole](#), [Chinese](#), [Haitian Creole](#), [Portuguese](#), [Spanish](#), [Vietnamese](#)
- [Back-to-School Information](#)

- [2024-2025 School Calendar](#)
- [Student and Family Handbook](#)
- [Arrival and Dismissal Procedures](#)
- [SSCPS By-Laws](#)

4. [Food Services](#)
5. [Health Office](#)
6. [Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance](#)
7. [Community Service](#)
8. Visit the [Parents Association Website](#)



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