



Weekly Update | December 18, 2024

Vol. 12 Issue 3

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A Message from Michelle

Creating a Joyful and Accessible Holiday for All

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The holiday season is a time of excitement, joy, and celebration, but for some of our students with diverse needs, it can also bring challenges. With the lights, sounds, smells, and changes in routine, the holidays can be overwhelming, leading to overstimulation. As a school community, we want to support you in making this season as smooth and enjoyable as possible for your child. Below are some tips and strategies to help manage overstimulation during this festive time:

1. Maintain Routines as Much as Possible

While the holidays bring a break from school, maintaining a regular daily routine can help provide a sense of stability and security. Consistent wake-up, meal, and bedtimes can be grounding for individuals who thrive on predictability.

2. Prepare for Changes in the Environment

If you're visiting family or attending events, try to prepare your child in advance. Explain what to expect, where you'll be, and who will be there. Using [social stories](#), [visual schedules](#), or even just talking through the plan can help reduce anxiety about the unknown.

3. Create a Quiet Space

Designate a quiet, calming space at home and, if possible, when visiting others. This can be a place where your child can retreat when they feel overwhelmed. Include comforting items such as noise-canceling headphones, favorite toys, or sensory items like soft blankets.

4. Pace the Activities

Holiday events can be full of sensory overload. Consider limiting the number of activities your child participates in each day. It's okay to say "no" to certain events or to step away early if your child is becoming overstimulated.

5. Use Sensory Tools

If your child benefits from sensory tools, such as fidget toys, weighted blankets, or sensory chewables, be sure to have these on hand during holiday events. These tools can provide comfort and help your child regulate their sensory experiences.

6. Simplify the Experience

The holidays don't have to be filled with non-stop activity. Sometimes, the best memories are made during quiet, simple moments. Consider incorporating sensory-friendly activities, like baking cookies, watching a favorite holiday movie, or taking a walk to look at lights from a distance instead of attending large, noisy gatherings.

7. Communicate with Family

If you're spending time with extended family, consider sharing your child's needs and strategies that help them cope with overstimulation. Educating family members about sensory needs can help everyone be more understanding and supportive.

The holidays are meant to be a joyful time, and with a few thoughtful adjustments, they can be. We encourage you to reach out to your child's teachers or our special education team if

you have any specific concerns or need additional support. Together, we can ensure that this holiday season is a positive experience for all students.

Wishing you and your family a peaceful and happy holiday season.

Michelle Gallagher

Special Education Coordinator

School Calendar & Announcements

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

HALF DAY FRIDAY, DEC 20

EARLY RELEASE AT 12PM



[Click here for the complete SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar](#)

SSCPS WEEKLY CALENDAR DEC 18 - DEC 25

Wed 18

Winter Concert @ Hingham High School - 6PM

Concert Band, Concert Strings, and High School Music Workshop

Thu 19

NHS Hosts Holiday Rooms at 700 Longwater Drive - 5-7PM

Fri 20

Early Release - 12PM

Sat/Sun



Mon 23

No School - Holiday Break



Tue 24

No School - Holiday Break



Wed 25

No School - Holiday Break



Happy Holidays



Upcoming



Dec 26 - Jan 01 - No School (Holiday Break)

January 02 - Classes Resume

January 07 - Talk to Us Tuesday Tours Begin

SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

Guidance Policy | Winter Break

The Guidance Office will be closed Friday, December 20, 2024 at 12PM and will reopen on Thursday, January 2, 2025. During winter break, Guidance will not be sending any supporting materials to colleges.

Please make sure you check in with Guidance by Friday, Dec 20th if you have a January 1st deadline.

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: F202410OFF

Expires July 31, 2025

[**CLICK HERE TO REDEEM**](#)

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

More about the Smilesafe program [here](#).

Upcoming School & Community Events

SSCPS Winter Concert

Tonight | December 18th



SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

**FREE
ENTRY!**

WINTER CONCERTS

LEVEL 1 CONCERT

WED. DEC 11 | P.E. SPACE, 10AM

**PERFORMING ENSEMBLES (LEVELS II-IV CHOIR, LEVELS
III-IV BEGINNING BAND, BEG. & INTERM. STRINGS)**

TUES. DEC 17 | HINGHAM HIGH, 6PM

**PERFORMING ENSEMBLES (CONCERT BAND, CONCERT
STRINGS, HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC WORKSHOP)**

WED. DEC 18 | HINGHAM HIGH, 6PM

**HINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL | 17 UNION STREET, HINGHAM MA
LEVEL 1 CONCERT PARKING WILL BE AT 700 LONGWATER**

NHS Holiday Rooms

Tomorrow | December 19th

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
PRESENTS

HOLIDAY ROOMS

Food and activities from all around the world!

DECEMBER 19TH, 2024

5:00– 7:00 PM

700 LONGWATER DR NORWELL, MA



Friends of Holly Hill Farm Programs & Events



Register Now!
Winter Programs
... on the Farm

Plus February and March vacation week programs coming soon too!

Tiered pricing means you pay at the level that works best for your family. Reduced prices included!



scan here

hollyhillfarm.org/winter-sessions

Voted
BEST OF THE SOUTH SHORE
2023 & 2024
Summer Programs

Friends of Holly Hill Farm
236 Jerusalem Road, Cohasset, MA
781-383-6565

Mornings
Ages 3 - 5 January 7 - March 28, 2025*
9:30 - 11:00AM

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays

Sign up for one day or a few!

Sign up for a 9-week session bundle and save!
(9-week bundle meets on same day of week for 9 weeks)

Members receive a discount!

After-school Sessions
Ages 6 - 12 10-weeks session*
January 7 - March 28, 2025*
4:00 - 6:00 pm

Sessions meet one afternoon per week for 10 weeks*

Mondays - Healthy Cooking*
Tuesdays - Outdoor Exploration & Creation
Wednesdays - Winter Farming
Thursdays - Winter Farm Building & Innovation

*No sessions 1/20, 2/17-2/21, 3/10-3/14, (3/17-21 no mornings)
Healthy Cooking afterschool program meets for 9-weeks.



Friends of Holly Hill Farm
236 Jerusalem Road, Cohasset, MA
781-383-6565

Register Now!

February Vacation on the Farm

Members receive a discount!

February 17 - 21, 2025

Cooking Syrup

Monday, February 17
ages 3-5
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
12:45 - 3:45 pm



Tuesday, February 18
ages 6-8
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
12:45 - 3:45 pm

Farm Animals

Monday, February 17
ages 6-8
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
12:45 - 3:45 pm



Friday, February 21
ages 3-5
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
12:45 - 3:45 pm

Winter in the Woods

Tuesday, February 18
ages 3-5
9:00 am - 12:00pm
12:45 - 3:45 pm



Compost Creatures

Wednesday, February 19
ages 3-5
9:00 am - 12:00pm
12:45 - 3:45 pm



Magical Creatures

Wednesday, February 19
ages 6-8
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
12:45 - 3:45 pm



Adventures in Winter

Scavenger Hunt

Thursday, February 20
ages 6-8
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
12:45 - 3:45 pm

Shelters

Friday, February 21
ages 6-8
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
12:45 - 3:45 pm

Tiered and reduced pricing available!

hollyhillfarm.org/february-vacation-1

Easterseals Massachusetts Programs



The Bridge Center provides a wide range of programs year-round and welcomes individuals of all ages to enjoy enriching experiences and opportunities for growth. Visit our website to learn more about our [Recreation](#), [Equine-Assisted Programs](#), [Therapeutic Services](#), and [Camp](#) opportunities.

We are excited about our lineup of fun Winter Programs and invite you to our Community Open House on January 7, 2025. Read below about our upcoming programs and events, our Participant and Volunteer of the Month, and...

[Learn More](#)

Celebrating 30 Years of SSCPS

CELEBRATING 30 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](#)

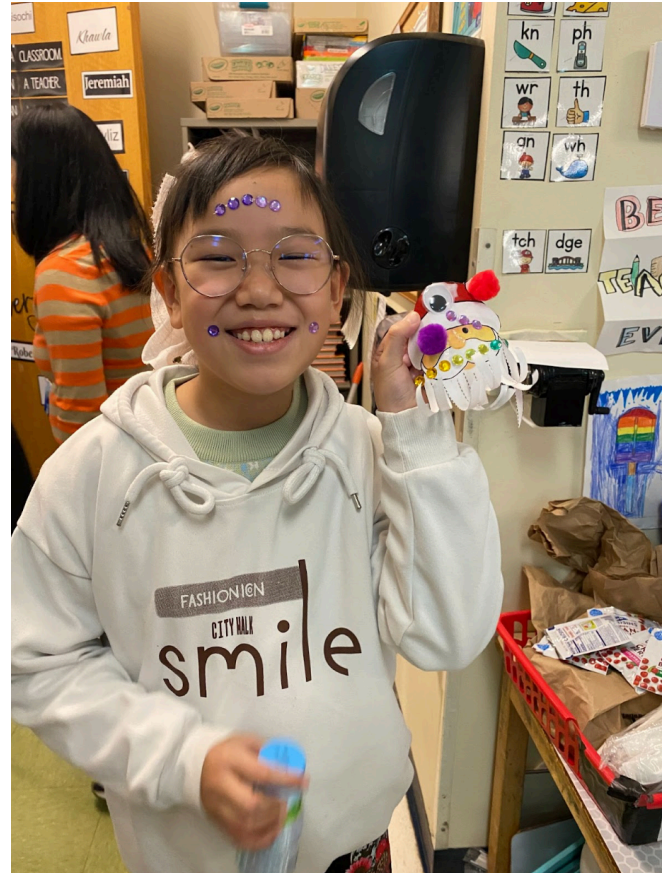
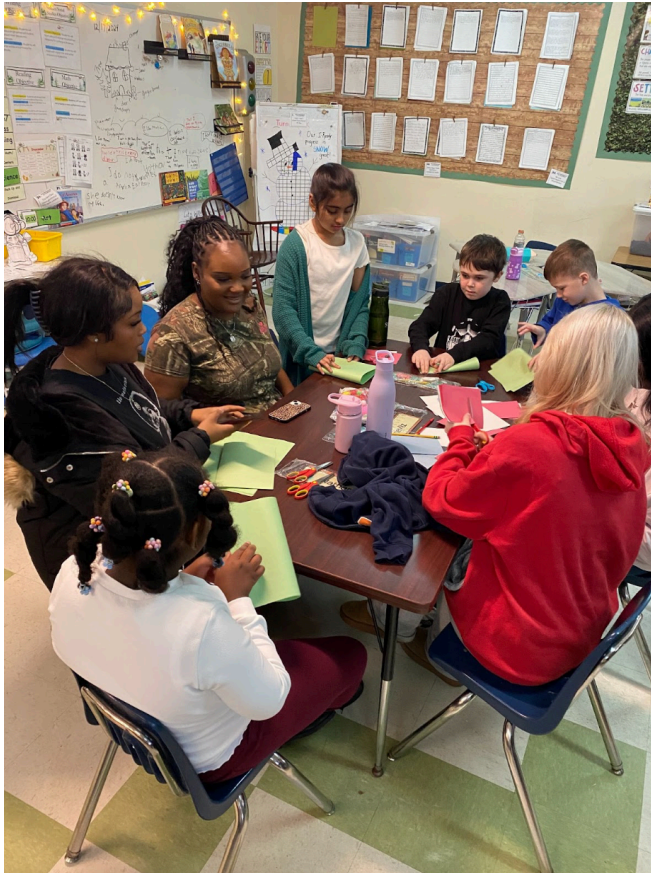
What's New in Projects & Workshops

High School Cultural Diversity Workshop

Celebrating Cultural Diversity Through Holiday Crafts

This week, the Cultural Diversity Workshop brought the spirit of the season to the lower school by leading a Cultural Diversity Holiday Workshop with the 3rd graders. Together, they explored how holidays are celebrated around the world through engaging stories and hands-on arts and crafts. The smiles, creativity, and shared learning made it a memorable experience for all. The students in the Workshop did a fantastic job fostering connections and sharing the joy of celebrating traditions from around the globe!





The Cultural Diversity Workshop presents



COAT DRIVE

[NOW-January 5th 2025]

Donate warm winter coats for children and adults
All sizes are welcome! Coats only, please.
 Boxes are located in the front vestibule

Anton's CLEANERS Jordan's FURNITURE Enterprise Bank

SCHOOL REWARDS With your help, we could win up to \$1,000 in School Rewards donated by Jordan's Furniture!

Donated coats are professionally cleaned by Anton's and given free of charge to local families in need.



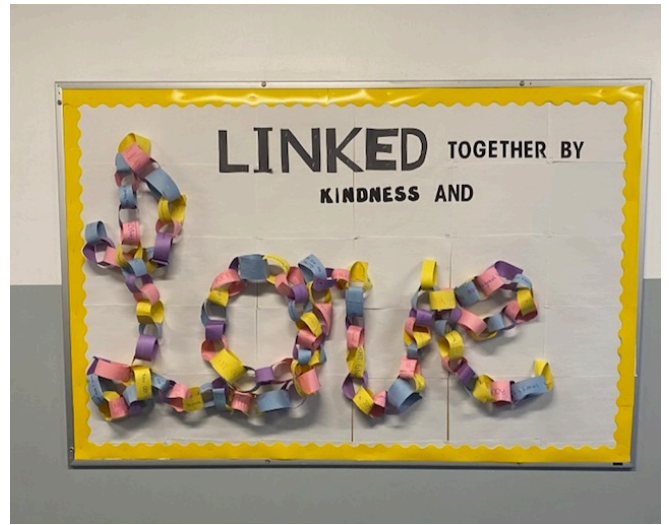
Cultural Diversity Workshop Coat Drive

The Cultural Diversity Workshop coat drive is still going strong! The coat drive will continue until January 5th. Please feel free to donate warm winter coats for children and adults - all sizes are welcome.

On the Levels

Level IV Scrapbooking Project

The Level IV Scrapbooking Project has been working hard on their community-building initiative this fall. They designed a Shout Out Box where students and teachers can give someone a personal shout-out for something that is appreciated. These are read aloud at each Town Meeting. They also held a Giving Challenge throughout the month of November. Each day, teachers tallied up the number of random acts of kindness they saw from students and each one was represented by a feather on the Level IV Turkey. We're happy to announce that the students filled the turkey with feathers and earned an extra recess! Lastly, they designed an inspirational bulletin board.



Afterschool Enrichment Program 2024-2025

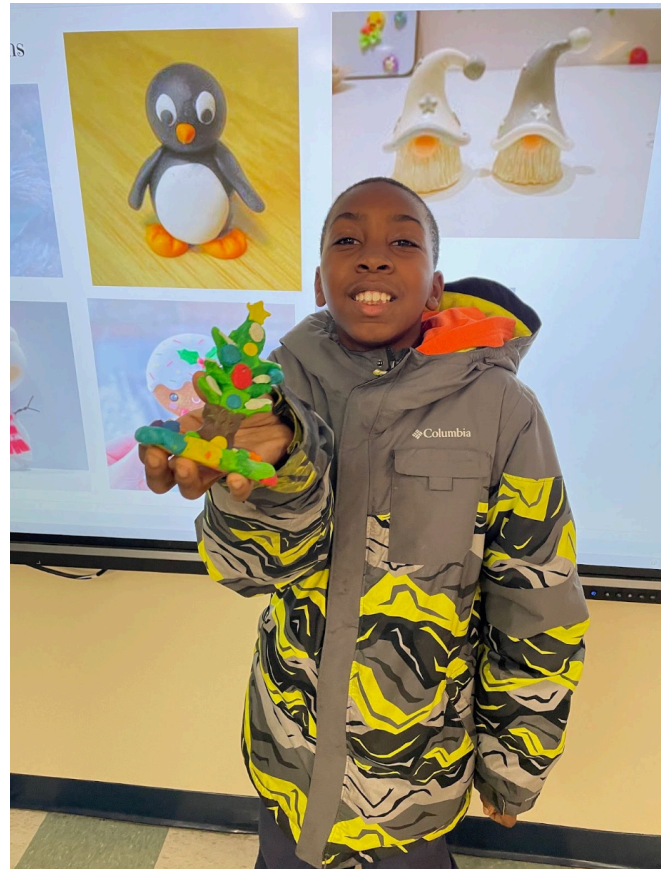
Happy Holidays from the Enrichment Program!



Creative Minds Club

Our talented students showcased their creativity by making winter-themed air-dry clay creations! From snowflakes to snowmen, their imaginations truly came to life. Everyone did an amazing job and had so much fun bringing their ideas to reality. Great work, Creative Minds!





Community Service

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](#)

Cushing Annual Christmas Tree Sale

Sign up to volunteer with Cardinal Cushing Centers at their Annual Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale this season! Volunteers will help sell trees, wreaths, houseplants, student crafted holiday art, ornaments, and more. Be sure to wear or bring plenty of warm winter clothing as volunteers will be spending lots of time outdoors. Volunteers will also get hot cocoa, coffee, treats, and discounts on trees, wreaths, and more!

Location:

The Garden Shop (aka The Old Trader) at the Cushing Greenhouse,

[120 Columbia Road, Hanover, MA 02339](#)

Days & Hours

Thursdays: 2pm – 7pm

Fridays: 2pm – 8pm

Saturdays: 9am – 8pm

Sundays: 9am – 5pm

Closed: Monday – Wednesday

To sign up or learn more information, contact Eleanor using the button below.

SIGN UP & INFO

From the SSCPS Board of Trustees

Meeting Agendas & Reports

Below is the Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda for the month of December. You can find more information on the SSCPS Board of Trustees on our website [here](#).

FY25 December Meeting Agenda

FY25 December ED Report

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 [Parent Volunteer Opportunities](#) page to learn more about the following three ways you can get engaged:

1. Search through [parent volunteer opportunities list](#) – 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 [PlusPortals](#) 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 [PlusPortals](#) 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](#).

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 EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

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

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

School Documents

1. [Afterschool Enrichment Program](#)
2. [DESE Student Attendance Letter Translated: \(Arabic, Cape Verdean Creole, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese\)](#)
3. [Back-to-School Information](#)
4. [Food Services](#)
5. [Health Office](#)
6. [Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance](#)
7. [Community Service](#)
8. Visit the [Parents Association Website](#)

[2024-2025 School Calendar](#)

[Student and Family Handbook](#)

[Arrival and Dismissal Procedures](#)

[SSCPS By-Laws](#)

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: Manufacture Defect & Mechanical Failure, Cosmetic Damage, Wear & Tear, and Unexplained Loss.

Device	Coverage	Deductible	Price	Policy Term: 08.29.2024 - 08.29.2025
ACER/LENOVO/SAMSUNG CHROMEBOOK	Device	\$0.00	\$19.00	

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 cosméticos, desgaste normal, o pérdida inesperada.

Dispositivo	Cobertura	Deductible	Precio	Plazo de la póliza: 29.08.2024 - 29.08.2025
ACER/LENOVO/SAMSUNG CHROMEBOOK	Device	\$0.00	\$19.00	

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
Charla en línea: www.worthavegroup.com



Aceptamos Visa, Mastercard, American Express & Discover

50+ años en el negocio

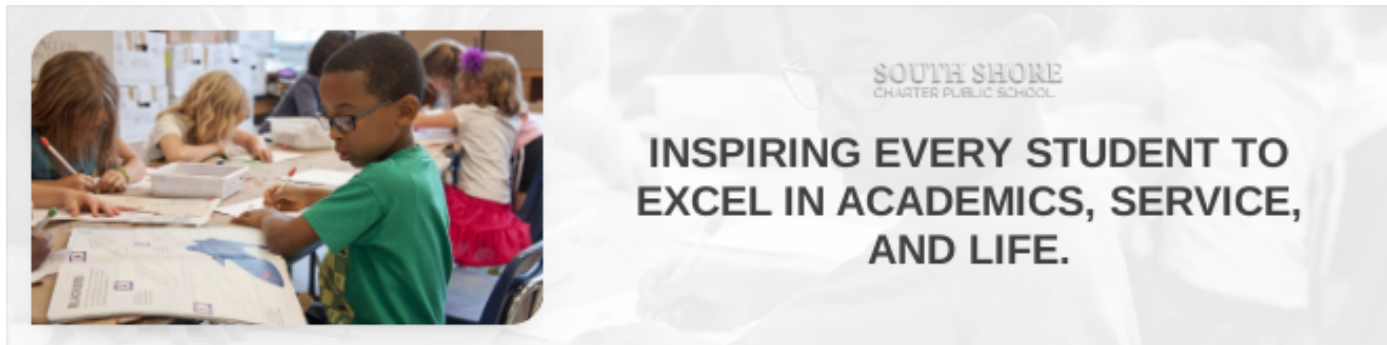
Líder en seguros de dispositivos K-12

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](#).



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You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

