



Weekly Update | October 16, 2024

Vol. 10 Issue 3

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A Message from Michelle

October is Disability Awareness Month

Disability Rights and Voting: Can You Believe It Took This Long?

As we head into election season, it's shocking to realize that people with disabilities were one of the last groups in the United States to gain full voting rights. Yes, you read that right. For years, people with disabilities faced outright barriers that kept them from casting their ballots—either because polling places were inaccessible or because society simply didn't value their right to participate in democracy.

Think about it: until the Voting Rights Act of 1965, discriminatory practices made it nearly impossible for many people with disabilities to vote. Even after that, the battle was far from over. People with disabilities were still being marginalized, shut out of public life, and treated as if their voices didn't matter. The reality was that even with the right to vote on paper, many polling places were inaccessible, making it nearly impossible for people with disabilities to exercise their rights.

It wasn't until the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that real changes started to happen. Finally, it became illegal to discriminate against people with disabilities in any program receiving federal funds—including voting. But let's be honest: making something illegal doesn't automatically mean it stops happening. Polling places remained inaccessible, and people with disabilities were still being pushed to the sidelines.

Then came the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990. This was a game-changer. The ADA required that public spaces, including polling places, be accessible. But can you

believe it took until 1990—decades after the Civil Rights Movement—for people with disabilities to be guaranteed the right to vote without facing barriers?

Even then, more was needed. The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 took things a step further, requiring every polling place in the country to have at least one voting machine that could be used by people with disabilities. It's unbelievable that it took all these laws just to level the playing field and make sure that people with disabilities could vote privately and independently, like everyone else.

As we mark Disability History Month this October, it's clear that the fight for equality is far from over. People with disabilities still face challenges when it comes to voting, from transportation issues to inaccessible voting materials. But we can't let this continue. Voting is a fundamental right, and every voice deserves to be heard.

But this isn't just about voting rights. It's about ensuring that disability history is taught, shared, and understood. As advocates today remind us, when we teach history, we must include the stories of people with disabilities—their struggles, their victories, and their contributions to our shared society. It's not just about awareness, it's about inclusion.

This October, let's remember that the fight for disability rights didn't end with the ADA or HAVA. We have to keep pushing for a future where everyone, regardless of ability, is treated with dignity, respect, and full participation in public life. Can you believe it took this long? Let's make sure we don't stop now.

Michelle Gallagher
High School Learning Services Coordinator

School Calendar & Announcements

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

SSCPS WEEKLY CALENDAR OCT 16 - OCT 23

<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0070c0; color: white; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">Wed 16</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Junior Parent Night via Zoom - 6PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0070c0; color: white; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">Thu 17</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Principal's Coffee MCAS Results via Zoom - 8:30AM</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0070c0; color: white; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">Fri 18</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">11th Grade PSAT Testing</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0070c0; color: white; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">Sat/Sun</p>
<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0070c0; color: white; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">Mon 21</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Governance Committee Meeting via Zoom - 5:45PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0070c0; color: white; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">Tue 22</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">NHS Induction Ceremony at 700 Longwater - 6PM</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Finance Committee via Zoom - 6:30PM</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Development Committee via Zoom - 7:15PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0070c0; color: white; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">Wed 23</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0070c0; color: white; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">Upcoming</p> <div style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">October 26 - Literacy Lane</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">October 28 & 29 - Picture Day</p> </div>

SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

Upcoming Events

K-6 Literacy Lane
Saturday, October 26th

Literacy Lane
Grades K-6

ATTEND A LITERARY THEMED
 TRUNK-OR-TREAT AT SSCPS!

SAT, OCTOBER 26TH | 2PM - 4PM | 100 LONGWATER



Register Now

Norwell Public Safety Open House
 Sunday, October 27th

Public Safety Open House



Including Norwell Fire,
 Police, DPW and CERT

Join us for: pizza, popcorn, an auto extrication demonstration, the smoke trailer and NFD T-Shirts!





Fun for everyone!

October 27th 2024 11am-2pm
Norwell Fire Headquarters 300 Washington St

School Picture Day

October 28th - K-4 & High School Picture Day

October 29th - Grades 5-8 Picture Day



Celebrating 30 Years of SSCPS

30 YEARS

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Est. 1995

Keep your eyes out for our annual fundraising campaign beginning soon! If you'd like to make a general donation to support SSCPS, you can do so using the button below.

[Make a Donation](#)

On the Levels

Level I Science & Map Skills

Second grade has been studying landforms and bodies of water in science and map skills in social studies. Students in my class created a physical feature map of an island that included some of the landforms and bodies of water they learned about. They then used modeling clay to create a model of their island.





Level I Artwork

Level I students in Pam Golden's art class have been creating wonderful leaf prints and drawings of branching trees and roots!





Level III Projects: Reader's Theater & Kindergarten Buddies

The Level III Reader's Theater Project presented their play to the Kindergarten Buddies Project. The Kindergarten Buddies Project is a Level III Project that pairs up with Kindergarteners in Melissa's Pod.



Level III Community Service Project

The Level III Community Service Project is holding a food drive! We are taking donations for the Norwell Food Pantry until October 29th. Our most needed items are canned foods (like vegetables, beans, spam, etc.), bottled water, pasta, rice, boxed meals, cereals, and juices. Please leave donations in the bin out front at the school or in Laura's classroom next to Angie's office.

For more information, please contact Laura Bosse at lbosse@sscps.org.

Food Drive

Donate please!!

- Canned food: corn, carrots, beans, spam, peas, ect.
- Bottled water
- Pasta
- Rice
- Boxed meals
- Cereal
- Juice



We are donating this to the Norwell food pantry!!

Please put the donations in the bin out front or in Laura's room (next to Angie's office)! This will happen on October 7-29th.

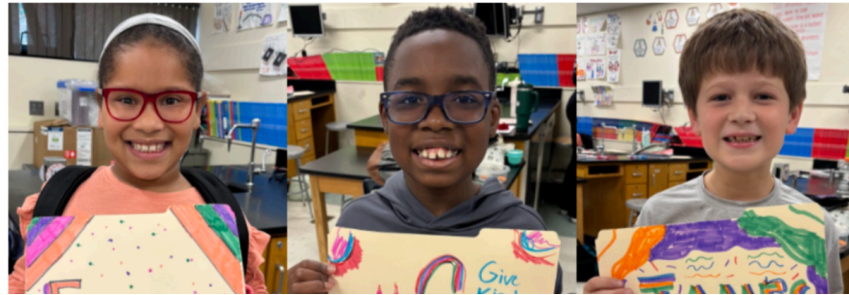
Thank you! - Level 3 Community Service Project

Afterschool Enrichment Program 2024-2025

STEAM DREAM TEAM

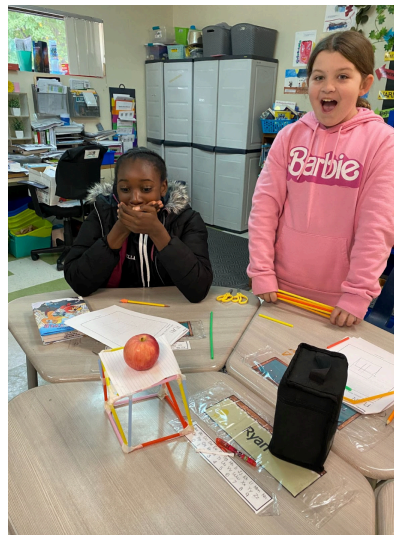
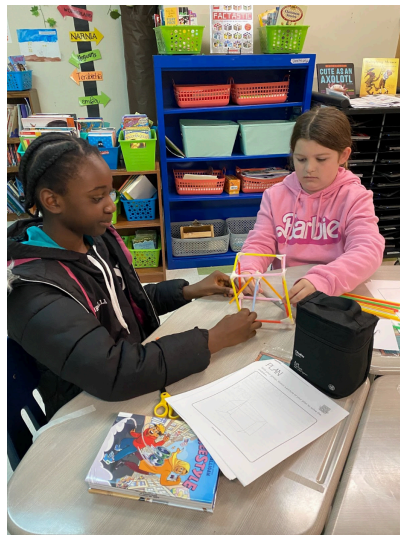
Our 3rd-5th grade STEAM DREAM TEAM had an exciting first session! Students started by decorating their scientist folders with stickers, drawings, beads, and phrases—ready to store all their future "lab reports." The adventure continued outside, where they formed hypotheses and conducted an explosive investigation: What happens when you shake a bottle of Coke filled with Mentos? The day wrapped up with discussions on chemical reactions as students crafted explanations for their exciting observations!

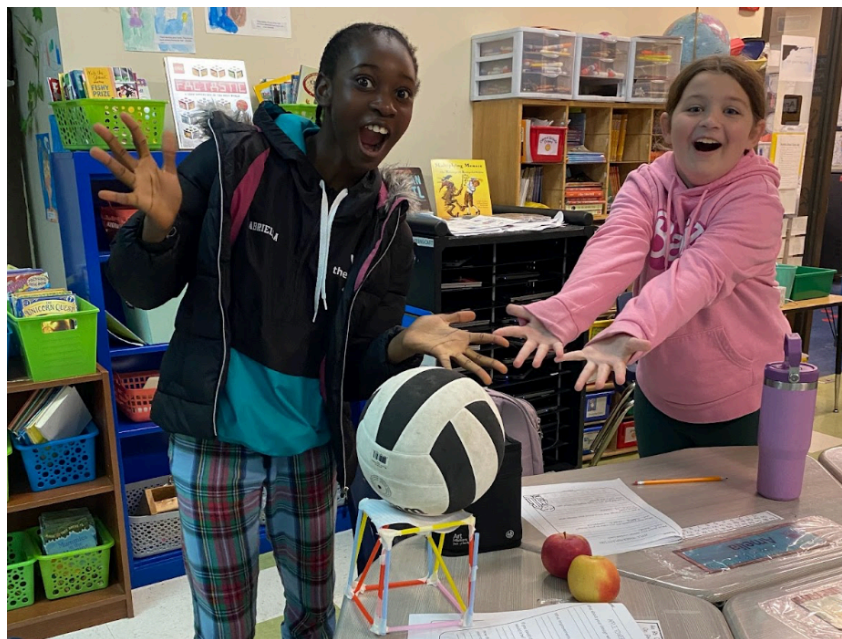




Storybook STEM Club

Students took on the exciting task of designing, building, and testing towers capable of holding the weight of an apple. After their initial trials, they analyzed the results, identified areas for improvement, and rebuilt their structures to test again. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to apply creativity, practice engineering skills, and embrace the process of trial and error!





From the SSCPS Board of Trustees

Below are the Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda and Executive Director Report for the month of October. You can find more information on the SSCPS Board of Trustees on our website [here](#).

[FY25 October Meeting Agenda](#)

[October Executive Director Report](#)

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, SEPAC, & ELPAC



Mid-Year Election for Level III & IV Co-Chair Position

The PA is holding a mid-year election this October to fill an opening on the leadership team! Kaleigh Fortune, our Level III & IV (Grades 5-8) Co-Chair, is leaving our school community and we need to fill this important role. You can learn more about this role by visiting the [PA Website](#) and letting us know your interest by emailing the PA at PAatSSCPS@gmail.com.

The elections timeline is as follows:

Self-Nominations Due

October 21st

Voting Period

October 22nd - 28th

Winner Announced

October 29th

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 Kjelgaard, RN jkjelgaard@sscpcs.org 781-982-4202 x104

High School: Barbara Folan, RN bfolan@sscpcs.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@sscpcs.org 781-982-4202 x 104

High School: Barbara Folan, RN Bfolan@sscpcs.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@sscpcs.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

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

- Unlimited Claims
- Accidental Damage
- Control
- theft & Theft
- Fire, Flood & Natural Disasters
- Power Surge by Lightning
- Vandalism
- Theft

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

Device	Coverage	Deductible	Price	Policy Term:
ACER/LENOVO/SAMSUNG CHROMEBOOK	Device	\$0.00	\$19.00	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: Mon-Sun 9AM-5PM EST
Online Chat: www.worthavegroup.com

50+ Years of Business | 4-2 Device Insurance | 24/7 Round the Clock | Fully Covered | No Deductible | No Self-Insured Retention

Worth Ave. Group P.O. Box 2077 Stillwater, OK 74075 | 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

- Reclamaciones Ilimitadas
- Daños accidentales
- Control de robo y robo
- Incendio y inundación
- Protección contra rayos y descargas eléctricas
- Daños por energía por sobrecarga
- Vandalismo
- Robo

No se cubren: Defectos del fabricante y falla mecánica, daños cosiméticos, desgaste normal, o pérdidas hospitalarias.

Dispositivo	Cobertura	Deductible	Precio	Plazo de la póliza:
ACER/LENOVO/SAMSUNG CHROMEBOOK	Device	\$0.00	\$19.00	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
Horario: Lun-Dom, 9am-5pm, L-V CST
Chat en línea: www.worthavegroup.com

50+ años de experiencia | 4-2 dispositivos de seguro | 24/7 atención al cliente | Seguro de garantía del fabricante incluido

Worth Ave. Group P.O. Box 2077 Stillwater, OK 74075 | 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.

- [Afterschool Enrichment Program](#)
- DESE Student Attendance Letter
Translated:
[Arabic](#), [Cape Verdean Creole](#), [Chinese](#), [Haitian Creole](#), [Portuguese](#), [Spanish](#), [Vietnames](#)
[e](#)

School Documents

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

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](#)



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