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Weekly Update | August 27, 2025

VOL. 8, ISSUE 3

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A Message from Alicia

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year. Whether your family has been with SSCPS for years or you are joining us for the first time, nothing matches the energy and excitement of a new school year. We are excited to celebrate the year ahead together. These early days of the school year are filled with optimism, and yesterday was the launch to begin it all. Student excitement was felt in every classroom, hallway, and playground. 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. Although there are many first days, each glowing with promise, this year's is especially bright.

As we work to improve our campus facilities, the excitement of all things new and upcoming creates wonderful anticipation for the days ahead. Thank you to all parents and family members who attended the Campus Update Informational Meeting on August 19. For those unable to attend, the slides from that meeting may be found here. Included are updates on the 700 Longwater construction project, where work continues with our landlord, architects, and construction team. Also shared is the five year enrollment growth plan and construction phases for the next year, with work scheduled mainly during

evenings, weekends, and school breaks to reduce disruption. Construction phases include temporary classrooms which were ready for the start of school, as well as future work targeted to be complete by summer 2026. We are looking forward to an expanded physical education space, a black box theater, two music rooms, an art studio, and a library resource room. Families are encouraged to join the next Campus Update Informational meeting on September 17. The agenda will be guided by your submitted questions, so please be sure to submit your questions by using this link.





Entrance at 700 Longwater

Upstairs Atrium at 700 Longwater

We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to those who have worked all summer on all things construction and enrollment, in addition to their regular summer work: Pam Algera, Director of Admissions, Dee Delaney, Administrative Assistant, Kerri Doble, Procurement Manager, and Kristine Bingham, Director of Finance and Human Resources. Our entire technology team also worked all summer long preparing our growing campus for the first day of school. Special thanks to Joe McSheffrey, Paul Hanlon, and Ralph deGennaro, Director of Technology and Communications. Our classrooms and hallways looked welcoming and wonderful for the first day of school—thank you David Griffith and Allen Dandrow for your tireless efforts. More thanks to Matthew Tondorf, Director of Student Services, who has been working on the Longwater construction project all summer long. And lastly a tremendous thank you to Wayne Heuer, Director of Facilities, who has gone above and beyond day in and day out. There are no words to express how much this team has done to prepare for the first day of school.

Just as we welcome new families to our school community each year, we also welcome new teachers and staff. We are grateful for all of the work of our hiring teams last spring and over the summer. Special thanks to Angie Pepin, Director of Teaching and Learning, Matthew Tondorf, Director of Student Services, our principals Maria Lappas, JP Marcellus, and Christophe Teulet-Cote; Walter Duncan, Dean of Students, our curriculum coordinators, Jamie Allen, Donika Darabus, Haley Edmondson, Kristen Mullin-Connolly;

Brittany Lofstrand, Human Resources Associate, and Kristine Bingham, Director of Finance and Human Resources. This year we have some terrific educators and staff new to SSCPS that we would like to introduce to our school community.

Levels I, II, and III

Petros Anninos | Paraprofessional

We are pleased to welcome Petros back to South Shore Charter as a paraprofessional. Petros has served as a substitute teacher with us and as student aide for The Olive Tree, a Greek School program that runs on Saturdays here at South Shore Charter. Petros has also worked at Wendy's Restaurant and Reliable Cleaners. Petros is a current student at Massasoit Community College.

Alaina Marie Caruso | Level I English Language Learner (ELL) Teacher

Alaina brings a wealth of experience to our English Language Education Program. Alaina comes to us from the William Seach Primary School, where she was an ELL Title 3 Support teacher in Weymouth. Additionally, Alaina has worked as an ESL Teacher at GEOS Boston and as an ELL Teacher at the Wareham Public Schools. Alaina's international teaching experience includes roles as an ESL Teacher at the Regent College International School in Elblag, Poland, as well as ELL Teacher and Department Head at MICA International Scholars in Suji-gu, South Korea, and ELL Head Teacher at KNK International Homeschool in Bundang-gu, South Korea. Alaina holds a Master in Teaching from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of New Hampshire.

Caroline Cikacz | Level III Learning Services Teacher

Caroline brings a wealth of experience to her new role as a learning services teacher for our fifth- and sixth-grade students. Caroline served as a paraprofessional at Saint John Paul Catholic Academy, Rockland Public Schools, and South Shore Charter, where she worked as a 1:1 Paraprofessional. Additionally, she has experience as a long-term substitute in a grade 5 inclusion classroom at Brockton Public Schools. Beyond her teaching roles, Caroline has also worked as a Police Clerk/Typist at the Boston Police Department's Licensing Unit and as a Social Worker with the Department of Children and Families. She holds a Master's Degree in Education from Eastern Nazarene College and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology/Criminal Justice from the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Cassidy Colby | Level III Learning Services Teacher

Cassidy brings a diverse range of instructional experience from her time at Gordon W. Mitchell Middle School in East Bridgewater, where she held various roles, including Instructional Support Assistant, long-term special education substitute teacher, and substitute teacher in a fifth-grade inclusion special education classroom. Outside of the education field, Cassidy has worked as a paraprofessional at Holliston High School and has experience as a Legal Administrative Assistant at Bowditch and Dewey, LLP, as well as an administrative assistant at Fletcher Tilton PC. On a fun note, Cassidy spent the summer teaching at the Little Vikings Cooking Camp in East Bridgewater. She holds a Master of Education in Special Education from Bridgewater State University, a Certificate

in Paralegal Studies from Boston University, and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Assumption University.

Walensky (Will) Collin | Learning Services 1:1 Paraprofessional

Will brings valuable experience in classroom management and behavioral intervention to South Shore Charter from his previous roles as a paraprofessional at the South Shore Educational Collaborative. Additionally, Will has worked in various direct care positions, including the May Institute, the Home for Little Wanderers, Road to Responsibility, and Vinfen. Will has attended Massasoit Community College.

Sumeena Devers | Paraprofessional

Sumeena comes to South Shore Charter from the Life Care Center of West Bridgewater where she served as an Occupational Therapy Assistant. She has been an intern with Marina Bay Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and has extensive experience as a nanny. Sumeena's classroom experience includes Brookfield Elementary School and Kinderhaus, Metzingen, Germany. Sumeena holds an Associate of Science degree in Occupational Therapy from Bristol Community College.

Samantha Donovan | Grade 1 Teacher

Samantha brings a wealth of experience to our faculty, having served as a Substitute Teacher for Palmer Public Schools and as an Extended School Year Program Teacher for Braintree Public Schools. Most recently, she worked as a Substitute Teacher and Paraprofessional at Braintree Integrated Preschool, and she has also gained valuable experience as a Paraprofessional with Quincy Public Schools. Samantha holds a Bachelor of Arts in Education and Social Change from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a Master of Education from Fitchburg State College. Currently, she is pursuing a Master's in Pedagogy and Learning at Catherine Leahy Brine.

Melissa Himberg | Grade 2 Teacher

Melissa comes to South Shore Charter with valuable experience as a kindergarten teacher in both the New Bedford Public Schools and the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District. Melissa holds a Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Education and a Master of Education in Reading from Bridgewater State University.

Esthela Marisol Martinez | Elementary Spanish Teacher Grades 4-6

Marisol brings a wealth of experience to our school, having taught Spanish to students in grades 4-6 at Buckingham, Browne & Nichols School, and to students in grades K-5 at Milton Academy. Additionally, Marisol has taught grades K-3 at Inly School in Scituate, where she developed engaging curricula to foster a love for the Spanish language among young learners. Her experience also includes serving as a Research Assistant at the Secretaría de Economía in Nuevo León, Mexico. Marisol holds a Bachelor's Degree in Education from UNIDEP in Mexico and is a certified Montessori teacher specializing in early childhood education.

Amy Pike | Paraprofessional

Amy joins South Shore Charter with experience in arts education and management. Amy has served on the Southeastern District MMEA Board, where she coordinated the efforts

and production of concerts. Amy taught music in the Quincy Public Schools and at the Ezra H. Baker Elementary School. Amy is a vocalist and flutist who has recorded with St. John the Baptist Choir. She has performed in productions by the Cohasset Dramatic Club, the Company Theatre, the Hingham Civic Music Theatre, the Needham Community Theatre, and the Milton Players. Amy holds a Master of Education in Creative Arts and Learning from Lesley University, a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and a certificate of Advanced Graduate Study, Reading Specialist, from American International College.

Gabriella Rivera | Grade 4 Teacher

Gabriella comes to South Shore Charter with a range of valuable experiences, including serving as a student teacher at the Baldwin School and Arnone Elementary School. Gabriella has also served as a first grade general education teacher at Raymond Elementary School. Gabriella holds a Master of Education in Teaching and Teacher Leadership from Harvard University and a Bachelor of Education degree with majors in Elementary Education and Spanish, as well as a minor in Special Education, from Bridgewater State University. We are especially proud to share that she is also an alumna of South Shore Charter Public School, Class of 2018.

Amelia Schollin | Learning Services 1:1 Paraprofessional

Amelia brings a diverse range of experience to South Shore Charter, having worked as a Front Desk Receptionist at Kaizen and as a Social Media Coordinator for the *On The Bright Side Podcast*. Additionally, she served as an Amazon Prime Student Ambassador for Riddle and Bloom and has experience as a nanny. Amelia holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from the University of New Hampshire.

Samantha Scopa | Level I Paraprofessional

Samantha has served as a Teacher at the JCC Early Learning Center and the Merry Deb Nursery School. She has also worked as a nanny and household manager, as well as an Administrative Assistant at Scopa Plumbing and Heating. Samantha holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Massachusetts Boston, where she majored in English and minored in Writing. Additionally, she earned a Certificate of Undergraduate Study in Early Education and Administration from Massasoit Community College.

Suzanne Shinney | Grade 2 Teacher

We are excited to welcome Suzanne to her new role as a second-grade teacher. Suzanne has served as an interim fourth-grade teacher as well as a paraprofessional and substitute teacher here at South Shore Charter. Suzanne has experience in both the educational and health care professions. Suzanne has served as a licensed practical nurse for Maxim Healthcare Services as well as a hospice nurse for Pat Roche Hospice House, NVNA, and Hospice. Suzanne taught as a homeschool educator for PondKids and THRIVE Homeschool Enrichment Co-Op. Suzanne holds a Master of Education in Elementary Education from Fitchburg State University, a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Bridgewater State University, and received her LPN from Quincy College.

Level IV

Cyndi Berger | Level IV Spanish Teacher

Students on Level IV have been excited to meet their new Spanish teacher, Cyndi Berger. Currently a candidate for a Master of Arts in Teaching Spanish from Salem State University, Cyndi holds a Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Languages, English, and French from Universidad Del Valle in Cali, Colombia. Cyndi comes to South Shore Charter from Notre Dame Academy, where she taught both middle and high school Spanish. Cyndi has also taught at South Shore Christian Academy in Scituate, the Sharon Public Schools, and the Cambridge-Ellis School. Additionally, she brings international experience from the Bilingual School Lauretta Bender and the Colombo American Cultural Center.

Laura Schofield-Mahoney | Level IV Learning Services Teacher

Laura brings a wealth of experience to South Shore Charter, having worked as a Reading Interventionist at ACCEPT Educational Collaborative in Natick and serving as the Director of Special Education Support at JCC Greater Boston's Camp Kaleidoscope. Laura's background also includes serving as a Resident Teacher at the Carroll School, a Special Education Assistant at Pine Hill Elementary School in the Dover Sherborn Public Schools, and as a Lead Teacher at Plowshares Education Development Center. Additionally, Laura has experience as a Special Education Aide at the Newton Early Childhood Program. She holds a Master of Special Education in Special Education/Moderate Disabilities K-8, a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies from Lesley University, and an Associate in Science in Business from Aquinas College.

High School

Elizabeth Flett | High School Science Teacher

Elizabeth brings a diverse and rich background in science education, having served as an Integrated Science Teacher and Biology Co-Teacher at G-Start School of the Arts Charter School. Additionally, Elizabeth was a founding member and program officer for the African Regional Youth Initiative, where she played a vital role in community engagement. Her extensive experience also includes working as a Research Assistant at the University of Cape Town's Desmond Tutu HIV Centre, where she assisted with ethics applications and developed protocols for vaccine trial studies. Elizabeth has also served as the Curriculum Coordinator and Advisory Committee member for Ikamva Youth NGO, where she provided instruction in an alternative environment for displaced high school students in math, science, and health, and developed a health education program. At Scituate High School, Elizabeth served as an instructional paraprofessional and coached the debate team. Elizabeth holds a Bachelor of Science from Tulane University.

All School

Sophia Cacciapuoti | Learning Services Administrative Assistant

Joining the Learning Services department is Sophia Cacciapuoti. Sophia holds a Bachelor's degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management from the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She comes to South Shore

Charter from the Boston Red Sox, where she works in the Game Events and Services department. Sophia's hospitality experience includes serving as a front desk representative for Hilton Hotels, a receptionist for Elements Massage, and a hostess at Bertucci's Italian Restaurant. Sophia's management experience includes work-study at the Student Affairs and Campus Life Office, as well as the University of Massachusetts Football Team. Sophia is a member of Isenberg Women in Business at UMass Amherst, where she is pursuing further studies.

Carolyn DuVal | School Psychologist

Carolyn brings a wealth of experience in the field, most recently serving as a School Psychologist and Social Emotional Behavioral (SEB) Liaison/Team Lead at READS Collaborative. Carolyn completed internships at Mullen Hall Elementary School, Falmouth Public Schools, Hanover High School, and with us here at South Shore Charter. Additionally, Carolyn has served as a full-time Behavior Technician at the May Institute in Randolph and the Ivy Street School in Brookline. Carolyn holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Suffolk University, a Master of Arts in Professional Psychology, a CAGS in School Psychology, and a Graduate Certificate in School Leadership from William James College. Carolyn is currently pursuing her Doctorate in Education in School Psychology from Loyola University.

Erilin Martinez | School Nurse

Erilin holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Southern New Hampshire University. Erilin Martinez comes to South Shore Charter from Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital and Brockton Neighborhood Health Center in her role as School Nurse.

And so the new year begins. As we embark upon our mission of inspiring every student to excel in academics, service, and life, we remain grateful that we are moving toward the future together. Thank you for being a part of the South Shore Charter Public School.

Alicia Savage
Executive Director

Welcome to the 2025-2026 School Year!



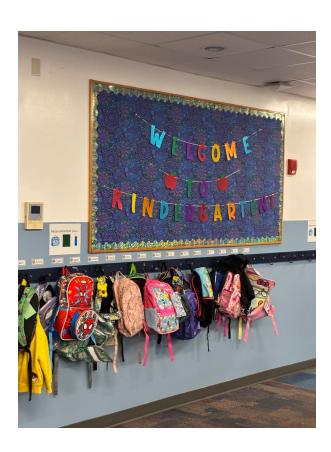
High School Math Classroom at 700 Longwater



Level IV Spanish Classroom at 700 Longwater



Elementary Spanish
Classroom at 100 Longwater

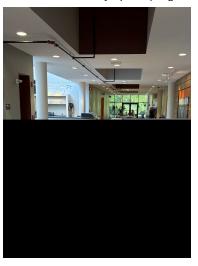


Kindergarten Welcome at 100 Longwater



Level IV ELA Classroom at 700 Longwater







Learning Services at 100

Longwater

Cafe Area at 700 Longwater

High School ELA Classroom at 700 Longwater

School Calendar & Announcements



Click here for the complete SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

Bus Dismissal Procedure 2025-2026

Below you'll find an overview of the Bus Dismissal/Pick-Up Procedures for the 2025-2026 school year, along with a map to help demonstrate the dismissal/pick-up process. Transportation registration, which includes student route assignments, will be emailed later this afternoon.

Dismissal/Pickup Procedures

Grades K-6 100 Longwater Circle	Grades 7-12 700 Longwater Drive
Bus Dismissal 1 Buses 1-8	Bus Dismissal 1 Buses 9-17
Carline Dismissal Begins	
Bus Dismissal 2 Buses 9-17	Bus Dismissal 2 Buses 1-8
	Carline Dismissal Begins

100 Longwater Drive (Grades K-6): Dismissal will begin for buses (1-8)

700 Longwater Drive (Grades 7-12): Dismissal will begin for buses (9-17)

After the buses are loaded, buses 1-8 will depart for 700, and buses 9-17 will depart for 100 to pick up the remaining students.

Carline dismissal will begin for 100 after the first round of buses (1-8) depart.

Carline dismissal will begin at 700 after the second round of buses depart.

Procedure for 700 Longwater Drive (Grades 7-12) Dismissal

(See Map)

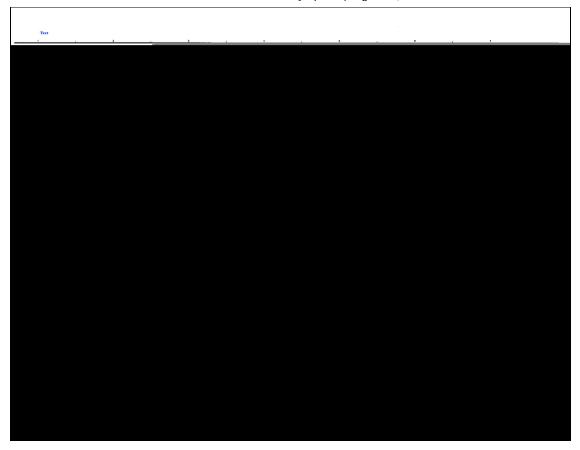
There will be 3 carlines at 700 Longwater:

- The far right (green arrow) will be for Grades 7-8
- The double green arrow is for Grades 9-12

After the buses have completed pickup, cars for grades 7-8 will pick up around the traffic circle to the right of the building and exit, following the blue arrows.

After the buses have completed pick up, cars for grades 9-12 will pick up in front of the building, along the sidewalk.

If you are picking up students in both grades 7-8 and 9-12, pick up your 7-8th grade student first, then continue to the grade 9-12 pickup.



Upcoming School & Community Events

Upcoming SSCPS Events

SSCPS Instrument Night | August 28th

Join us tomorrow night from 5-6pm for Instrument Night at SSCPS! Students in Grades 4-8 can try out new instruments and select their top three favorites - for more information, please contact Theron Leonard at tleonard@sscps.org.

Community Events & Programs

South Shore YMCA After School Program

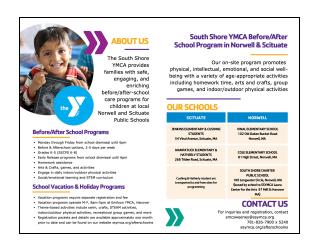
In need of some after school care? Send your child to the South Shore YMCA's Laura's Center for the Arts After School Program, where our mission "The Better You Belongs Here" applies to all the children in our care. At the SSYMCA's After School Programs, we

strive to provide your child with the love and care they deserve while also providing fun and exciting opportunities for enrichment and socio-emotional learning. Our program is located at the Emilson Branch of the SSYMCA in Hanover, where our kids get the opportunity to utilize many of the excellent resources, state of the art facilities, and amenities the Y has to offer, all while being guided by our dedicated, vetted, experienced, and well-trained staff. Transportation directly to our facility and program is provided at no additional cost to you by SSCPS's school busses.

This year we are excited to introduce a number of new enrichment programs and curriculums specifically designed for the different age groups our program supports (K-8). From STEAM learning and physical fitness to arts programming and real-world skill building, your child will have the chance to access these unique and fun learning opportunities in a safe and supportive environment.

If you're interested in learning more about our program, or in registering your child for the 2025-2026 school year, please reach out to Samantha Blumberg-McSweeney, Program Director, at smcsweeney@ssymca.org or by phone at 781-826-7900 ext. 5240.





Spanish PDF

Haitian-Creole PDF

Afterschool Enrichment Program

Session I Coming Soon



From the Foundation

The 2025 SSCPS Annual Road Race

At this year's road race, we're celebrating our anticipated enrollment expansion at SSCPS this fall! This is an exciting opportunity to allow more students to become a part of our diverse, inclusive community, and there's no better way to celebrate than by coming together as a community for this beloved event - we hope to see you there!

There are lots of ways you can support our school and contribute to this event, from running the race, to volunteering your time, to sponsoring the race or a student runner, and more. Visit our website to learn more about the race and how you can be a part of our celebration and help us pave the **#SSCPSRoadToGrow!**

RUN THE RACE

SPONSOR THE RACE

ROAD RACE INFO

Road Race T-Shirt Design Winner

We're also excited to showcase our winning t-shirt design for the 2025 SSCPS Annual Road Race! A big thank you to former SSCPS student Jatnna Segura for creating this wonderful design for such a special occasion.



From the Health Office

Back to School | 2025-2026

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-6th Grade: Jaime Kjelgaard, RN jkjelgaard@sspcs.org 781-982-4202 x104 7th-12th Grade: 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-6th: Jaime Kjelgaard, RN <u>Jkjelgaard@sscps.org</u> 781-982-4202 x 104 7th-12th: Barbara Folan, RN <u>Bfolan@sscps.org</u> 781-982-4202 x 182

Fax: 781-982-4201

Students entering Kindergarten, 4th, 7th, or 10th Grade must submit current physical forms and vaccine records.

The K through 6 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.

SSCPS Health Office

Important Links

Weekly Updates are emailed and posted to our website - subscribe here.

- 1. <u>Afterschool Enrichment</u> 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. Parents Association Website

School Documents:

2025-2026 School Calendar

Student and Family Handbook

<u>Arrival and Dismissal Procedures</u> <u>SSCPS By-Laws</u>



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