



Weekly Update | February 11, 2026

VOL. 2, ISSUE 2

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A Message from Donika

Strong Math Instruction at SSCPS

It is another exciting year for mathematics at SSCPS. As we reach the midpoint of the school year, the K–8 Mathematics Department is in its third year of implementing the iReady Math program, grounded in our district's vision for strong, inclusive, and impactful mathematics instruction. Our approach prioritizes equitable access, meaningful problem solving, and supporting the needs of all learners so that every student can engage deeply with mathematics.

Across grade levels, students have recently completed the midyear iReady Math Diagnostic. This assessment helps teachers better understand each child's progress and learning needs while informing instruction that meets students where they are. Through daily participation in discussion-based lessons, students are encouraged to explore ideas, explain their thinking, collaborate with peers, and make connections between real-world situations and mathematical representations. These experiences help students build confidence and develop as lifelong problem solvers.

Our mathematics classrooms reflect an inclusive classroom culture rooted in trust, clear expectations, and affirming routines. Teachers intentionally create learning environments that honor students' cultural and linguistic identities and provide regular opportunities for students to refine their thinking through discussion, writing, and collaboration. With consistent instructional routines and access to supportive scaffolds, students are challenged to engage in rigorous mathematics while receiving the language and processing support they need to succeed.

The iReady program follows the Try - Discuss - Connect framework, which aligns closely with our vision of "mathematizing" moving between real-world contexts and mathematical representations to deepen understanding. Students learn to persevere through problem solving, compare strategies, evaluate one another's thinking, and apply new ideas to their own work. Lessons are designed to help students build understanding, practice strategies, and apply learning in meaningful ways, while developing academic vocabulary connected to key mathematical concepts across K–8 and into the secondary level.

Students participate in iReady diagnostics three times per year, at the beginning, middle, and end of the year. These adaptive assessments adjust based on student responses, providing a clear picture of individual progress and growth. Diagnostic data supports teacher planning, helps identify learning gaps, and highlights opportunities for acceleration. Reports for students in Math Grade 5–Algebra 1 will be available to view before the upcoming February break, with additional progress updates shared throughout the year. Information to access reports will be sent via email on Friday 2/13. Reports for students in grades K–Algebra 1 will be sent home after the end of year diagnostic in June.

At the high school level, ninth-grade Algebra 1 classes are in their first year of implementing the iReady Math program. This expansion is a direct result of the strong success seen in grades K–8 and reflects our commitment to consistent, high-quality math instruction across grade levels. High school mathematics courses are also supported through DeltaMath, which offers additional practice and feedback to strengthen student learning.

Outside of the classroom, students in grades K–8 have access to iReady My Path, which provides individualized instruction based on diagnostic results. Students in grades 9–12 can access additional practice through DeltaMath. These tools support our belief that consistent practice, combined with strong instruction, helps students build confidence, precision, and a deeper understanding of mathematics. We are excited to continue

strengthening these resources to support the whole child and ensure success for all learners.

Additional Resources:

[iReady Mathematics Classroom Supporting Research Program Organization](#)

Understanding Student Diagnostic Data:

[English](#)
[Haitian Creole](#)
[Spanish](#)

Donika Darabus
K-12 Math Curriculum Coordinator & High School Teacher

Strong Math Instruction at SSCPS

Vision

Our vision outlines strategies to create equitable, inclusive, and impactful learning experiences. It prioritizes addressing the needs and mathematizing for all learners.

Inclusive Classroom Culture

Teachers cultivate inclusive environments grounded in trust, clear expectations, and affirming routines. Classrooms reflect students' cultural and linguistic identities and provide regular opportunities for students to iterate on their thinking, collaborate with peers, and engage deeply with concepts with supports for language and processing needs.

Educating the Whole Child

Our vision affirms that mathematics is a tool for understanding and navigating the world and recognizes the holistic needs of learners. By supporting ELs through culturally and linguistically affirming practices, we create classrooms where all students experience mathematics as relevant, meaningful, and empowering.



Mathematizing

Moving between real-world contexts and mathematical representations to solve problems while exploring connections within and among representations to deepen understanding.

Supporting All Learners

Our commitment to an inclusive culture is rooted in actions that support all learners, including English learners, students with disabilities, and those facing systemic barriers. These students thrive when their cultural and linguistic assets are recognized.

Instructional Practices:

Lessons integrate both content and language goals, using scaffolds that maintain rigor and ensure access. Academic vocabulary is taught in connection with key math concepts, while students engage in speaking, writing, and problem-solving that builds knowledge, confidence, and precision.



School Calendar & Announcements



SSCPS Celebrates
Black History Month

Black History Month is a celebration to commemorate the achievements of African-Americans & the African Diaspora in the history of the world.



IMPORTANT REMINDER:

**EARLY RELEASE - 12PM
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH**

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Weekly Calendar

SSCPS WEEKLY CALENDAR

FEB 11 - FEB 18

Wed 11

School Council Meeting via Zoom - 4:30PM

Thu 12

HS AP Computer Science
BSU Case

Level IV Dance at 104
Longwater (PE Space) - 5PM

Fri 13

Professional Development
Early Release - 12PM

Sat/Sun



Mon 16

No School - February Break



Tue 17

No School - February Break



Wed 18

No School - February Break



Upcoming

Feb 24 - Finance Committee Meeting - 6PM

Feb 26 - Diaspora Night at 100 Longwater Circle

Feb 27 - Library Committee Meeting

Feb 28 - High School Theater Workshop

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

[**Click here for the new 2026-2027 School Calendar**](#)

[**SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar**](#)

Important Announcements

Enrollment Reminders

Intent to Return Forms

We will be emailing Intent to Return Forms to all SSCPS families tomorrow - please keep an eye on your inboxes and **fill out your forms before February 27th, 2026**. These forms allow us to place the correct number of students in our Enrollment Lottery every year, so your response is crucial!

New Student Applications

New students who are siblings from current families will need to submit an application! Please find the 2026-2027 application **here** or use the button below.

If you have another student seeking admission at South Shore Charter Public School, please note that they are not automatically enrolled, but must be entered into the 2026-2027 Enrollment Lottery – even if the new student has a sibling already enrolled at SSCPS.

NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT APPLICATION

SSCPS Annual Family Survey

Please take a moment this week to answer the SSCPS Annual Family Survey! Data collected from the survey is annually reviewed by the Instructional Leadership Team, the faculty and staff, and the SSCPS Board of Trustees to assess key measures of student achievement, institutional strength, and areas of growth. In this way, the data collected will not only inform day-to-day enhancements but also play a crucial role in planning for the future.

Over the past five years, family participation in the survey has been strong, and we hope to achieve and surpass the high level of engagement this year. We are asking each SSCPS family to participate in the survey by reflecting on the first half of the academic year and your overall SSCPS experience to provide data essential to our institutional development. Your feedback is invaluable as we strive for continuous improvement and work to provide the best possible educational experience for our students.

The deadline for survey submissions is this Friday, February 13th.

SSCPS ANNUAL FAMILY SURVEY

From the Food Services Department

SSCPS Families,

The South Shore Charter Public School offers free nutritious lunch and breakfast at school every school day for all students. Please visit our [Food Services](#) webpage to learn more about our FREE NSLP breakfast and lunch programs and to place an order for your child. If you haven't already, you are able to order your child's meals online. All families must register each child in Arbiter. Please visit the [SSCPS FamilyId Programs](#)

webpage to register your child. When registering your child for meals please be sure to input their grade. Their student ID and homeroom teacher **are not** required fields. If you do know their homeroom teacher it would be helpful but that information can always be entered at a later time. To learn more on how to register your child click [here](#) to watch a quick video. If you need any assistance with FamilyID registration, please call 1-800-311-4060 or email support@arbitersports.com. All meal orders will be made directly through this online system. If you need further assistance, please contact Charlene Salamone at csalamone@sscps.org or by calling 781-982-4202x156.

If your family needs additional support please visit [Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline](#). FoodSource hotline counselors, in 180 languages, can help families find food assistance through other sources such as the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program and local food pantries.

Thank you,

Charlene Salamone
Food Services Coordinator



Can't afford enough food? Let's chat.

CALL: 1 (800) 645-8333

Hotline Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-7pm Sat: 10am-2pm

No matter what you're going through, we understand that food is a must. We want to help you. PROJECT BREAD can connect you to programs that will help you afford groceries and put food on the table. Always free & confidential for all Massachusetts residents, our counselors are ready to assist callers in 180 languages.

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)
SNAP is a federal nutrition program that provides monthly financial assistance for groceries. Could you be eligible? Find out today and get help applying.

Free Meals for Kids & Teens
All children ages 0-18, and in some locations up to age 21, can receive free meals for pickup at hundreds of locations around the state. No registration or I.D. is required. Find a free meal site near you.

Food Pantries
If you need food right now, we can direct you to emergency food programs near you, including food pantries and meal programs.

Referrals to Additional Resources
We can help you find additional support, including referrals to WIC (a federal nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children), housing, and utility assistance.

Call today or learn more at projectbread.org/gethelp

LOCAL FOOD RESOURCES

Click the names of each resource for more information.

Wellspring Multi-Service Centers	Norwell Food Pantry
The Charity Guild Food Pantry	Randolph Food Pantry
Feeding America	Rockland Food Pantry
Find Local Food Resources	Weymouth Food Pantry
Interfaith Social Services	Self Help



School Picture Reminders

Order your school pictures today!

Use the code **F2510OFF** for 10% off your order.

Code expires July 31, 2026.

ORDER HERE

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

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

From the Dean's Desk

I have been thinking a lot this week about what happens after something goes wrong.

School is full of small moments. Hundreds of them every day. A careless comment. A bad choice. A student acting before thinking. An adult responding too quickly. A misunderstanding that turns into something bigger than it needed to be.

It can feel overwhelming, because there is no pause button. The day keeps moving. The next class begins. The next recess happens. And everyone carries what just occurred into the next moment.

But what I have learned, over and over again, is that the real work of a school is not avoiding mistakes.

The real work is repair.

A true apology is not a performance. It is not a quick "sorry" to escape consequences. It is naming what happened, owning it, and then doing the harder thing: changing what comes next.

That is what we are focusing on in advisory this week.

Not perfection. Not pretending. Repair.

We are asking students to think about what it means to make something right with anyone. A classmate. A teacher. An adult in the building. Because this is part of growing up. Learning how to return to the community after you have stepped out of it.

Families can support this in simple ways. Ask your child about a time they had to fix something. Ask them what a real apology sounds like. Ask them what it means to rebuild trust, not just with words, but with actions.

This is quiet work. It does not show up on a report card.

But it is some of the most important work we do.

Warmly,

Walter Duncan
Dean of Students (K-6)



From the Foundation

The JJ Facey SSCPS Scholarship



South Shore Charter Public School will raise money until May 1st, 2026 for a scholarship to be awarded to two senior students who embody the characteristics of JJ Facey: Sportsmanship, Character, and Respect.

JJ was a consummate leader. JJ would often offer advice to his fellow students, join the principal for discussions with students, and raise the confidence of his teammates on and off the field. He is still helping his fellow students, but in a different way now: by funding their dreams in honor of his name.

We are seeking donations to provide two scholarships. Please donate using the button below. *All receipts will be generated electronically and can be used for Tax purposes for non-profit donations.*

SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

Upcoming School & Community Events

Upcoming SSCPS Events

African Diaspora Night

SSCPS is committed to celebrating the rich diversity of our school community through inclusive, communal events. On **Feb. 26th, 2026, from 6:00PM - 7:30PM**, we will

host **African Diaspora Night: Celebrating the Cultures of Africa and the African Diaspora.**

The African diaspora refers to the global communities formed by people of African descent, each with unique cultures, traditions, and histories. Modeled after Literacy Night, this interactive event invites children and families to move from room to room, learning about these diverse cultures through hands-on experiences and presentations. Rather than stories from books, participants will engage directly with the lived experiences, traditions, and customs shared by members of our own SSCPS community.

Families are encouraged to attend dressed in traditional clothing from their heritage. We hope to have presenters from **Nigeria, Cuba, St. Thomas, United States of America, Cape Verde, Brazil, Haiti, Jamaica, Dominican Republic**, and more. African Diaspora Night promises to be a vibrant, educational, and joyful celebration of culture, connection, and community.

If you would like to volunteer, please fill out the form below!



VOLUNTEER FORM



Community Events & News

Holly Hill Farm Summer Programs



Register today!

June 8 - Aug. 28, 2026



SUMMER PROGRAMS

... on the farm



Voted Best of the South Shore Three Years in a Row!



Our farm is a living and breathing classroom for children **ages 3.5- 15!** Our programs seek to connect children to nature in a way that will stick with them for life! Sign up for one week, or many!

GARDEN GOATS **Ages 3.5 - 5 | Half and Full Day**

In this widely popular program children get to know the barnyard animals, experience the joy of growing, planting and harvesting crops, get their hands in the dirt, have adventures, explore, create crafts, and more!



All weeks

PROGRAMS FOR AGES 9 -12 **Full Day | See website for dates**

- Future Farmers & Adventurers
- BioBlitz
- Future Farmers
- Outdoor Adventurers
- Creativity & Cooking with Nature
- Farmsteaders - Holly Hill Farm 1776

MONARCHS

Ages 6 - 8
Half and Full Day
All weeks



Step into the many habitat at Holly Hill, including growing areas, meadows, woods, marsh, ponds and diverse flora & faun. Children will explore it all and learn all along the way!

PROGRAMS for MIDDLESCHOOLERS

Ages 11 - 14
Full Day

- **Stepping Back in Time: A 2-Day Living History Program**, July 13 - 14
- **Environmental Solutions Leadership: A 3-Day Program**, August 10 - 12

Counselor- in- Training

Ages 12 - 15
Half Day
Weeks of 6/15-8/24

This program fosters leadership skills, with hands-on training in activity and lesson development. CITs will work with educators and learn the nuances of working with young children, while also working on building skills in communication, collaboration, respect, responsibility, and sustainability education. Certificates of completion will be awarded at week's end.

On the Levels

NHS Tutoring Committee

The SSCPS National Honor Society is offering peer tutoring for all high school students! Use the form below to request a tutor and the committee will pair you with a tutor that best fits your needs. Tutoring is open to all SSCPS high school students for any subject!

REQUEST A TUTOR



THE SSCPS NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY IS OFFERING

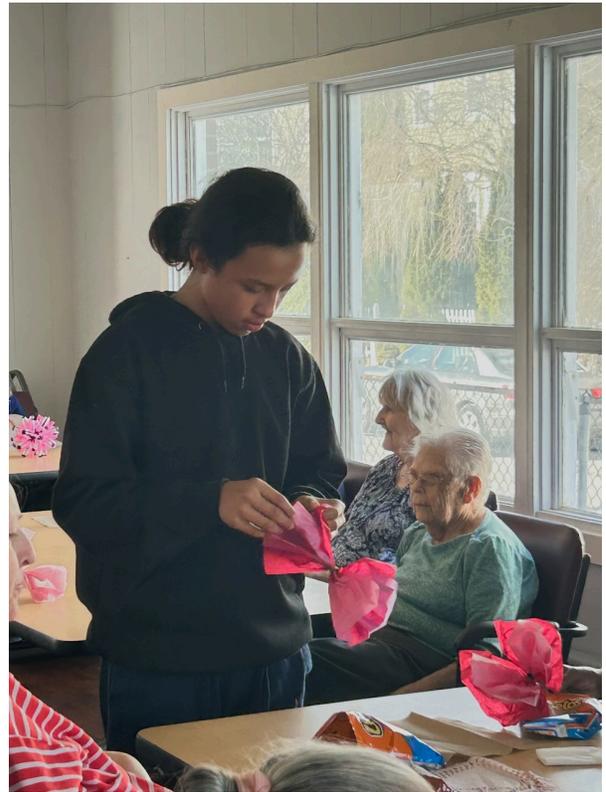
PEER TUTORING

TUTORING IS OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS FOR ANY SUBJECT! EVERY DAY AT RECITATION (10:04 - 10:57) & WORKSHOP (11:00 - 11:50)

What's New in Projects & Workshops

Grade 6 Community Service Project

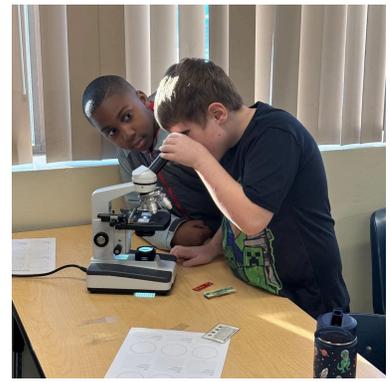
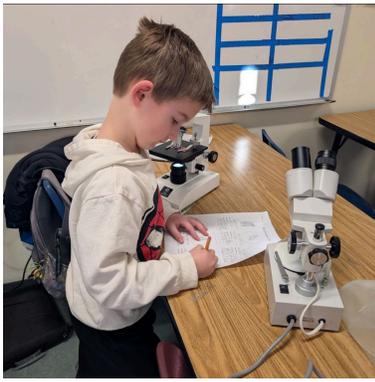
The 6th Grade Community Service Project visited Guardian Nursing Home in Brockton to deliver Valentines they made for the residents and to do crafts with the memory care unit. The students and residents all had a wonderful experience!



Afterschool Enrichment Program

STEAM Dream Team

This week in STEAM Dream Team, students practiced their observational skills by using microscopes and drawing what they saw. Students highly enjoyed looking at all different kinds of prepared slides. Favorites included insect wings, rabbit fur, leaves, and cardiac muscle. Exclamations of, "Wow!", "Cool!", and "I feel like a scientist!" were heard throughout the activity. More hands-on STEAM adventures await in the weeks ahead!



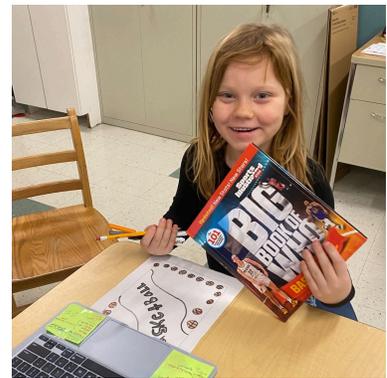
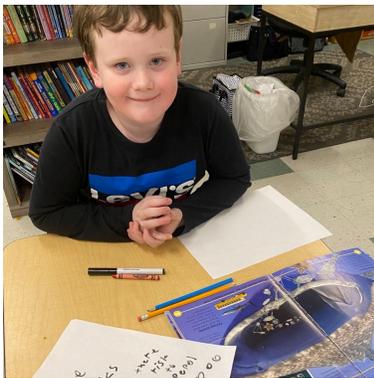
Active Zone Club

Students in Active Zone: Sports & Fitness Club stayed active this week through fun fitness games and team activities designed to build strength, teamwork, and coordination. They also enjoyed the winter weather by safely playing in the snow, adding extra excitement and energy to the session.



Magazine Production Club

Second- and third-grade students in the Magazine Enrichment Project have selected their main topics and are now diving into research as they begin developing their individual magazine pieces. Exciting creativity and publishing work is ahead.



From the Health Office

Important Reminders | 2025-2026

Please be advised that per our school policy, if your student has a fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or a contagious illness, they must remain out of school until symptoms have resolved for 24 hours without medication or they have been on antibiotics for a full 24 hours. If your student will be absent from school, please email attendance@sscps.org as well as your student's teacher.

This is also a reminder that over-the-counter medications (including, but not limited to, eye drops, allergy medications, cough medications, vitamins, and nasal sprays) may not be brought into school by students. All medication within the school system is considered prescription and requires a doctor's prescription medication form. Before any medication is brought to school, it must be discussed with the school nurse and must be accompanied by the required prescription medication form. If a student is found to have any medication on them, it will be brought to the health office and a parent will need to pick it up or it will be disposed of.

Please also be advised that we will be beginning state-required vision, hearing, height, and weight screenings, based on your student's grade. If you would like to opt your student out of part or all of these screenings, please email your student's school nurse.

Please make sure all students are dressed appropriately for the weather. Students go outside for recess daily, except in inclement weather or when the wind chill temperature drops below 20 degrees. Students in grades K through 2nd should have a spare set of weather appropriate clothing in their backpacks/classrooms.

Contacts:

Grades K–8: Jaime Kjelgaard (jkjelgaard@sscps.org) & Erlin Martinez (emartinez2@sscps.org)

Grades 7–12: Barbara Folan – bfolan@sscps.org

SSCPS Health Office

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 **2025-2026** school year, it's not too early to start recording those hours today!

Use the links below to submit your community service hours. **Please note that Levels III, IV, and High School students are required to enter their own community service hours using their school email.** Family members of students on Levels I and II have been given direct access to the forms and do not need a school email.

[LEVEL I FORM](#)

[LEVEL II FORM](#)

[LEVEL III FORM](#)

[LEVEL IV FORM](#)

[HIGH SCHOOL FORM](#)

Parents Association, SEPAC, & ELPAC

Parents Association Updates

Parent Volunteers Needed!

The Parents Association approved our budget during our January meeting, and we received funding for three PA committees that we need parent volunteers to help support! The committees will be focusing on Teacher Appreciation, the SSCPS Spring Fair, and School Beautification & Improvement.

If you're interested in volunteering with one of these PA committees, please use the buttons below to sign up and learn more!

TEACHER APPRECIATION

SSCPS SPRING FAIR

SCHOOL BEAUTIFICATION

General PA Info

Check out the PA website for meeting agendas/minutes, the new bulletin board and other handy info: <https://sscpspa.weebly.com/>

More updates from the Parents Association can be found on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SSCPSParentGuardianInfo>

POD PARENT SIGN-UP



Volunteer as a Pod Parent!



- Need Volunteers for each classroom
- Pod Parents organize **supply drives** throughout the year for things like tissues, wipes, extra snacks, bottled water
- Pod Parents help with classroom communication and parents engagement
- Work with the teacher to plan special events like **pod breakfasts, community service events**, and end-of-year activities like **field day**
- Assist with anything else the teacher could use help with

Interested?? Please email: paatsscps@gmail.com

Important Links

Weekly Updates are emailed and posted to our website - [subscribe here](#).

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. [Parents Association Website](#)

School Documents:

NEW: [2026-2027 School Calendar](#)

[2025-2026 School Calendar](#)

[Student and Family Handbook](#)

[Arrival and Dismissal Procedures](#)
[SSCPS By-Laws](#)

[2024-2025 SSCPS Annual Report](#)

[DESE Integrated Monitoring Review](#)



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