



Weekly Update | January 21, 2026

VOL. 1, ISSUE 3

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A Message from Haley

At South Shore Charter Public School, our World Language program is guided by a clear and powerful goal: helping students use language with confidence and purpose beyond the classroom. Through intentional shifts in instruction, assessment, and enrichment opportunities, we are moving away from memorization and toward real-world communication and cultural understanding.

With the continued support of the DESE Proficiency Outcomes in World Language Grant, we are now in our second year of strengthening proficiency-based teaching and learning. This funding allows our teachers to engage in professional development and use modern assessment tools to track meaningful student growth. Rather than focusing solely on grades or isolated grammar skills, students are learning how to communicate

authentically; ordering food, sharing opinions, and engaging with diverse cultures in ways that will stay with them long after graduation. These efforts also support a clear pathway toward earning the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy, a highly valued credential recognized by colleges and employers.

Empowering Students to Speak, Not Just Study

Our proficiency-based approach at SSCPS centers on what students can actually do with language, not just what they know about it. Rather than emphasizing memorization of grammar rules or isolated vocabulary, instruction and assessment are aligned to real-life communication tasks that reflect how language is used outside the classroom. Students regularly practice listening to authentic speakers, engaging in conversations, interpreting real-world texts, and expressing their ideas in writing and speaking.

As students progress, they build the ability to communicate with increasing independence, accuracy, and confidence across listening, speaking, reading, and writing. This approach allows teachers to measure growth over time, provide targeted feedback, and adjust instruction to meet students' needs. Ultimately, proficiency-based learning ensures that language learning is meaningful, measurable, and transferable, preparing students to use their language skills in academic settings, future careers, and global communities beyond the classroom.

[The Proficiency Outcomes in World Language Grant](#) allows our school to formally assess and track students' language proficiency over time using nationally recognized, proficiency-based assessments. Rather than relying solely on classroom grades, these assessments provide clear data on how well students can listen, speak, read, and write in real-world contexts. This information helps teachers monitor growth, identify strengths and gaps, and adjust instruction to better support all learners, while also creating a clear pathway toward advanced proficiency and the Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy.



Spanish 2 students share what they did over the weekend while using chat mats with key vocabulary and sentence starters to support confidence and active participation.

World Language Assessment Schedule

To support student growth, we assess proficiency at key points throughout their language journey:

Grade / Level	Why We Test at This Stage
6th Grade (April testing) Avant Stamp E Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foundation: Establishes a "baseline" to see how students are beginning their language journey as they enter middle school.
8th Grade (April testing) Avant Stamp E exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Milestone: Measures growth at the end of middle school to ensure students are ready for high school level Spanish.
Spanish 2 & 3 (April testing) Avant Stamp Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Progress Check: Tracks the steady climb from "Novice" to "Intermediate" levels of speaking and understanding.
Spanish 4 & 5 (February & May testing) Avant Stamp Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Goal: Determines readiness for the State Seal of Biliteracy and advanced college-level communication.

The Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy

The Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy is a prestigious award granted to graduating seniors who demonstrate a high level of proficiency in English and at least one additional language. Think of it as a "gold seal" on a diploma that signals true functional language skills and cultural competence.



Since launching the program in 2021, South Shore Charter Public School has proudly awarded 31 Seals of Biliteracy in Spanish, French, Arabic, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole.

Why the Seal Matters:

- College Credit: Many Massachusetts public universities and several private institutions offer college credit to students who earn the Seal.
- Career Advantage: Biliteracy provides a competitive edge in a global workforce.
- A Lasting Credential: Unlike a course grade, the Seal is a permanent recognition of a student's skills and dedication.

How Students Qualify:

- Meet the English requirement by earning a qualifying score on the Grade 10 ELA MCAS
- Meet the world language requirement by earning an Intermediate-High score (or Advanced-Low for Seal with Distinction) on a state-approved proficiency assessment

Spanish Honor Society: Los Jaguares

We are also proud to be in our second year of the Spanish Honor Society, with our chapter known as Los Jaguares. This group of thirty-one dedicated students celebrates academic excellence while promoting Spanish language learning and cultural awareness across the school community.



Members of Los Jaguares play an active role in school-wide cultural events, classroom support, and celebrations of Hispanic cultures. In addition, students participate in a variety of community service opportunities, using their language skills in meaningful, real-world contexts. These experiences reinforce the values of bilingualism, leadership, service, and global citizenship.

Haley Edmondson
World Languages Curriculum Coordinator K-12



SSCPS students proudly being inducted into the Spanish National Honor Society in November.



Spanish Honor Society members proudly represented Los Jaguares at Open House in November.



Spanish Honor Society members hosting a Sant Jordi arts and crafts activity during Holiday Rooms in December.

School Calendar & Announcements

Weekly Calendar

SSCPS WEEKLY CALENDAR JAN 21 - JAN 28

Wed 21 7-12 Midyear Exams Begin	Thu 22 7-12 Midyear Exams SEPAC Meeting at 100 Longwater - 6PM	Fri 23 7-12 Midyear Exams	Sat/Sun 
Mon 26 	Tue 27 Talk to Us Tuesday - 9AM Finance & Personnel Meeting via Zoom - 6PM	Wed 28 Board of Trustees Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom - 9AM Transportation Focus Group 2 - 6:30PM	Upcoming Jan 30 - Library Committee Meeting Jan 30 - High School Winter Semi (Grades 9-10) Feb 3 - Talk to Us Tuesday Feb 3 - Board of Trustees Committee Meetings via Zoom

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

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

SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

Midyear Exam Schedule

High School Midyear Exam Schedule

	Wednesday 1/21/26	Thursday 1/22/26	Friday 1/23/26
8:15 - 8:20	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory
8:25 - 10:00	A Block Exam	C Block Exam	E Block Exam
10:00 - 10:25	Break	Break	Break
10:25 - 12:00	B Block Exam	D Block Exam	Makeup Exam Block*

*Students without a makeup exam will be dismissed at 10:00 on Friday.

Level IV Midyear Exam Schedule

	Wednesday 1/21/26	Thursday 1/22/26	Friday 1/23/26
8:15-8:30	Pod Time	Pod Time	Pod Time
8:30 - 10:00	A Block Exam	C Block Exam	E Block Exam
10:00 - 10:30	Break	Break	Break
10:30 - 12:00	B Block Exam	D Block Exam	Project Reflection & Make-ups

Important Announcements

Inclement Weather Notification Procedures for Families

As we enter the season when winter weather can impact our school operations, we want to ensure all families understand how and when you will be notified about weather-related delays, early dismissals, and closures. Please use the button below for more details on inclement weather notification procedures at SSCPS.

[INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES](#)

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 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

 PROJECT BREAD

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

Some weeks bring big announcements. Other weeks are about putting our heads down and doing the work in front of us. This week feels like the second kind, in a good way.

School is busy and full of movement. Students are learning, making mistakes, fixing them, and trying again. That process is not always neat, but it is steady. A lot of progress shows up in small moments that are easy to miss if you are not looking for them.

I want to take a moment to be mindful of something important. The strength of a school community is not shown by avoiding challenges. It shows up in how we respond to them and how we move forward together. Over the past few weeks, we have seen that kind of forward movement taking hold.

Every day, students are practicing how to be part of something larger than themselves. They are learning how to listen, how to repair when something goes wrong, and how to care for others even when it is not easy. That kind of learning happens in real classrooms, with real people, and it is happening more often than not.

As adults, we are part of that work too.
When we stay steady, choose patience,
and keep showing up, we help create

the conditions where students can do their best.

Thank you for the trust, care, and positivity you bring to our school community.

Warmly,

Walter Duncan
Dean of Students (K-6)



Upcoming School & Community Events

Upcoming SSCPS Events

Transportation Focus Group 2

Thank you to all who participated in our first Transportation Focus Group! Feedback from our SSCPS family members is essential to help all of our programs and services run smoothly. Now that the SSCPS regional transportation program is in its third year, your input will help us to refine our transportation services for our student community.

Please join us on **Wednesday, January 28 at 6:30pm** for our second transportation focus group via Zoom. We will be using data from the survey to guide discussions and answer questions from the SSCPS community surrounding our transportation services.

TRANSPORTATION FOCUS GROUP

SSCPS Winter Semi | Grades 9 & 10

[BUY TICKETS](#)

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
PRESENTS:

WINTER *Semi*

SSCPS STUDENTS ONLY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30TH 2026

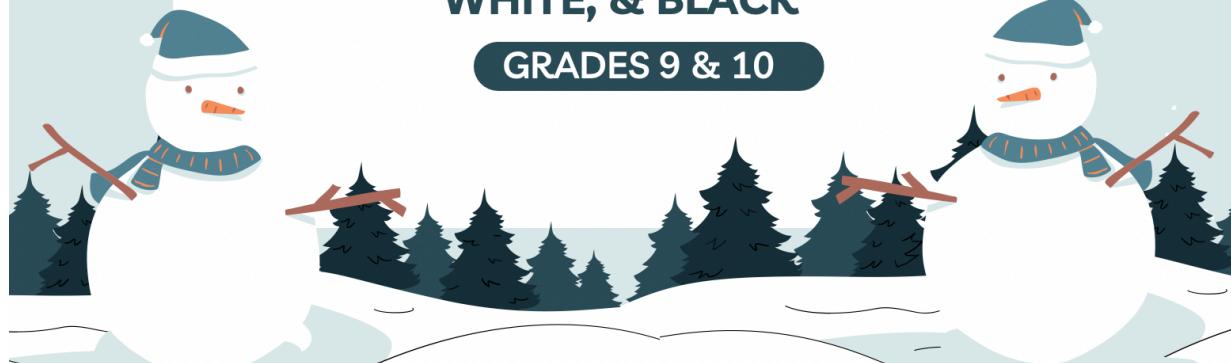
7PM-10PM

673 MAIN STREET, NORWELL MA 02061

TICKETS ARE \$20 ON FAMILYID

**THEME: ANY SHADE OF BLUE,
WHITE, & BLACK**

GRADES 9 & 10



On the Levels

Black Student Union Hosts MLK Day Celebration

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 19, the Black Student Union hosted a special movie screening on MLK Day. The event provided students with an opportunity to engage with Dr. King's powerful legacy and reflect on the continued importance of justice, equality, and nonviolent activism in today's world. In solidarity and remembrance, students also participated in a Black Out Day, wearing black to honor Dr. King's impact and to stand in unity for equity and social justice.



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 and Workshops

Grade 6 Community Service Project

The Grade 6 Community Service Project is collecting gently used linens to donate to Buddy and Friends Animal Rescue! Donations can be dropped off to Laura Bosse in Room 101 at 100 Longwater Circle until January 30th.

Buddy and friends animal rescue collection



COLLECTING GENTLY USED

- towels
- blankets
- FLAT sheets



when you are getting flat sheets please
don't get fitted sheets only get flat.

the dates are 1/12 - 1/30



Make sure to drop
off donation in
Laura's room 101.

Afterschool Enrichment Program

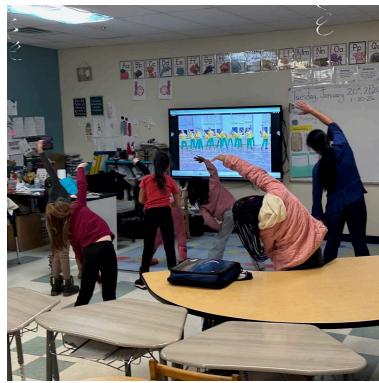
Session II of Enrichment is off to a great start!

Session Two of our Afterschool Enrichment Program kicked off yesterday, and the excitement was contagious! Students arrived eager to jump back into their clubs and wasted no time getting started.

In Kickboxing, students brought high energy as they learned new moves and focused on strength, balance, and self-confidence. The STEAM Dream Team got straight to work with hands-on engineering activities, encouraging creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving. Over in Dance Blast, students began learning their dance routine, working together to master steps and set the tone for an energetic and fun session ahead.

It was a strong and joyful start to Session Two, and we're excited to see our students continue to grow, create, and shine in the weeks to come!





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

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

SEPAC Updates

Tomorrow | SEPAC Meeting



January SEPAC Meeting

Please join us for a

COFFEE TALK

@SSCPS 100 LONGWATER • JANUARY 22, 2026 • 6PM

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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