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Weekly Update | January 7, 2026

VOL. 1, ISSUE 1

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A Message from Angie

I hope your family enjoyed a restful and joyful holiday break. As we return to school and begin a new calendar year, our classrooms are full of fresh energy and focus. Students and teachers are settling back into routines, diving into new learning, and reflecting on how far they've come since those first school days in August. This is a busy season for teaching and learning as we approach the midpoint of the school year and the close of the second quarter ends for 5-12 students on Tuesday, January 20th.

For our students in grades 7-12, this is also midyear exam season. These exams are designed by teachers to test student progress in our curriculum and the results of these exams supply important data about student achievement. Students will complete exams in English, history, science, math, and world language. Students on Level IV will take their iReady Benchmark assessment in place of a traditional math exam. This allows us to use the extended testing time to gather important data as we track student progress toward mastering grade-level skills.

While the midyears are an important measure of student achievement, they are also critical in helping students develop the study skills that they need in order to successfully complete exams at the post-secondary level. Students will go into the extended Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend armed with study guides to help them prepare for their exams. Some students may need parental encouragement to take advantage of the study opportunity that the extended weekend provides.

Scores on midyear exams account for 10% of a student's final grade, a significant percentage. Knowledge of that significance is motivating for many students and spurs a healthy level of stress that drives achievement. We understand that for some students exams can cause excessive stress and anxiety. This is especially the case for our seventh grade students who are preparing for this type of exam for the first time and do not know what to expect. Taking the time necessary to prepare can help with the stress. If you are concerned about the level of stress your child is exhibiting, please reach out to their advisor or pod teacher so that we can provide support at school.

The schedule for midyear exams is below. All students in grades 7-12 will be dismissed at 12:00 pm on Wednesday, January 21st, Thursday, January 22nd, and Friday, January 23rd. Please prepare for pickup accordingly as we do not have bus transportation available. On Friday, January 23rd, high school students will be dismissed by 10:00 if

they are not taking a make-up exam. Taking exams is exhausting for students. The early dismissal provides students with a well-deserved break. As a reminder, all students in grades K-6 must be met by an adult at the bus stop in the afternoon. If your K-6 child usually walks home with your older student, please plan for alternative arrangements on the midyear exam dates.

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 |

As we begin the new year, the days are slowly growing longer and brighter - a welcome reminder that spring is on its way. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Angie Pepin
Director of Teaching and Learning

School Calendar & Announcements

Weekly Calendar

SSCPS WEEKLY CALENDAR JAN 07 - JAN 14

Wed 07

HS Mock Trial to Holbrook High School

Thu 08



Fri 09

High School Fashion Show at 104 Longwater - 1:30PM and 2:15PM

Sat/Sun



Mon 12



Tue 13

Talk to Us Tuesday Begins
Parents Association Meeting via Zoom - 7PM

Wed 14

2025-2026 Waitpool Lottery
Transportation Focus Group via Zoom - 9AM
School Council Meeting via Zoom - 4:30PM

Upcoming

Jan 16 - No School (Professional Development)
Jan 19 - No School (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
Jan 20 - Talk to Us Tuesday
Jan 28 - Transportation Focus Group

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

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

SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

Important Announcements

Last Day to Take the Transportation Family Survey

SSCPS Families: Please take a moment to fill out our **Transportation Family Survey**! Feedback from our SSCPS family members is essential to help all of our programs and

services run smoothly, especially with the SSCPS regional transportation program now in its third year. Data from this survey will guide discussions during two upcoming regional transportation family focus groups: **Wednesday, January 14 at 9:00 am**, and **Wednesday, January 28 at 6:30 pm**.

Please take this opportunity to identify the strengths and areas of growth of the regional transportation program. We rely on your responses to inform our efforts to meet the needs of all families in our school community. The survey should take approximately 5 minutes to complete. Respondent names are not required. Responses will be shared with our school community and at the Board of Trustees' open meetings. **Survey responses are due by today, January 7, 2026.**

TRANSPORTATION 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](#)



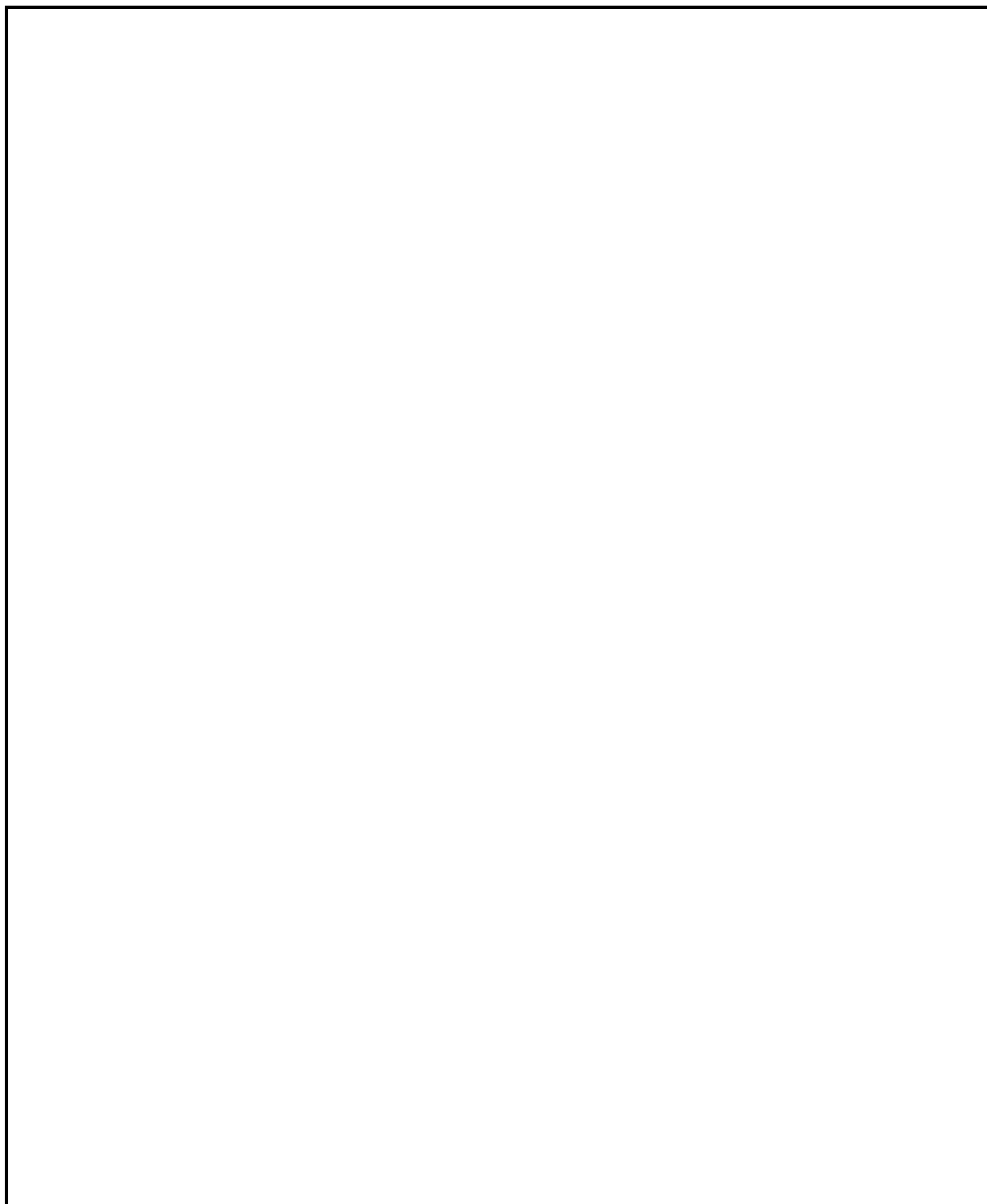
Important Drop Off & Pick Up Reminders

Protocol for absences, tardiness and dismissing students early:

When your child is absent and leaving a message, please be sure to leave the **first and last name as well as the grade of your child**. Any changes can be sent to attendance@sscps.org.

Drop off in the morning by 8:10am.

Please try to arrive by or before 8:10am so that teachers can take attendance and students can prepare for classes that start at 8:20am. **At 8:15am the doors will close and students will be marked as tardy.**



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)

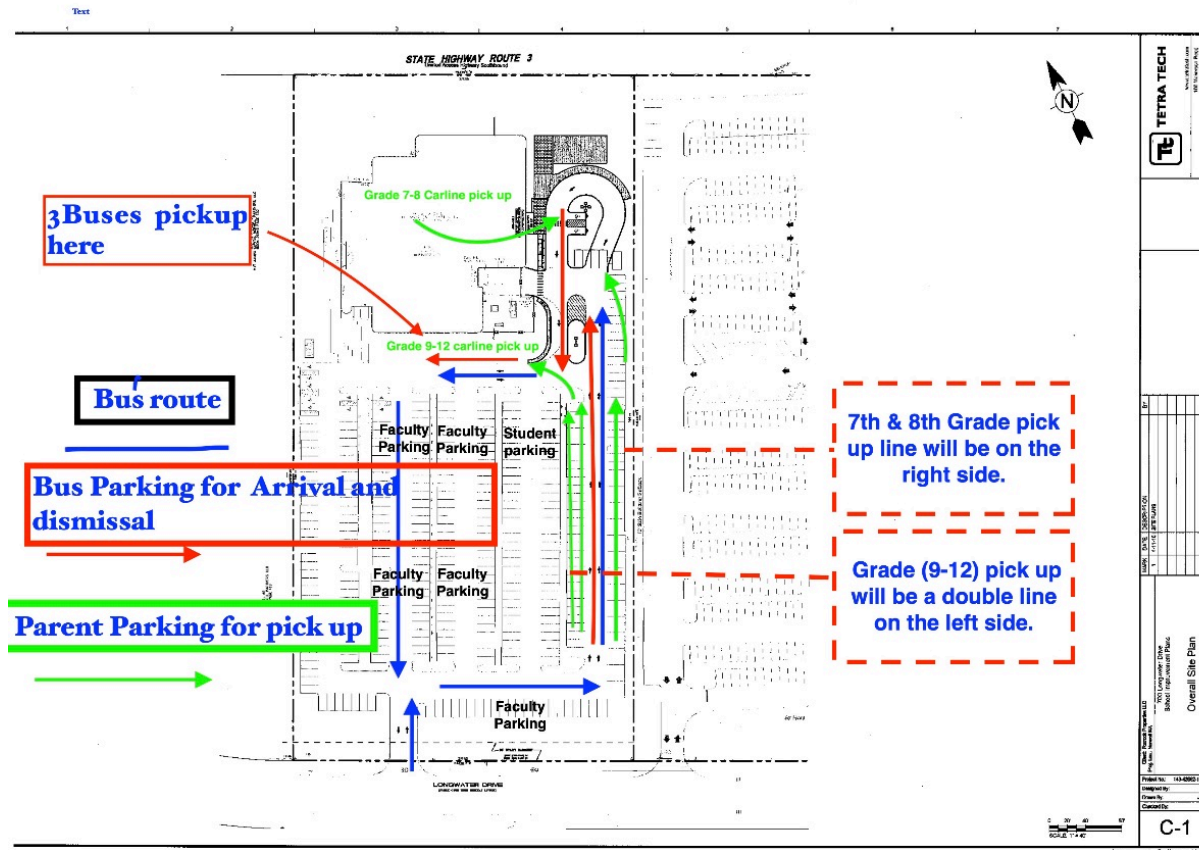
There will be 3 carlines at 700 Longwater:

- 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.



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

A New Year, Moving Forward Together

We ask for your patience, your openness, and your collaboration as we move forward. The conversations we have together — even the difficult ones — matter.

The start of a new year always brings a sense of possibility. It's a natural moment to pause, reflect, and reset. At school, that reset shows up in many ways — renewed focus, fresh routines, and a shared commitment to doing our best work together.

As we move into this new year, I want to name something clearly: helping students grow — academically, socially, and emotionally — is a shared effort. School plays a central role in that work, but it is most powerful when families and school are aligned and supporting one another.

Part of our work this year will continue to focus on helping students strengthen their

behavior — learning how to manage frustration, treat others with respect, and make choices that support learning for everyone. This is core school work. It is also hard work. Growth rarely happens in a straight line, and progress often requires patience, consistency, and repeated practice.

There may be times when you hear from the school more frequently than you'd like. I want you to know that we never reach out frivolously. When we contact families, it is always with care, intention, and the belief that working together is the best way to support your child's development. These conversations are not about blame — they are about partnership.

We ask for your patience, your openness, and your collaboration as we move forward. The conversations we have together — even the difficult ones — matter. They help us stay focused on what is best for students and ensure that expectations at school and at home are working in the same direction.

This new year is not about perfection. It is about progress. It is about recommitting to the work of helping children become thoughtful learners, responsible community members, and people who know how to navigate challenges with care and resilience.

Thank you for your trust, your support, and your willingness to walk this path with us. When families and school move forward together, our students are the ones who benefit most.

Warmly,

Walter Duncan



Upcoming School & Community Events

Upcoming SSCPS Events

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





Community Events & News

Essay Contest | Weymouth & Braintree Students

The Weymouth-Braintree Elks Americanism Essay Contest is accepting submissions until **today, January 7th, 2026**. This essay contest is available to Weymouth and Braintree students in grades 5-8. Use the button below for more details and instructions.

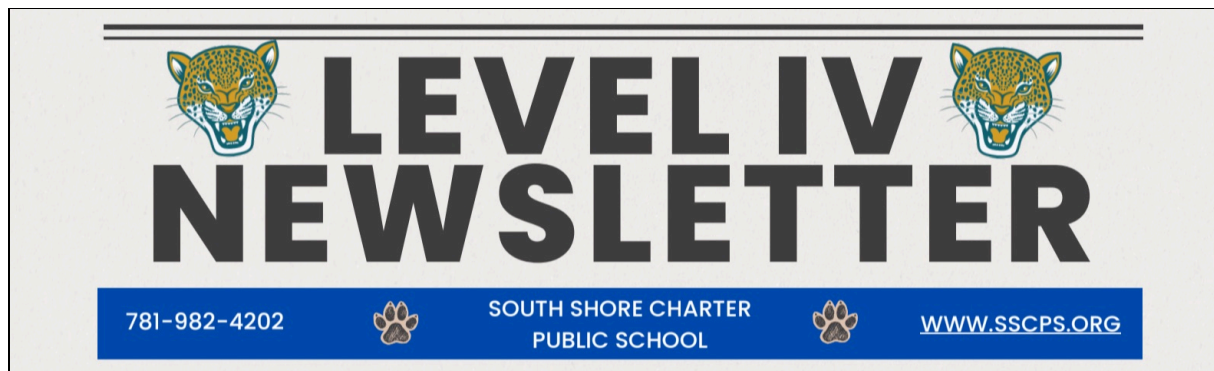
[ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS](#)

On the Levels

Level IV Newsletter

Take a look at the Level IV January Newsletter!

[LEVEL IV NEWSLETTER](#)



Senior Accomplishments

On December 18, 2025, three of our students—**Jerimiah Braiser, Karlvin Dorvil, and Marc Chouloute**—completed a rigorous program at **South Shore Technical School**, an accomplishment that deserves recognition and celebration.

Since the start of the school year, four days a week, these SSCPS students have spent their evenings immersed in hands-on technical training. Through this commitment, they gained real-world experience in advanced manufacturing, completing OSHA certification, First Aid training, and comprehensive manufacturing coursework.

By the end of the school year they will be eligible to secure employment in a rapidly growing and high-demand industry. Manufacturing is the backbone of innovation—*every single thing we touch is manufactured somewhere*—and these students have positioned themselves at the forefront of a field that is both essential and booming.

Special thank you to Michelle Gallagher for connection to Mass Hire and South Shore Voc Tech for finding this amazing opportunity for our students.



NHS Tutoring Committee

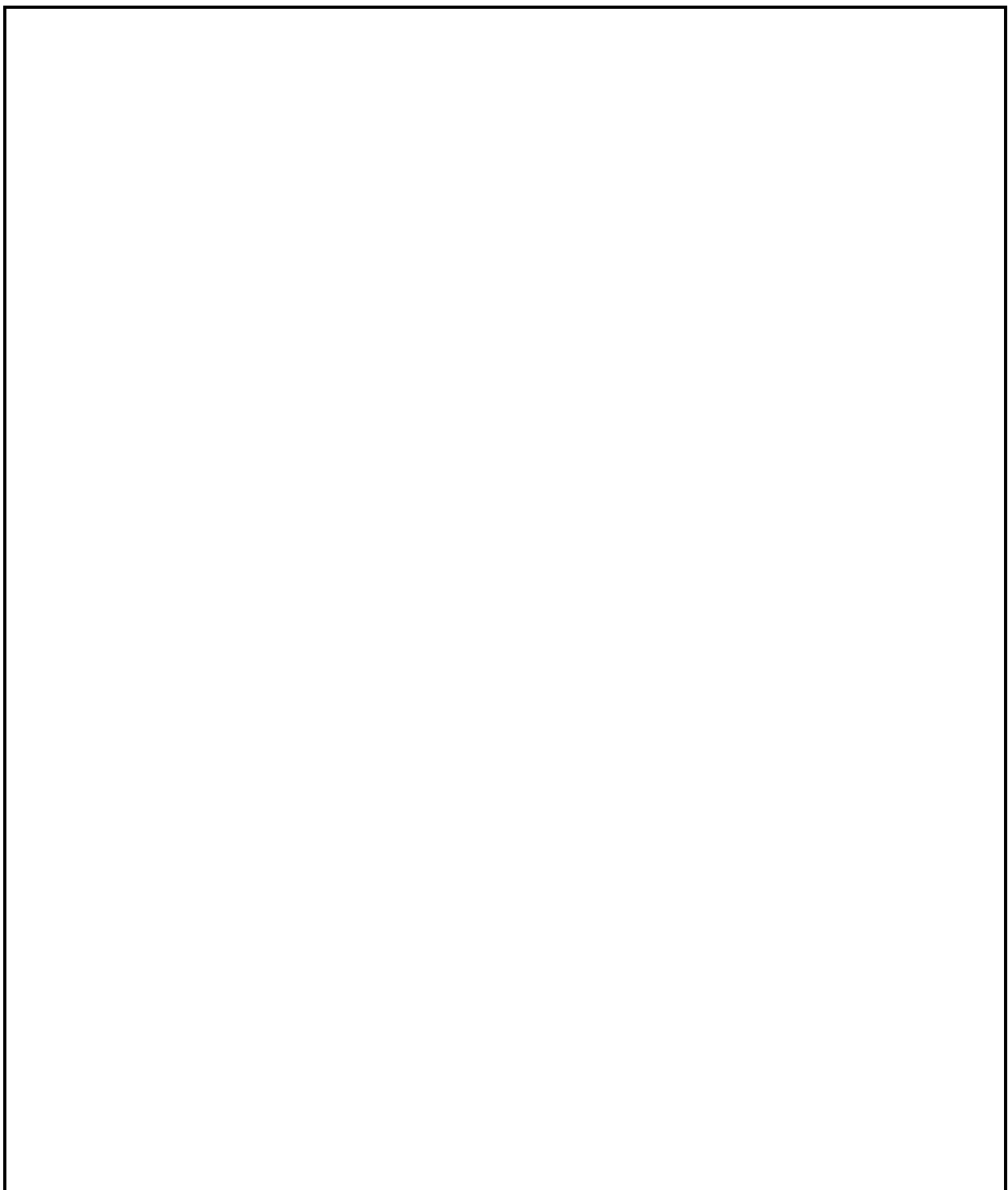
The SSCPS National Honor Society is offering peer tutoring for all high school students! Use the form below to request a tutor and the committee will pair you with a tutor that best fits your needs. Tutoring is open to all SSCPS high school students for any subject!

[REQUEST A TUTOR](#)



What's New in Projects & Workshops

Cultural Diversity Workshop



The Cultural Diversity Workshop
Presents



DONATE COATS

Where: At the Front Desk

NOW - JAN 10

Donate gently used, warm winter coats for **children and adults** at any Anton's Cleaners, Jordan's Furniture, or Rockland Trust location.

Corporate Partners



Coats only, please. All sizes welcome!

antons.com/cfk



Coats are professionally cleaned by Anton's and distributed to families in need through a network of over 90 local social service agencies, schools, and nonprofit organizations.

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

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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