



## Weekly Update | June 10, 2026

VOL. 6, ISSUE 2

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## From the Dean's Desk

I don't know if I have ever seen a spring quite like this one.

Every morning, there seems to be another layer of pollen covering everything. Cars turn yellow overnight. Sidewalks collect it in little drifts. People walk into school rubbing their eyes, sneezing, coughing, and wondering how much longer this is going to last.

It is uncomfortable. Nobody enjoys it. And yet, every morning, life continues.

The buses still arrive. Students still come to school. Teachers still teach. Presentations still happen. Homework still gets completed. We complain about the pollen, but we do not stop living because of it.

I found myself thinking about that this week.

One of the lessons children slowly learn as they grow up is that not everything uncomfortable can be removed. Some things simply have to be endured. A difficult assignment. A disagreement with a friend. A responsibility you would rather avoid. A disappointment that does not immediately go away.

Part of maturity is learning the difference between a real obstacle and an irritant. An obstacle may require us to stop, rethink, and find a new path. An irritant is something we acknowledge, adapt to, and move through.

The pollen has certainly been an irritant.

So are many of the small frustrations that show up in daily life.

The challenge is not to pretend those things do not bother us. The challenge is to keep moving forward despite them.

As we enter the final weeks of the school year, students are feeling a variety of irritants. The weather is getting warmer. Summer is getting closer. Patience is sometimes shorter than it was in September. It becomes easier to focus on what is bothering us than on what we are trying to accomplish.

But there is still important work to do. Goals to achieve. Friendships to strengthen. Lessons to learn. Opportunities to grow.

The pollen will eventually wash away. Summer will arrive. The school year will come to an end.

Until then, we keep showing up.

Sneezing perhaps.

But showing up nonetheless.

Warmly,

**Walter O. Duncan IV**  
**Dean of Students K-6**



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## School Calendar & Announcements

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### Important Calendar Updates

#### **2026-2027 Calendar Revised May 14th**

**FY26 Last Day of School:**

Thursday, June 25th, 2026

*[View the full updated calendar here.](#)*

**FY27 School Year Start & End Dates:**

**Starts: September 2nd, 2026 | Ends: June 17th, 2027**

*[View the new FY27 calendar here.](#)*

*IMPORTANT: Due to construction at 700 Longwater, there will be a change to the start and end dates of the 2026-2027 academic school year.*

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# Weekly Calendar

## SSCPS WEEKLY CALENDAR JUN 10 - JUN 17

<b>Wed 10</b> Virtual Summer Book Fair NHS Beach Cleanup Field Trip Annual Art Show at 100 Longwater - 4-7PM	<b>Thu 11</b> Virtual Summer Book Fair Grade 7 Science EOMs Class of 2026 Graduation	<b>Fri 12</b> Virtual Summer Book Fair Kindergarten Last Day of Classes HS Chemistry Field Trip to Airxchange Level III Move Up Day to 700 - 8:30AM	<b>Sat/Sun</b> 
<b>Mon 15</b> New Kindergarten Screenings	<b>Tue 16</b> New Kindergarten Screenings SSCEF Meeting - 4-5:30PM Governance Committee Meeting via Zoom - 5:30PM	<b>Wed 17</b> New Kindergarten Screenings Grade 5 Field Day Level IV Color Games at 700 Longwater	<b>Upcoming</b>  <b>June 18</b> - New Kindergarten Screenings <b>June 18</b> - Level II Forge Park Field Day <b>June 18</b> - BOT Annual Meeting <b>June 19</b> - No School (Juneteenth Observed)

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

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

SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

## Important Announcements

### From the SSCPS Board of Trustees

Below you will find a link to the SSCPS Complaint Procedure. The procedure can also be found on the SSCPS website on our [Board of Trustees](#) page and our [Family Resources](#) page.

SSCPS Complaint Procedure

## SSCPS Yearbook Sales

### 2025-2026 Yearbooks On Sale Now!

Yearbook orders can still be placed in person with Mike Forrester (mforrester@sscps.org) — please provide a cash payment of \$35 or a check made out to South Shore Charter Public School.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://projectbread.org/gethelp)



**LOCAL FOOD RESOURCES**

Click the names of each resource for more information.

<a href="#">Wellspring Multi-Service Centers</a>	<a href="#">Norwell Food Pantry</a>
<a href="#">The Charity Guild Food Pantry</a>	<a href="#">Randolph Food Pantry</a>
<a href="#">Feeding America</a>	<a href="#">Rockland Food Pantry</a>
<a href="#">Find Local Food Resources</a>	<a href="#">Weymouth Food Pantry</a>
<a href="#">Interfaith Social Services</a>	<a href="#">Self Help</a>

## SUN Bucks 2026

SUN Bucks, the federal food benefit program once known as Summer EBT, is returning for summer 2026. SUN Bucks provides a \$120 lump-sum summer benefit per school-aged child for income-eligible families. The program is administered by the state Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) in partnership with

DESE and with assistance from schools.

SUN Bucks income eligibility standards are the same as those for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

As such, all enrolled students identified as meeting the income eligibility standards for free or reduced-price lunch during school year 2025-26, either through an NSLP household paper application or direct certification, are automatically eligible for SUN Bucks.

Students identified as homeless, migrant, runaway or participating in Head Start are also automatically eligible. Students who do not meet the aforementioned criteria can apply for SUN Bucks benefits through DTA by visiting [www.DTAConnect.com](http://www.DTAConnect.com).

More information is available on the [SUN Bucks website](#), including [application materials](#) in six languages.

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## 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](#).

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## From the Foundation

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### 2026 Annual Road Race T-Shirt Design

**Calling All Student Artists:  
Design the Official T-Shirt for the  
2026 SSCPS Annual Road Race!**

We're excited to continue a beloved SSCPS tradition—inviting students to design the t-shirt for our annual Road Race! This is your chance to showcase your creativity and have your artwork worn by participants at one of our biggest

community events. Let your imagination run wild and help us make this year's race shirt the best one yet!

Click the button or the flyer below for more design submission instructions, and contact Joe Kay at [jkay@sscps.org](mailto:jkay@sscps.org) with any questions.



MORE INFO

## The JJ Facey SSCPS Scholarship

South Shore Charter Public School is continuing to raise money 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

#### K-8 Virtual Summer Reading Book Fair

The virtual book fair will run from **June 1st to June 12th**, and books

that families order will be delivered to SSCPS by June 19th. If any Kindergarten students order a book, they will be given to a sibling to take home, or arrangements can be made with families to pick up the order at SSCPS.

Visit [this website](#) or use the button below to order books from our summer reading lists. SSCPS families receive a 10% discount on books purchased, and SSCPS will receive 10% of each sale. There will be no sales tax.

ORDER BOOKS

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## Community Events & News

### BSU Summer Science Academy

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#### Hull Lifesaving Museum Summer Program

**Summer Explorers Program (Youth Ages 12-16)**

**July 7 – August 20, 2026**

**9:00 am – 12:30 pm (Morning Program) – \$120 Members, \$130 Non-Members**

This 7-week program offers a different area of focus each week, with all programming originating at our HLM Windmill Point Boathouse, including our fleet of open-water rowing vessels, the boathouse, the harbor, and the harbor islands. Areas of focus include: safety on the water, rowing and commanding (coxing) open water rowing craft, operating outboard powered boats, harbor piloting and navigation, marine environment, boat maintenance and boat building, while making connections to each other, to our past and to our future. For information, please [email us](#) or call 781-925-5433.

*This program is supported in part by a grant from the Hull Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.*

PROGRAM INFORMATION

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#### More Upcoming Community Events

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**From the Guidance Department**

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## For Senior Families - Financial Aid Information

As you consider your options after high school, we encourage you to fill out the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#), known as the FAFSA, in order to access grants, federal student loans, and work-study funds for college. Filling out the FAFSA is one of the most important steps students and their families can take to pay for college and is the key to unlocking college financial aid from federal, state, and local sources.

If your immigration status prevents you from qualifying for federal aid, you might still be eligible for aid through the [Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid \(MASFA\)](#), which can help you attend public institutions of higher education in Massachusetts.

Applying for financial aid helps keep college an option for the fall but does not commit you to enrolling. Fill out the FAFSA or MASFA as early as possible to maximize the aid you can receive.

There are resources available to help with this process, including the following:

[Go Higher](#) is the Commonwealth's initiative to share information about access and affordability at public institutions of higher education in Massachusetts. Go Higher offers paths that make higher education more affordable—like free community college, free or affordable four-year degrees, career-connected scholarships, and more.

DESE, in collaboration with the Department of Higher Education and the Executive Office of Education, has identified [FAFSA resources that may be helpful](#).

The Department of Higher Education's [Office of Student Financial Assistance](#) is the Commonwealth's "go to" on resources concerning student financial aid.

The federal government's [FAFSA website](#) includes [steps for families](#), and entities such as the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA) provide [information](#) and continuing support during the school year for educators, counselors, administrators, students and their families.

Fill out the FAFSA or MASFA as early as possible to maximize the aid you can receive!

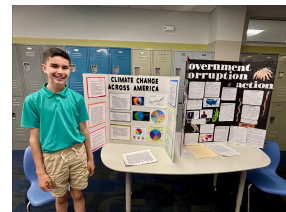
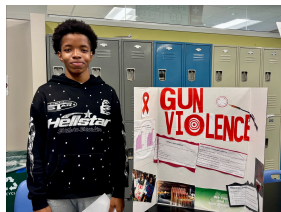
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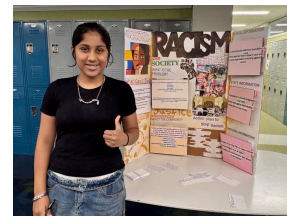
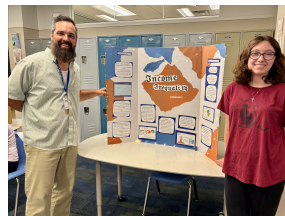
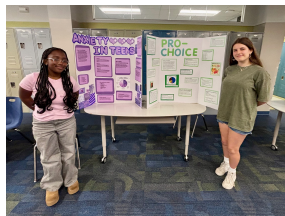
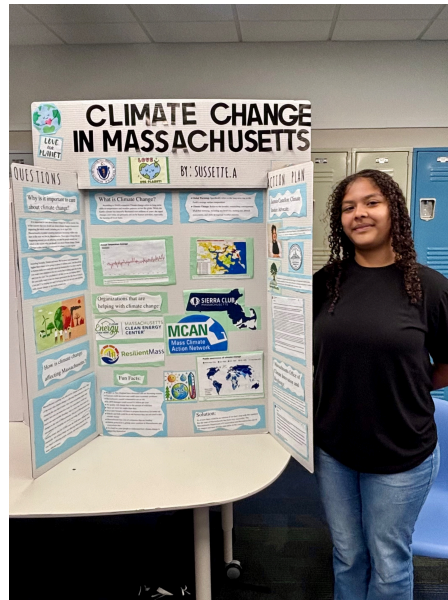
## On the Levels

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### Grade 8 Civics Project Showcase

Our Grade 8 students showcased their civic action projects after spending weeks researching issues, engaging with stakeholders, and developing solutions.





## Grade 5 Living Wax Museum

Our Grade 5 students brought history to life during their Living Wax Museum after weeks of studying their chosen figure. View some photos from the event below!





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## Student Artwork | Historical Mural

High School students in Mike Forrester's history classes recently created a mural with their artwork representing pivotal events or people in US history.

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## AP Bridge & Mentorship Program

### 2025 - 2026 AP Bridge and Mentorship Program at SSCPS: Bridging the Gap to AP Success Through Academic Support, Mentorship, and Skill Building

The AP Bridge and Mentorship Program was developed to empower and inspire students through a dynamic blend of academic preparation, skill development, and real-world mentorship. Designed to support students interested in taking Advanced Placement (AP) courses, the program provided access to professional STEM mentors, peer support, and targeted academic enrichment.

This year, nine students participated in the AP Bridge and Mentorship Program, engaging in weekly academic support sessions, mentorship opportunities, and career exploration activities designed to prepare them for the rigor of AP coursework and future STEM careers.

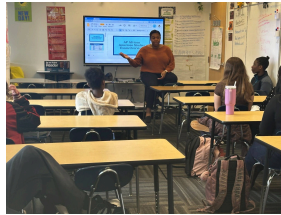
One of the highlights of the program was a series of guest speaker visits and mentorship opportunities with professionals working in a variety of STEM fields. Students had the opportunity to learn from and interact with:

- A Senior Scientist in Cell & Gene Analytical Technologies (CGAT) at Vertex Pharmaceuticals and Thermo Fisher Scientific, who shared insights into biotechnology, research, and the development of innovative therapies.
- A Quality Control Manager at Oxford Biomedica, who explained the critical role quality assurance plays in the manufacturing of life-saving treatments.

- A Molecular Microbiologist with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, who discussed public health research, disease surveillance, and the impact of science on community well-being.
- An Analytical Chemist at FogPharma, who shared how chemistry is used in drug development and pharmaceutical research.

During these sessions, students asked thoughtful questions about educational pathways, career experiences, workplace challenges, and opportunities within STEM fields. These conversations helped students connect classroom learning to real-world applications and made STEM careers feel both attainable and exciting.

We are proud of the growth, curiosity, and perseverance demonstrated by our students throughout the year. Their willingness to challenge themselves, seek support, and explore new opportunities reflects the mission of the AP Bridge and Mentorship Program.



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## AP AFAM, BSU, and Cultural Diversity Field Trip

Students from the AP African American Studies Class, the Black Student Union (BSU), and the Cultural Diversity Workshop recently visited the African Studies Center and African Studies Library at Boston University African Studies Center. During the visit, students explored Nigerian geography, culture, and history through an engaging presentation led by Dr. Nikky Agba and toured the African Studies Library and the Textiles Tell Stories exhibit. The experience provided students with a deeper understanding of African cultures, history, and scholarship while exposing them to the resources and opportunities available at the university level. The visit encouraged meaningful discussions about global perspectives, cultural identity, and the importance of preserving and sharing diverse stories.

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## SSCPS Jaguar Games

A big thank you to the SSCPS Student Board for organizing the 2026 Jaguar Games!



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# From the Health Office

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## Important Reminders | 2025-2026

### Medication Pick Up Schedule & Reminders

#### Medication Pick Up Schedule

##### Kindergarten Students

- Medication pickup begins **June 10** and will be available during drop-off and dismissal times.
- All medications must be picked up by **June 12**.

##### Grades 1–6

- Medication pickup will be available during drop-off and dismissal times from **June 22 through June 25**.

##### Grades 7–11

- Please contact **Barbara Folan, RN**, to make arrangements for the return of your student's medication.

Please note that medications cannot remain at school over the summer. All medications must be picked up by **12:30 p.m. on June 25**. Any medications not picked up by that time will be properly disposed of according to school policy.

If you are unable to pick up your child's medication during the designated times, please email us with your child's name so that we can arrange an alternate pickup time.

If your child will be attending a summer program and requires medication, please contact us to make the necessary arrangements.

#### Medication Requirements for the 2026–2027 School Year

To bring medication to school for the Fall 2026 school year:

- A parent or guardian must deliver the medication to the school.
- Medication must be accompanied by the appropriate documentation, which may include:
  - A physician's prescription medication order
  - An Allergy Action Plan (if applicable)
  - An Asthma Action Plan (if applicable)
- A new medication order is required each school year and must be dated **after July 1, 2026**.
- Medication must be provided in its original pharmacy-labeled container or packaging.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need additional information.

##### School Nurses:

Jaime Kjelgaard, RN ([jkjelgaard@sscps.org](mailto:jkjelgaard@sscps.org)) | Ext. 104

Erlin Martinez, RN (Grades K–6) ([emartinez2@sscps.org](mailto:emartinez2@sscps.org)) | Ext. 104

## General Health Reminders

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](mailto: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](mailto:jkjelgaard@sscps.org)) & Erlin Martinez ([emartinez2@sscps.org](mailto:emartinez2@sscps.org))

Grades 7–12: Barbara Folan – [bfolan@sscps.org](mailto:bfolan@sscps.org)

SSCPS Health Office

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## Community Service

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### Community Service Opportunities

#### Community Service Table

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

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## 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

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## Parents Association, SEPAC, & ELPAC

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### Parents Association Updates

#### Congratulations to Our New Parent Leaders!

It is with great pleasure we announce the results of the 2026–2027 PA election and the School Council parent representatives:

##### Parents Association Leaders:

- Co-Chair Level I & II – Keisha O'Marde-Jack (2-year term)
- Treasurer – Janelle Goines (2-year term)

##### School Council Parent Voting Members (1-year term):

- Rianna Allen-Charles
- Dan Edgerton
- Janelle Goines
- Stephanie Innis
- Alisha Uhlenbrock-Furst

A heartfelt thank you to all nominees and to every parent who voted. Your involvement strengthens our school community every day!

With gratitude,

Your 2026–2027 PA Election Committee  
Alisha Uhlenbrock-Furst & Lisa Elwell

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### 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

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**Helpful Links:**

[Learn about the PA](#) | [PA Leadership Roles](#) | [PA Committees](#) | [PA By-Laws](#)

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## Important Links

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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:**

[2025-2026 School Calendar](#)

[NEW FY27 School Calendar](#)

[Student and Family Handbook](#)

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

[2024-2025 SSCPS Annual Report](#)

[DESE Integrated Monitoring Review](#)

SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar



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