CLICK TO VIEW FULL EMAIL IN BROWSER

Weekly Update | May 27, 2026

VOL. 5, ISSUE 4

Table of Contents

- From the Dean's Desk
- School Calendar & Announcements
- From the Foundation
- Upcoming School & Community Events
- From the Guidance Department
- On the Levels
- Athletics
- From the Health Office
- Community Service
- Parents Association, SEPAC, & ELPAC
- Important Links

From the Dean's Desk

This week, I caught myself looking at a group of students in the hallway and thinking about how different they looked in September.

Not physically, although that changes too at this age seemingly overnight. Taller. Louder. More confident moving through the building. What struck me more was something harder to describe.

They looked more like themselves.

There is a strange thing that happens over the course of a school year. In September, students arrive carrying summer with them. The rhythms of school are unfamiliar again.

Expectations feel heavy. Friendships shift. Some students shrink themselves a little while they try to figure out where they fit.

Then slowly, over months, something starts to settle.

A student who could not stay organized finally develops a system that works. A child who struggled socially finds their footing. A class that could barely walk through the hallway quietly in the fall somehow becomes capable of handling more freedom by spring. Not perfectly, of course. Growth never happens in a straight line.

But it happens.

Now we are entering that strange final stretch of the year. The weather gets warmer. Windows crack open. Summer begins pulling at everyone's attention. Students can almost taste the freedom coming.

I remember that feeling vividly from when I was young. The last weeks of school felt endless and fast at the same time.

But this part of the year matters.

There is still work to do. Still opportunities to grow. Still chances for students to show maturity, responsibility, kindness, and perseverance. The way a year finishes becomes part of the story students tell themselves about who they are.

Finishing strong matters because life is full of moments where people get tired near the end. The ability to stay focused, stay steady, and keep showing up even when the finish line is in sight is an important skill.

Summer is coming. It should be embraced. Childhood should have summers in it. Long days outside. Late sunsets. Time to breathe a little.



But we are not there quite yet.

For now, we keep going together.

Warmly,

Walter O. Duncan IV
Dean of Students K-6

School Calendar & Announcements

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.

Weekly Calendar



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

From the Counseling Department

May is Mental Health Awareness Month! Join us in breaking the stigma and recognizing the importance of mental health.

Click the button below to read the full message from the Counseling Department about the importance of mental health in schools, tips to take care of your own mental health, and a list of helpful resources.

Mental Health Newsletter



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





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**.
More information is available on the **SUN Bucks website**, including **application materials** in six languages.

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 Foundation

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** with any questions.



MORE INFO

Teacher & Staff Appreciation Fundraising

Once again, SSCPS is extending **Teacher Appreciation Week** through the entire month of May to show our immense gratitude and support for all of the amazing teachers and faculty at South Shore Charter!

This special week (and month) is a great chance to show additional support to our teachers and staff who contribute in so many ways to the success of our school, but it's important that we remember their contributions every day of the year as well. Our faculty dedicate each day to providing a **safe, inclusive, educational, and engaging learning environment** for all of our students at SSCPS, and choosing to make a donation in support of our staff helps us continue to provide the same environment for them.

No matter the size, your donation will make a huge difference for our entire faculty at SSCPS. If you'd like to **show your support and make a donation** to our Teacher & Staff Appreciation campaign (or any other department at SSCPS), please use the button below!

MAKE A DONATION

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.

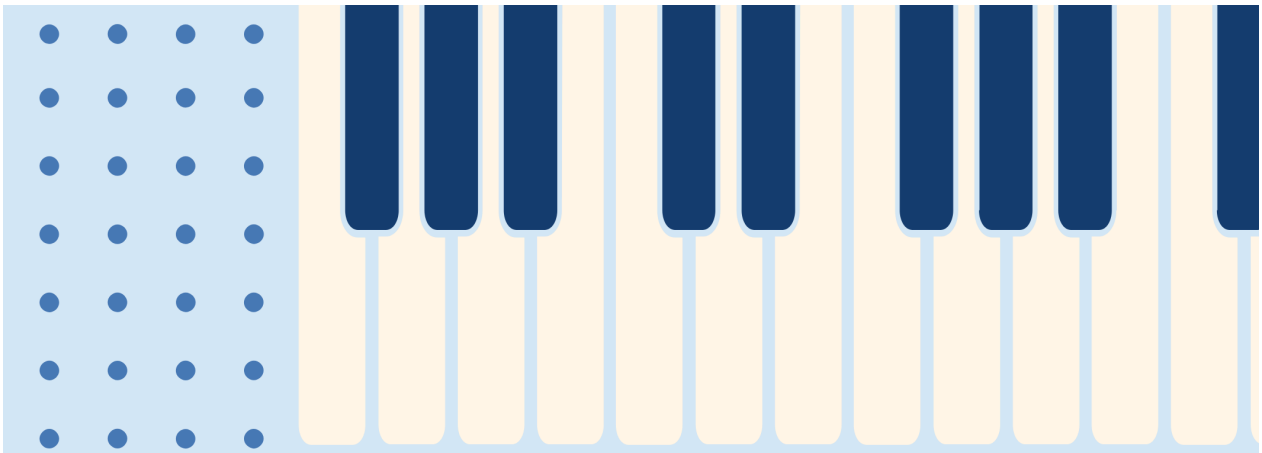
We are seeking donations to provide two scholarships. Please donate using the button below. *All receipts will be generated electronically and can be used for Tax purposes for non-profit donations.*



SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

Upcoming School & Community Events

Upcoming SSCPS Events



SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

SPRING CONCERTS

FREE ENTRY

WEDNESDAY MAY 27 6:00PM

HINGHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL

1103 MAIN ST, HINGHAM, MA 02043

LEVEL 1, SSCPS CHOIR, BEGINNING STRINGS, INTERMEDIATE STRINGS

THURSDAY MAY 28 6:00PM

HINGHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL

1103 MAIN ST, HINGHAM, MA 02043

BEGINNING BAND, CONCERT BAND, CONCERT STRINGS, HS MUSIC WORKSHOP

CALL TIME 5:30PM

NO PARKING AT HINGHAM NURSERY SCHOOL

Community Events & News





BSU Summer Science Academy





From the Guidance Department

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!

On the Levels

Grade 8 Civics Showcase & Grade 5 Living Wax Museum

Grade 5 Living Wax Museum

Grade 5 families are invited to visit the Living Wax Museum on **Friday, June 5 from 10:30am - 11:15am** in the PE space at 104 Longwater Drive. Please park in the lot at 700 Longwater Drive.

Grade 8 Civics Project Showcase

Grade 8 families are invited to visit a Civics Project Showcase on **Friday, June 5 from 10am - 11am** at 700 Longwater Drive. Several Level IV classrooms will be included in the showcase.

Dress Your Heritage Day

Students celebrated their diverse cultures last week on Dress Your Heritage Day by wearing traditional clothing, hats and headpieces, sports jerseys, and draping themselves in flags representing their heritage. It was a wonderful celebration of the rich diversity within the SSCPS community and an opportunity for students and staff to proudly share and honor their heritage.






Velkommen
Vitajte
Bienvenue
Bienvenido
Selamat Datang
Willkommen
Dobro Došli
Välkommen
Benvenuti













The Junior Council of Student Board during Dress Your Heritage Day serving Italian ice to students, courtesy of the SSCPS Parents Association.

SSCPS Junior/Senior Prom



















(All photos taken by Mia Strahm)

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



Athletics

Track Team Update

The boys 4x400 meter relay team of sophomore Trevor Koenecke, and seniors Olivier Cherant, Franco Rojas, and Gabe Guzman qualified for the MIAA Division 6 State Championships this Saturday at Westfield State.

During their last meet they broke their personal best record and ran a qualifying time. Not only is this a great accomplishment for them as a relay team, but they're also the first track athletes at SSCPS to compete at the MIAA state level.

Please congratulate them on their achievement and wish them good luck!

- Coaches Alicia D, Ricky N and Julie R





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

Joshua Kaye Foundation Events

The 9th annual Family Fun Festival is Sunday, June 7 in Braintree. This event is made possible by about 200 volunteers, so if any of SSCPS students are interested, they can sign up **here** or by using the button below.

Other upcoming volunteer opportunities with the Joshua Kaye Foundation:

- **JKF Gardens + Greenhouse Program**
- **Kindness Message Packs**
- **Little Free Libraries**

Please feel free to contact Melissa Kaye at **melissa@joshuakayefoundation.org** to learn more about these upcoming volunteer events.

Family Fun Festival Volunteering



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

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

Vote Now - PA Election 2026-2027

The election ballot is live! **Voting opened on May 12th and will close on June 3rd**. ALL parents and guardians are invited to cast their vote for PA officers and School Council representatives.

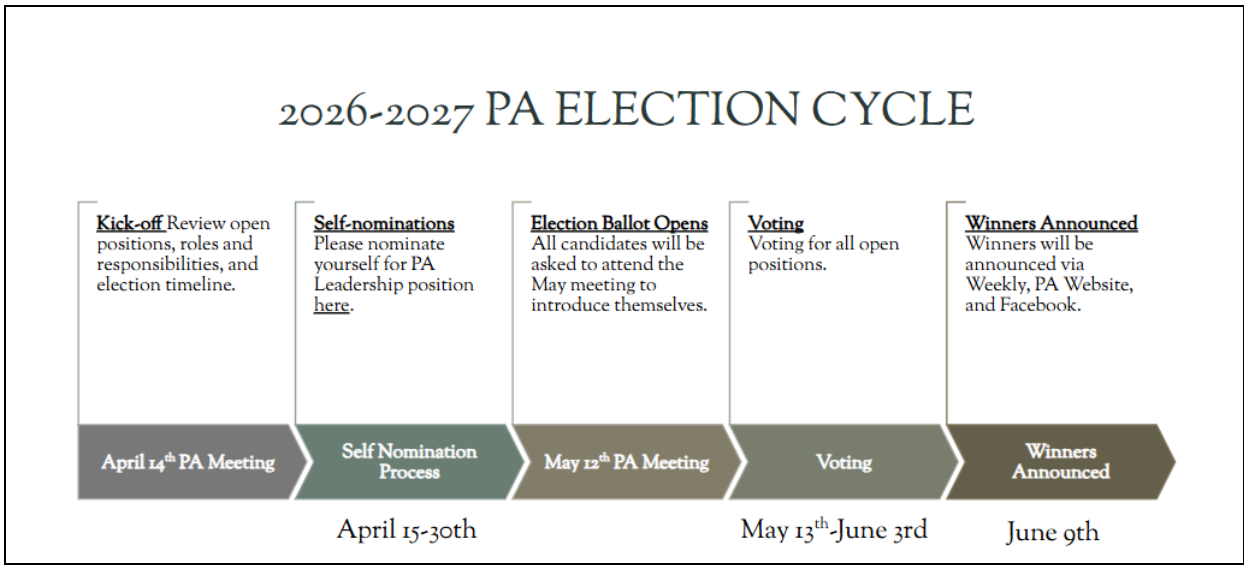
Vote here: **SSCPS PA Elections Spring 2026**

A few reminders:

- One vote per parent/guardian only
- Vote for Co-Chair positions corresponding to your child(ren)'s grade(s) next year
- Election results are shared in aggregate to protect privacy

The Election Team is committed to fairness, transparency, and integrity. Thank you for thoughtfully considering the nominees and participating in shaping our school community.

ELECTION VOTING



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

Helpful Links:
Learn about the PA | PA Leadership Roles | PA Committees | PA By-Laws

---

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**

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

8. **Parents Association Website**

SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

Copyright (C) 2026 South Shore Charter Public School. All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe