



Weekly Update | October 1, 2025

VOL. 10, ISSUE 1

Table of Contents

- [A Message from Alicia](#)
 - [School Calendar & Announcements](#)
 - [From the Dean's Desk](#)
 - [Upcoming School & Community Events](#)
 - [On the Levels](#)
 - [Afterschool Enrichment Program](#)
 - [From the Foundation](#)
 - [From the Counseling Department](#)
 - [From the Health Office](#)
 - [Community Service](#)
 - [Parents Association, SEPAC, & ELPAC](#)
 - [Important Links](#)
-

A Message from Alicia

I saw the first palpable frost on my sunrise walk, October. All over the yet-green spread a light blue-gray veil, giving a new show to the entire landscape. — Walt Whitman, Autumn

There is much to be said about the unmistakable beauty of autumn. We have landed on the first day of October gripped by the new, yet grateful for the familiar. In this season of change, we can look inward to who we are as a school, as well as outward to the world around us. Our new landscape is breathtaking.

Amidst change, we are excited to share highlights and updates with you. The Parents Association is off to a terrific start and has served an essential role in welcoming new families to our school community. We have had excellent turnouts for all four Back-to-School Nights, the Senior Parent Information Night, and Campus Information Meetings.

The SSCPS Annual Road Race was a success on Saturday. Over 128 runners and walkers travelled through Wompatuck State Park, enjoying a vibrant fall day while supporting our school. Photographer and SSCPS alumna Mia Ray Strahm captured moments from the event. We were delighted to celebrate with students, alumni, parents, family members, teachers, and members of the Foundation and the Board of Trustees. We look forward to more community events in the upcoming days.

Academic achievement remains at the forefront for every student. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education released the Spring 2025 MCAS results on September 29, 2025. We are pleased to report that the Department of Education recognized South Shore Charter as one of the [63 school districts](#) where MCAS results have reached or exceeded their pre-pandemic levels. South Shore Charter has been recognized for Math, grades 3-8. MCAS results for South Shore Charter can be found on the [DESE website](#). Families may expect individual student reports to be sent home over the next few weeks.

Growth at 700 Longwater

I would like to thank all parents and family members who attended the Campus Update Informational Meetings on August 19 and September 17. Slides from those two sessions are linked below.

[SSPCS Campus Update Information Meeting | August 19, 2025](#)

[SSPCS Campus Update Information Meeting | September 17, 2025](#)

Included are updates on the 700 Longwater construction project, where work continues with our landlord, architects, and construction team. Also shared are the construction phases 1-3, with work scheduled mainly during evenings, weekends, and school breaks to reduce disruption. Construction phases include temporary classrooms, which were ready for the start of school, as well as future work targeted for completion by August 2026.

Campus improvements are a significant endeavor. Information we provide is in draft form only and subject to revision as new needs arise. There have been updates since September 17 and these new updates to the phasing plan are provided below.

Institutional Growth | Construction at 700 Longwater

Phase	Description	Tentative Timeline
1	Building temporary classrooms on one half of the second floor of 700 Longwater. Includes demolition, temporary wall partitions, wiring, painting, and installation of safety requirements.	Complete Summer 2025
2	Construction of the new stairwell connecting floors and half of the second floor directly above. Install temporary classrooms on 700 B.	Fall 2025
2	Work on expansion premises on second floor.	Fall, Winter, Spring 2026
3	Work on expansion premises on the first and second floor once temporary classrooms have been vacated.	June - August 2026

Student health and safety are the priorities. Most construction will occur during the evenings, on weekends, during school breaks, and over the summer break to ensure the least disruptive learning environment.

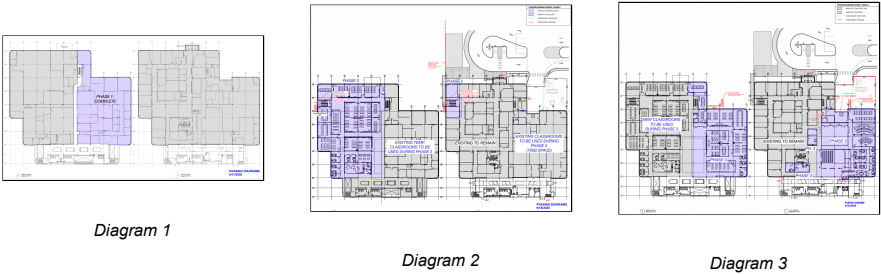
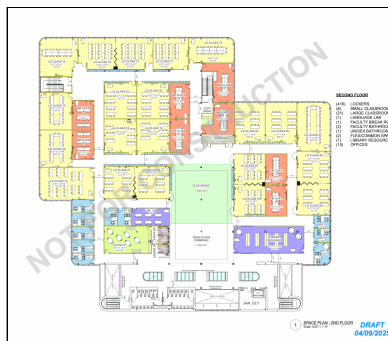
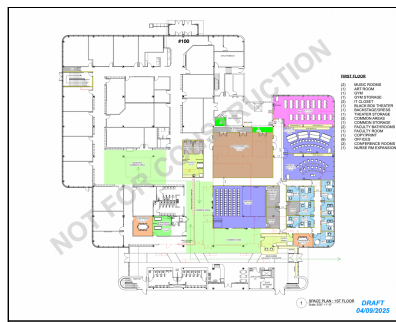


Diagram 1 illustrates Phase 1 of the project now deemed complete. In addition to the existing area designed as classrooms, Phase 1 included temporary classrooms on the second floor, bathrooms for high school students on the second floor, and a café area on the first floor.

Diagram 2 illustrates the first part of Phase 2, which includes building classrooms, offices, and a faculty room on the second floor in the currently unoccupied area. As depicted in this diagram, there will be an additional stairwell built, which will involve the existing area remaining on the first floor. This will involve a change to the earlier phasing plan by relocating approximately three Level IV classrooms and one office to newly created temporary classrooms on the first floor in the 700 B area.

Diagram 3 provides an overview of the final phase of the project. Phase 3 involves converting the area currently used as temporary classrooms into permanent classrooms and offices, as well as a media center/library on the second floor, and constructing classrooms, including a black box theatre, an art studio, two music rooms, and offices on the first floor within the former 700 B space. Below are the diagrams of the finished plan.



Although we look forward to the new landscape with great anticipation, we hold fast to the integrity of our identity. The pulse of teaching and learning propels us forward, each day serving as a reminder of the importance of our mission, inspiring every student to excel in academics, service, and life.


Thank you for your role in helping us achieve our mission.

Alicia Savage
Executive Director

School Calendar & Announcements



SSCPS WEEKLY CALENDAR OCT 01 - OCT 08

Wed 01 High School Best Buddies Fundraiser	Thu 02 Yom Kippur (No School) Special Board of Trustees Meeting via Zoom - 6:15PM - 7:15PM	Fri 03 7-12 Spirit Week - Pajama Day High School Best Buddies Fundraiser	Sat/Sun 
Mon 06 High School Best Buddies Fundraiser K-12 Raise Craze Fundraiser	Tue 07 High School Best Buddies Fundraiser SEPAC Meeting via Zoom - 6PM Development Committee Meeting - 7PM K-12 Raise Craze Fundraiser Afterschool Enrichment Program Starts	Wed 08 High School Best Buddies Fundraiser Board of Trustees Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom - 9AM Junior Parent Night via Zoom - 6PM K-12 Raise Craze Fundraiser	Upcoming Oct 10 - Early Release 12PM (Professional Development) Oct 13 - Indigenous Peoples' Day/Columbus Day (No School)

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

SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

Important Announcements

PSAT Announcement

PSAT Day - Friday, October 17th

All Juniors will be taking the Digital PSAT on Friday October 17th here at school. This is a FREE test administration to all of our students in the Class of 2027. The goal of the PSAT is to prepare students for the SAT exam they will take in April 2026.

The Digital PSAT is 2.5 hours with a 10 minute break between sections. The total test time will be 3 hours (start to finish - standards time).

For additional information on what to expect on the Digital PSAT Exam, click [here](#).

How to prepare for the digital PSAT/NMSQT

Since the digital PSAT/NMSQT mimics the digital SAT, students can go through [Khan Academy's free official digital SAT](#) test prep materials to prepare for the digital PSAT/NMSQT. Here, you'll find article and video guides, worked examples, and practice.

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.**

SSCPS Volunteer Information

We know that many parents and guardians are eager to complete volunteer requirements so that they are able to begin volunteering. Please find the list of volunteer requirements below. Links to the required documents are available on the [volunteering page on our website](#). Copies of the paperwork will be available prior to the Back-to-School Nights.

Anyone who is working with children or within our SSCPS buildings must be officially registered as a volunteer. This policy is in place to protect our students. Volunteers must register each school year. In order to register as a volunteer, you must complete all of the requirements listed below.

1. **Complete a CORI form.** This requirement must be met annually. The CORI form should be returned to the school to the attention of Pam Algera with a copy of a photo ID.
2. **Complete Identogo Fingerprinting.** This task must be completed every three years. Fingerprinting is completed off site and has a cost. SSCPS will reimburse parent/guardian volunteers for this cost.
3. **Complete Volunteer Training and agree to the Confidentiality Policy.** This requirement must be completed every three years. The training is available on the volunteering [page on our website](#).

If you have any questions please reach out to Angie Pepin at aepin@sscps.org.

From the Dean's Desk

Dear Families,

This week in Advisory, our focus is on kindness. The lesson also serves as our school's preliminary lead into the Raise Craze fundraiser, which officially kicks off on October 6.

At SSCPS, kindness isn't just something nice to do — it's part of who we are. It's what helps make us Charter. By that we mean holding onto the warm, familiar culture that makes our community special, while also maintaining the healthy boundaries children need in order to learn and grow.

School is where children practice not just academics, but the skills of living with others. That includes learning how to be kind — noticing when someone could use a hand, choosing words that build up rather than tear down, and showing respect even when it's hard. These are not "extra" lessons. They are essential learning for life, and we treat them that way.

This feels especially important right now. We all see how public conversation and interactions between people have grown harsher in recent years. Small acts of kindness are a way to push back against that trend. A thank-you note, an invitation to join in, or a simple word of encouragement can create moments of lightness and joy — things every student and every adult deserves more of.

At Charter, our culture is something we make together every day through the choices we make and the way we treat each other. When we choose kindness, we are helping to build the school we all want to belong to.

Through this week's Advisory, Level III students will be practicing kindness in concrete ways: saying thank you, inviting others in, and fixing mistakes with care. These small acts build habits that strengthen our school culture and carry forward into Raise Craze, where kindness directly connects to fundraising for our community.

How you can support at home:

- Ask your child what kindness means at school.
- Encourage them to share one act of kindness they plan to do this week.
- Notice and name small acts of kindness at home or in the neighborhood.

- Model kindness in your own interactions — children learn most by what they see.
Together, we can help students understand that kindness is powerful, practical, and part of what it means to be Charter.

Warm regards,

Walter Duncan
Dean of Students (K-6)



Upcoming School & Community Events

Upcoming SSCPS Events

K-6 Literacy Lane

South Shore Charter Public School will hold Literacy Lane, a literary themed trunk-or-treat event on Saturday, October 25th from 2-4pm! At the event, students will have the opportunity to wander from car to car to visit trunks decorated to represent a favorite book, character, or literary series. Some examples of decorated trunks can be found [here](#).

Please complete the form below to register your car and/or your family for the event. We have a limited number of parking spaces available. Families that register a car should plan to arrive on campus between 1:00-1:45pm for setup.

REGISTER NOW

LITERACY LANE | K-6

A LITERARY-THEMED TRUNK OR TREAT AT 100 LONGWATER!

Join the SSCPS community for an afternoon of celebrating literature through car trunk displays, character costumes, and more! Students will have the opportunity to wander from car to car to visit trunks decorated to represent a favorite book, character, or literary series. Students are encouraged to dress up as their favorite literary characters. The Community Service Project will also be collecting donations of nonperishable food items for local food banks!



SATURDAY
OCT 25, 2025



2:00 PM -
4:00 PM

Activities Include:

- Live Music
- Free Book Fair
- Refreshments
- Photo Booth
- Volunteer Opportunities (7-12)

This is NOT a drop-off event.



Community Events

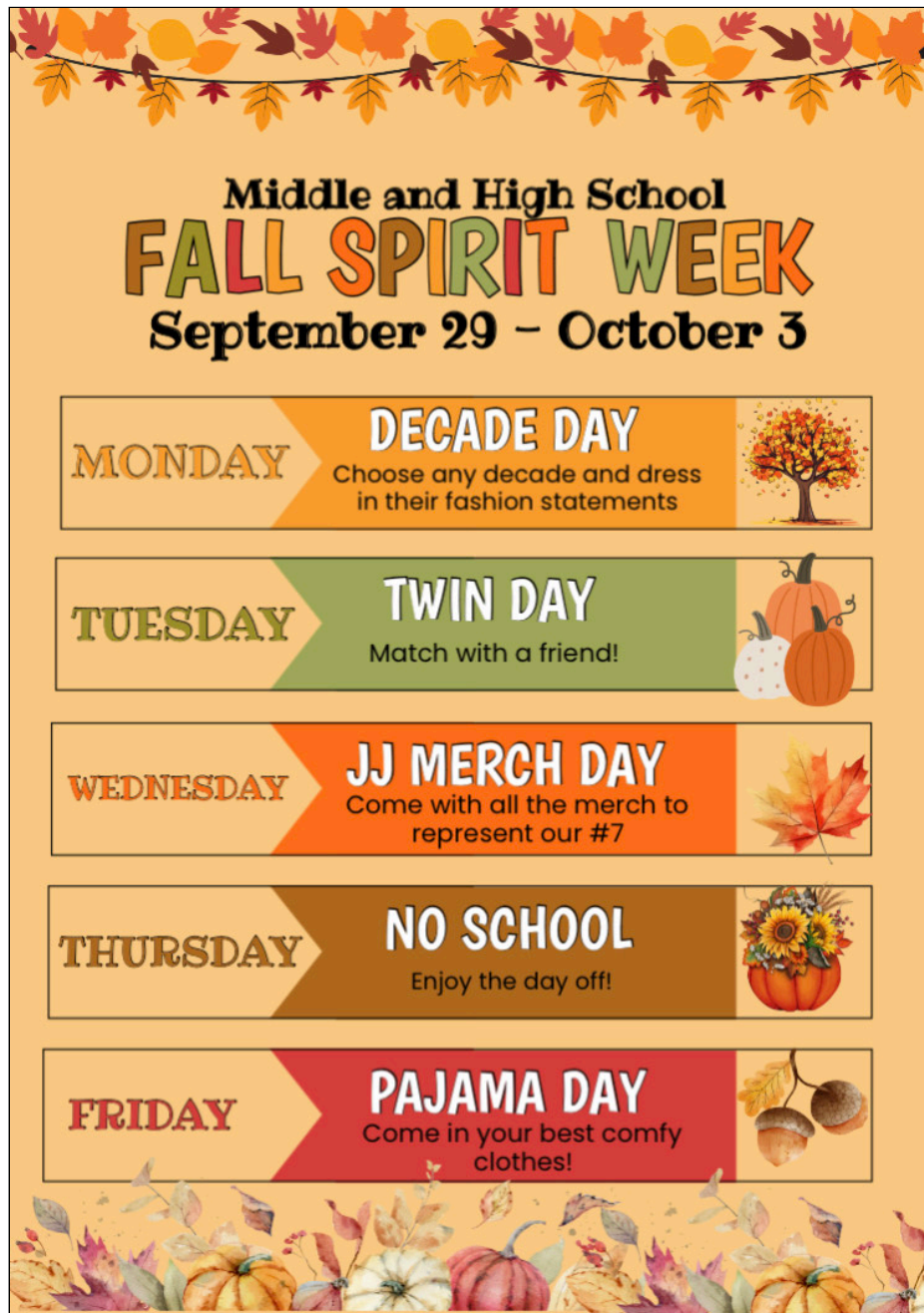
Farm Fest at Holly Hill Farm

On Saturday night, Deana Tondorf, SSCPS Grade 1 teacher, spoke at Holly Hill Farm's annual Farm Fest. Deana spoke of the ongoing relationship between SSCPS and Holly Hill Farm, as well as the importance and impact the farm has on our students at South Shore Charter. It was a wonderful event - special thanks to Deana for representing this special program at South Shore Charter! Look for more photos of our work at the farm in next week's Update.



On the Levels

SSCPS Middle & High School Spirit Week



Level III Community Service Project



Afterschool Enrichment Program

Dear Families,

Greetings from the Afterschool Enrichment Program at SSCPS! We are excited to welcome you and your student(s) to our first session of the 2025–26 school year. This program is designed to provide students with engaging, hands-on experiences that not only complement their regular curriculum but also foster creativity, growth and community.

Program Details:

- **Session Dates:** October 7 – December 18, 2025
- **Days/Times:** Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:15–4:15 PM
- **Pick-Up:** There are **no late buses**. All students will be dismissed at the front door at 4:15 PM. Please arrive promptly for pick-up so we can ensure a smooth and safe dismissal.
- **7th & 8th Grade Pick-Up:** Students in grades 7–8 will be dismissed from [700 Longwater Drive](#).

We look forward to an enriching and fun season together! Thank you for entrusting us with your child's afterschool experience. Should you have any additional questions or feedback, please feel free to reach out.

Warm regards,

Nadeen Sullivan
Enrichment and Community Service Coordinator



The poster is designed to look like a spiral-bound notebook with a blue cover and white rings at the top. It features the SSCPS logo, which is a circular emblem with a stylized flower or knot design in the center, surrounded by the text 'SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL'. To the right of the logo, the title 'SSCPS AFTERSCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM' is written in bold, black, sans-serif font. Below the title, 'SESSION I' is written in a larger, bold, black font. Underneath 'SESSION I', the text 'GRADES 3-8' is written in a smaller font. Below that, the dates 'OCTOBER 7TH - DECEMBER 18TH, 2025' and the days 'TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS' are listed. The time 'TIME: 3:15 - 4:15 PM' is also included. To the left of this text is a small illustration of a person jumping to catch a basketball. Below the session information, a red curtain graphic separates the title 'SESSION I CLUBS:' from a list of clubs. The clubs listed are: ACTIVE ZONE: SPORTS AND FITNESS, STEAM DREAM TEAM, MAGAZINE PRODUCTION CLUB, EXERCISE THROUGH MUSIC AND MOVEMENT, KICKBOXING FITNESS CLUB, YOGA AND MINDFULNESS, MATH MAVERICKS, NATURAL ARTISTS, ART CLUB, HOMEWORK ACADEMY, and CHEER AND DANCE CLUB. To the left of the club list are two circular photographs: the top one shows two students working on a project, and the bottom one shows a student smiling while working on a craft project. At the bottom left of the poster is a QR code. At the bottom right, the contact information is provided: 'CONTACT: NADEEN SULLIVAN', 'PHONE: 781-982-4202 EXT. 356.', and 'EMAIL: NSULLIVAN@SSCPS.ORG'. A blue pushpin graphic is located on the right side of the poster, near the club list.

**SSCPS AFTERSCHOOL
ENRICHMENT PROGRAM**

SESSION I

GRADES 3-8
OCTOBER 7TH - DECEMBER 18TH, 2025
TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS
TIME: 3:15 - 4:15 PM

SESSION I CLUBS:

- ACTIVE ZONE: SPORTS AND FITNESS
- STEAM DREAM TEAM
- MAGAZINE PRODUCTION CLUB
- EXERCISE THROUGH MUSIC AND MOVEMENT
- KICKBOXING FITNESS CLUB
- YOGA AND MINDFULNESS
- MATH MAVERICKS
- NATURAL ARTISTS
- ART CLUB
- HOMEWORK ACADEMY
- CHEER AND DANCE CLUB

CONTACT: NADEEN SULLIVAN
PHONE: 781-982-4202 EXT. 356.
EMAIL: NSULLIVAN@SSCPS.ORG

From the Foundation

The 2025 SSCPS Annual Road Race

Thanks for joining us!

A big thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Annual Road Race! It was another successful event thanks to your help and generosity. Special thanks to SSCPS alumna Mia Ray Strahm for capturing such great photos of the event!

#SSCPSRoadToGrow





From the Counseling Department

This year, the Counseling Team is excited to welcome two graduate-level interns who will be working under the supervision of our school counselors and school psychologists. Our interns will be involved in one-on-one, group and/or classroom student support.

Our school counselors will continue to invite students in grades K-6 to occasionally participate in "Lunch Bunch" or skill building group with peers. These groups take place during non-academic time and are created to support developmentally appropriate social skills. The groups run in 6-8 week sessions, but possibly extend beyond that in some cases. Students tend to enjoy these opportunities and look forward to them during the week.

If you are the parent or guardian of a student in Grades K-6 and would like to opt your child OUT of lunch bunch/skill building groups, please email Tanya Ames at tames@sscps.org. If you consent to your child being included in these groups, no action from you is necessary.

From the Health Office

Back to School | 2025-2026

If your student takes prescription medication during the school day, including epipens or inhalers, the medication will need to be dropped off to the school nurse by an adult. Medication cannot be sent on the bus with students. All medication needs to be accompanied by a new prescription medication form each year. Your doctor may fill out their own medication form, an Asthma Action Plan, Allergy Action Plan, or the school's

[Prescription Drug Form](#). No medication can be accepted without the proper paperwork. Parents/guardians will also need to sign the form to give permission for medication to be administered in school. Students can not bring in over the counter medication. All medication needed at school must be held in the Health Office and have the proper paperwork in order for it to be administered at school. Please check expiration dates of medication before sending it in. Medication that expires during the school year will need to be replaced before it expires. Please reach out to your school nurse if you have any questions about medications.

K-6th Grade: Jaime Kjelgaard, RN jkjelgaard@sscps.org 781-982-4202 x104
7th-12th Grade: Barbara Folan, RN bfolan@sscps.org 781-982-4201 x 182

If your student is planning on playing a school sport in the fall they must have a current physical dated within the past 13 months of the start of the sports season. Students who do not have a current physical will not be allowed to try out or participate in sports. You may submit health forms to:

K-6th: Jaime Kjelgaard, RN jkjelgaard@sscps.org 781-982-4202 x 104
7th-12th: Barbara Folan, RN bfolan@sscps.org 781-982-4202 x 182
Fax: 781-982-4201

Students entering Kindergarten, 4th, 7th, or 10th Grade must submit current physical forms and vaccine records.

The K through 6 school is a **peanut/nut free** building. Please make sure you do not send your child to school with any food that contains peanuts or nuts or the label reads "may contain nuts or traces of nuts". Caffeinated beverages are not allowed in the elementary school. Please send your student to school with a reusable water bottle as the school does not provide water bottles.

Please reach out to your school nurse and teacher if your student is sick. Students who have vomiting, diarrhea, or a fever of 100 or above need to remain out of school until the symptoms or fever have resolved for 24 hours. If your student has strep throat, conjunctivitis or any other contagious illness they will need to remain out until they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours. Students who develop any of these symptoms during the school day will need to be picked up from school promptly. Please make sure your contact information with the school is up to date. Absences can be reported to attendance@sscps.org.

Level I students should have a full change of weather appropriate clothes that is kept at school.

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: Raise Craze Fundraiser

Save the date for this year's Raise Craze fundraiser held by the SSCPS Parents Association from **October 6th - October 23rd this year!**

Raise Craze is a unique way for us to raise money for our school while making an impact in our community. During this fundraiser, students ask friends and family for donations via the online Raise Craze platform while paying it forward serving others. What a great way for us to teach our students the importance of kindness and gratitude while raising much needed funds. Students will spend time serving, not selling!

Watch the video below for more info on how this fundraiser works, and keep your eyes out for more details coming soon!



SAVE THE DATE!



The Kindness Fundraiser Is Headed Our Way!

October 6 - October 23 ♥ More Details Coming Soon!

What Is Raise Craze? Raise Craze is an online platform enabling students to set up secure, custom websites where they request donations via email, text, or social. During the fundraiser, students pay it forward by completing Acts of Kindness for others. Spend time serving not selling!

Why Is It Important? We want to continue to make our school a better place by providing helpful and enriching benefits to our students & families, but that takes money! We've chosen Raise Craze to help with these needs because it keeps kindness and inclusivity at the center, while allowing our school to keep 90% PLUS!

SEPAC Announcements


SOUTH SHORE CHARTER SCHOOL


SEPAC ANNOUNCEMENT

**INTRODUCING:
CHRISTEN BRINE AIELLO**

Hello SSCPS Families,

My name is **Christen Brine Aiello**, and I am honored to serve as the new Chair of the **Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)**.

I am a proud parent of two wonderful children who currently attend the South Shore Charter Public School, one in 6th grade and one in 3rd grade. As both a parent and an advocate, I am deeply committed to supporting families, sharing resources, and fostering collaboration between parents, teachers, and administrators to ensure all students thrive.

What is SEPAC?

The Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is a group of parents and guardians who work together as:

- A guide and a voice offering representation and support to our neurodiverse community
- Share experiences, resources, and information
- Build strong partnerships with school staff and administration
- Ensure every child has the tools they need for success

Join Us!

We welcome all parents, guardians, and caregivers—whether your child currently receives services under an IEP or 504 or are looking for more information on receiving support for your child. Stay tuned for upcoming SEPAC events.

iii **Upcoming SEPAC Meeting:** Basic Rights with Matt Tandorf, Director of Learning Services: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 6:00pm

• **Location:** Zoom link will be provided the day of the meeting

■ **Contact:** sepac@sscps.org

South Shore Charter
Public School

SEPAC ANNOUNCEMENT

Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2025 | 6:00 p.m.

Join us for our first SEPAC meeting, hosted
by **Matt Tandorf, Director of Learning
Services.**

Learn about your **BASIC RIGHTS** regarding
your child's IEP or 504

Zoom Link will be shared via email.
RSVP: SEPAC@SSCPS.org

Important Links

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

School Documents:

1. [**Afterschool Enrichment Program**](#) [**2025-2026 School Calendar**](#)
 2. [**DESE Student Attendance Letter**](#) [**Student and Family Handbook**](#)
Translated:([**Arabic**](#), [**Cape Verdean**](#), [**Creole**](#), [**Chinese**](#), [**Haitian**](#), [**SSCPS By-Laws**](#)
[**Creole**](#), [**Portuguese**](#), [**Spanish**](#), [**Vi**](#), [**etnamese**](#)) [**2024-2025 SSCPS Annual Report**](#)
 3. [**Back-to-School Information**](#)
 4. [**Food Services**](#)
 5. [**Health Office**](#)
 6. [**Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance**](#)
 7. [**Community Service**](#)
 8. [**Parents Association Website**](#)
-



Copyright (C) 2025 South Shore Charter Public School. All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)