



Weekly Update | September 17, 2025

VOL. 9, ISSUE 3

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A Message from Walter

Dear Families,

I'd like to take a moment to reintroduce myself. My name is Walter Duncan, and I serve as the Dean of Students for Grades K–6. One of my primary responsibilities is helping to shape and strengthen the culture of Charter, especially as we continue to grow and expand.

What makes Charter unique is the balance we hold: a warm, inviting culture where students feel welcome and cared for, alongside clear boundaries, structures, and routines that give them the security they need to thrive.

As children grow, so much about them is changing—their bodies, their thinking, and their sense of who they are. In the middle of all that change, safety is often found in the certainty of school routines and in clear expectations for behavior.

We see our work in building this culture as a true partnership with you, our families. Together, we can support your children as they discover who they are, what excites them, and what they hope to contribute to the world as adults.

Thank you for being our partners in this important work.

Warm regards,

Walter Duncan
Dean of Students K-6

From the Dean's Desk

Dear Families,

This week in Level III (Grades 5–6) advisory, we are focusing on the theme of Effort: Try, Adjust, Try Again. Our 6th graders completed the lesson earlier this week, and our 5th graders will participate this Friday, September 19th.

The goal of this lesson is to help students see that effort isn't about getting things right the first time. It's about planning, trying, checking, and adjusting. In advisory, students practiced this through group puzzles and reflection, learning that small changes often lead to big progress.

We'd love your support in reinforcing this at home. Here are a few simple ways you can help:

- Ask your child: "Can you tell me about a time this week when you had to try again after adjusting something?"

- Share one of your own examples when you didn't succeed the first time, but a small change helped you improve.

- Encourage language like: "What's your plan?" "Did it work?" "What's one thing you could adjust?"

By working together, we can help students see that mistakes are part of learning, and that persistence is what leads to growth.

Thank you for being our partners in this important work.

Warmly,

Walter Duncan
Dean of Students (K–6)



Meet the Instructional Leadership Team

This is Part 3 of a series "Meet the Instructional Leadership Team." Over the next few weeks, you will meet our school leaders and read about their roles at South Shore

Charter. In today's Update, we invite you to read about our Teaching, Learning, and Curriculum staff.

Teaching, Learning, and Curriculum

Angie Pepin | Director of Teaching and Learning

This year, Angie has accepted a new role at SSCPS as Director of Teaching and Learning. In this new role, Angie will continue her work with the Curriculum Coordinators to provide instructional direction including vertical and horizontal alignment in our K-12 curriculum. Angie earned her Master of Arts Degree in Teaching from Pace University, her CAGS in Educational Leadership from Bridgewater State University, and her Bachelor of Arts in History and Psychology from Columbia University.



Laurie Hogan | ELL Program Coordinator (K-12)

Laurie has worked at SSCPS since 2011, first as a Long Term Sub Elementary Teacher, then as an ESL Teacher. As the English Language Education (ELE) program has grown, so have her responsibilities, and she now continues her role as our ELL Program Coordinator. Laurie oversees ELL placement, testing, reporting, and Title III tutoring at SSCPS, and has taken the lead in transforming the EL Summer Program. Prior to her time at SSCPS, Laurie held professional positions in Higher Ed Administration at Boston College Law School and Harvard University. She earned her Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration from Boston College and completed graduate coursework in Teaching English as a Second Language at Cambridge College. She is a licensed K-12 ESL Teacher, avid traveller, artist, and mom.



Jamie Allen | Science & Technology Curriculum Coordinator (K-12)

Jamie has been at SSCPS since 2011, working as both a Science Curriculum Coordinator and a High School Science Teacher, and she will continue those roles this year. She earned her CAGS and her Masters Degree from American International College as well as her Bachelor of Science from Eckerd College. Jamie is also currently pursuing her doctorate in Educational Leadership and Supervision and is due to finish in Fall of 2026. Jamie has extensive experience outside of SSCPS as well, including serving in many teaching roles in schools

around the South Shore, working through the TNTP fellowship program *TeachPinellas* in Florida, working in Marine Science, and doing outreach education and grant writing for a nonprofit and aquarium.



Donika Darabus | Mathematics Curriculum Coordinator (K-12)

Prior to her new position as Math Curriculum Coordinator & Teacher, Donika has been a High School Math Teacher at SSCPS for 14 years and has taught every high school math class that we offer. She was also the High School Level Coordinator for 7 years, and currently teaches AP Statistics as well. Donika earned her Masters Degree in Secondary Mathematics Education from UMass Boston and her BS in Civil Engineering from UMass Amherst in 2010, and she has held numerous other teaching roles before her time at SSCPS.



Haley Edmondson | World Languages Curriculum Coordinator (K-12)

Haley has worked at South Shore Charter as a K-12 World Languages Curriculum Coordinator and Spanish Teacher since 2008. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from Saint Anselm College in 2006, graduated with a Masters Degree in Education from Fitchburg State University in 2011, and earned her Professional Certificate in the Study of World Language Methodology and Pedagogy in 2020. Prior to her current role, Haley has held various leadership positions at SSCPS throughout the years, such as Level IV Coordinator and Spanish Department Head, and she has mentored and supervised countless teachers as well.



Kristen Gale | Literacy Coordinator and Specialist (K-4)

Kristen has worked at SSCPS since 2013 and will continue her role as Literacy Coordinator and Specialist for Grades K-4 this year. She earned her BS in Elementary Education from Framingham State University and her Master of Special Education for

Elementary and Early Childhood Teachers from Bridgewater State University. Kristen most recently earned her Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in Reading Education from Boston University in 2025, and she has extensive teaching experience both inside and outside of SSCPS.



Kristen Mullin-Connolly | Humanities Curriculum Coordinator & Teacher

Kristen has worked at SSCPS since 2017, serving as both a History Curriculum Coordinator and Teacher. She earned her Master of Education from Fitchburg State University in 2013 as well as her Bachelor of Arts in English from Boston College, and has extensive teaching, tutoring, and curriculum coordinating experience at various schools around Massachusetts.



School Calendar & Announcements

SSCPS WEEKLY CALENDAR

SEPT 17 - SEPT 24

Wed 17

Board of Trustees Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom - 9AM

Campus Update Information Meeting for Families via Zoom - 6PM

Thu 18

Back to School Night Grades 7-12 at 700 Longwater - 6-7:30PM

Grade 8 Washington DC Trip Info Session - 7:30PM

Fri 19

Sat/Sun

Mon 22

Tue 23

Board of Trustees Committee Meetings via Zoom - 5-7:15PM

Wed 24

Upcoming

Sept 25 - ELPAC Meeting via Zoom

Sept 25 - Board of Trustees Meeting

Sept 27 - SSCPS Annual Road Race

Oct 2 - No School (Yom Kippur)

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

SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

Important Announcements

Campus Update Information Meeting for Families

We will be providing another informational meeting regarding construction updates **tonight, September 17 at 6:00 pm via Zoom**. The link may be found below. Informational meetings shall continue throughout the school year. All South Shore Charter families are invited to attend. We welcome your questions and comments which you may submit using [this link](#).

[MEETING LINK](#)

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 apepin@sscps.org.

Upcoming School & Community Events

Upcoming SSCPS Events

Back to School Night | Grades 7-12



BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHTS 2025

THURS 18

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT GRADES 7-12

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
6:00PM - 7:30PM
700 LONGWATER DRIVE

WWW.SSCPS.ORG

Family Information Session | Grade 8 Washington, DC Trip

Grade 8 families, along with Grade 7 families interested in planning ahead, are invited to attend an information session about the **optional Grade 8 Washington, DC trip** on **Thursday, September 18 at 7:30 p.m. (following Back to School Night)** in the **Level IV Great Room at 700 Longwater Drive**.

The session will include a presentation and Q&A with a representative from **Grand Classroom**, our travel partner. A school nurse will also provide information about medication form requirements. Use the button below to see the full information session flyer for more details!

INFO SESSION FLYER

On the Levels

Level IV Newsletter

Dear Middle School Families,

As we welcome a new year, I'm excited to share the latest updates, highlights, and upcoming events from our middle school community. A Level IV newsletter is a chance to celebrate our students' accomplishments, keep you informed about important dates, and provide a window into the wonderful things happening in our school buildings every day.

Thank you for your continued support. We're excited to make this a great year. Please take a moment to look through the first newsletter of the year from Level IV, linked to the button below.

Thank you!

JP Marcellus
Middle School Principal, Grades 7 & 8

LEVEL IV NEWSLETTER

Arts & Music

Music Program Sign Ups

Use the button below to sign up for an after school music program! All information can be found on each sign up form. Please contact tleonard@sscps.org or pbarrett@sscps.org for more information.

CHOIR SIGN UP

INSTRUMENT SIGN UP



Level 2 Choir- Before School
When: Wednesday's 7:30-8:00 am
Start Date: September 11, 2025

Level 3 Choir- After School
When: Thursday's 3:00-4:00 pm
Start Date September 12, 2025

Questions: Email Paul Barrett - pbarrett@sscps.org

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

INSTRUMENT SIGN UP



BEGINNING/ADV. BEGINNING STRINGS	MON 3-4:30PM
BEGINNING BAND	TUES 3-4:30PM
CONCERT BAND	THURS 3-4:30PM
CONCERT STRINGS	WED & FRI 3-4:30PM

CONTACT TLEONARD@SSCPS.ORG FOR MORE INFO

Afterschool Enrichment Program

Session I Deadline: Friday, September 19th

Sign up for Afterschool Enrichment before registration closes this Friday!

Enrichment will run for 10 weeks. The first session is from October 7th - December 18th 2025. Please review our Club Descriptions [here](#) and complete the Registration form [here](#) using FamilyID. **Registration closes on September 19th 2025.** We look forward to another wonderful session of learning, adventure and fun! Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Warm regards,

Nadeen Sullivan
Afterschool Enrichment Program Coordinator



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
- CHEMICAL CREATIONS CLUB
- STEAM DREAM TEAM
- MAGAZINE PRODUCTION CLUB
- EXERCISE THROUGH MUSIC AND MOVEMENT
- KICKBOXING FITNESS CLUB
- YOGA AND MINDFULNESS
- MATH MAVERICKS
- NATURAL ARTISTS
- ART CLUB
- HOMEWORK CLUB
- 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

At this year's road race, we're celebrating our anticipated enrollment expansion at SSCPS this fall! This is an exciting opportunity to allow more students to become a part of our diverse, inclusive community, and there's no better way to celebrate than by coming together as a community for this beloved event - we hope to see you there!


There are lots of ways you can support our school and contribute to this event, from running the race, to volunteering your time, to sponsoring the race or a student runner, and more. Visit our website to learn more about the race and how you can be a part of our celebration and help us pave the **#SSCPSRoadToGrow!**

RUN THE RACE

SPONSOR THE RACE

ROAD RACE INFO

Thank you to our 2025 Road Race sponsors!

BRONZE SPONSORS	SILVER SPONSORS	GOLD SPONSORS	PLATINUM SPONSORS	PEARL SPONSORS	DIAMOND SPONSORS
 	 			 	
FRIEND SPONSORS					
My Gym Norwell Shake Shack Burton's Grill Playa Bowls Fruit Center Marketplace Starland Sportsplex & Fun Park					

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

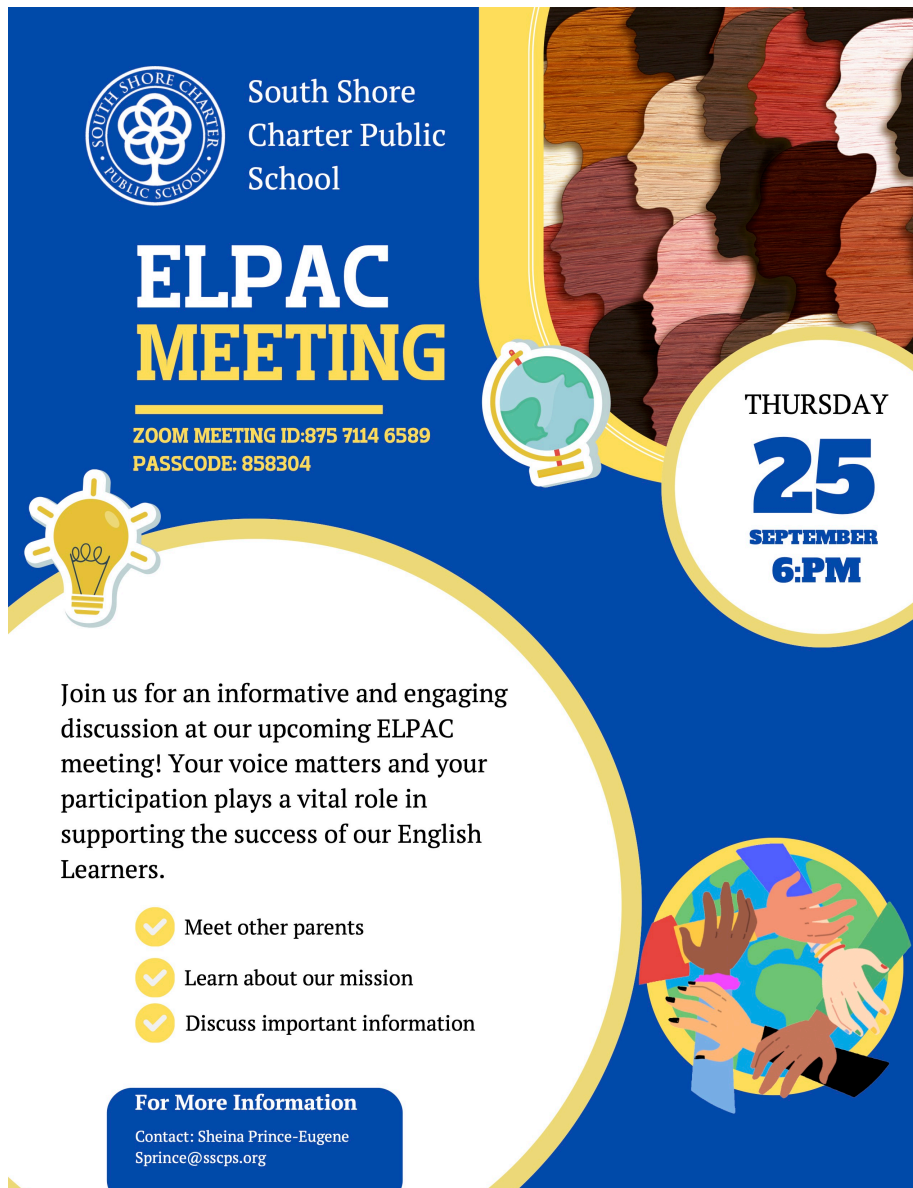
Greetings Parents/Guardians,


We invite you to join us for our upcoming English Learner Parent Advisory Council (ELPAC) meeting! This is a great opportunity to connect, stay informed, and help shape the educational experience of our English Learner students.

We'll be sharing important updates, upcoming events, and resources for multilingual families, plus, we want to hear from you! Your input is essential in supporting the success of our students.

Please see the below flyer for meeting details.


We hope to see you there!



 South Shore
Charter Public
School

ELPAC MEETING



ZOOM MEETING ID: 875 7114 6589
PASSCODE: 858304






THURSDAY
25
SEPTEMBER
6:PM

Join us for an informative and engaging discussion at our upcoming ELPAC meeting! Your voice matters and your participation plays a vital role in supporting the success of our English Learners.

-  Meet other parents
-  Learn about our mission
-  Discuss important information

For More Information
Contact: Sheina Prince-Eugene
Sprince@sscps.org



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](#)

School Documents:

[2025-2026 School Calendar](#)

[Student and Family Handbook](#)

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

5. [Health Office](#)
 6. [Massachusetts Department of
Transitional Assistance](#)
 7. [Community Service](#)
 8. [Parents Association Website](#)
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