



Weekly Update | September 3, 2025

VOL. 9, ISSUE 1

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A Message from Matt

Welcome back!

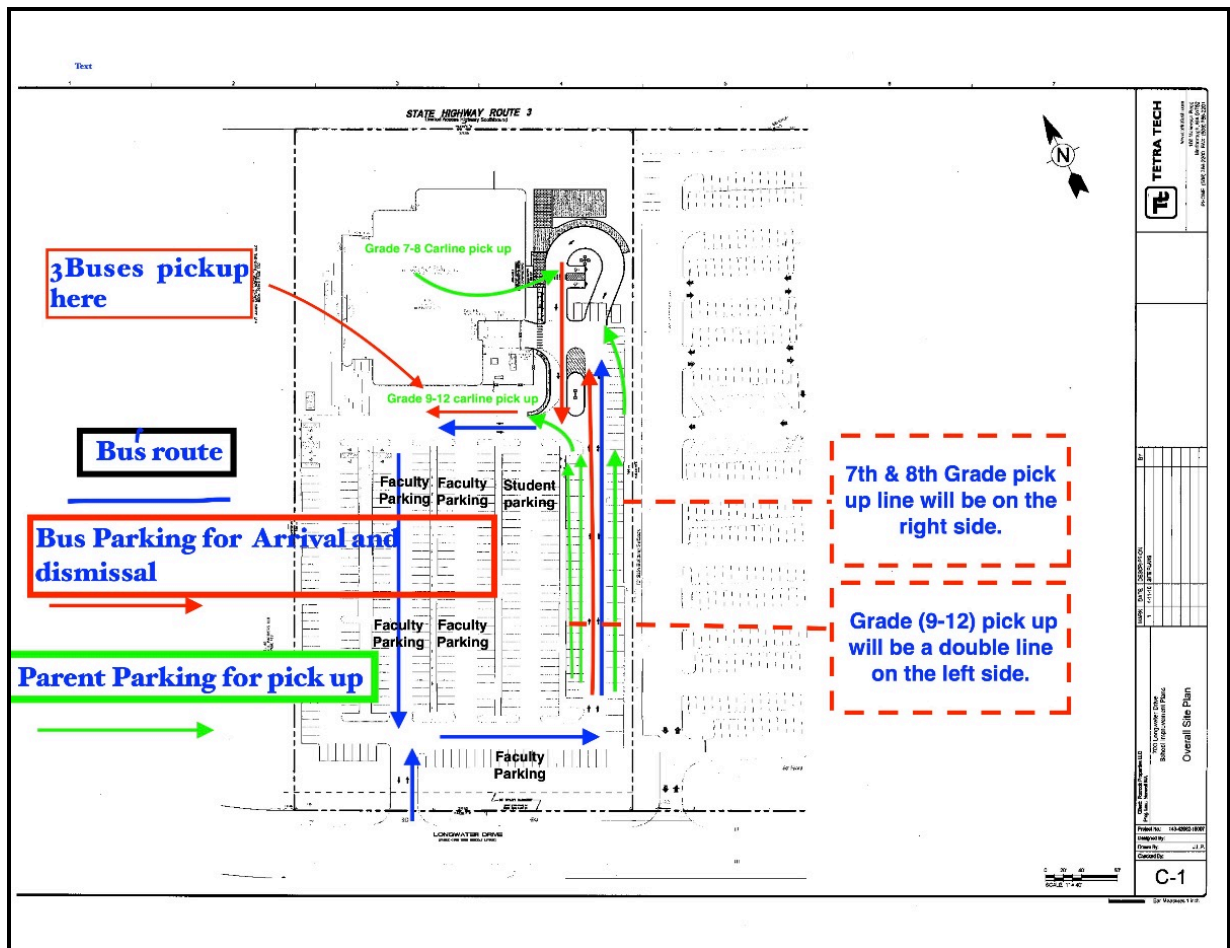
The beginning of the school year always presents unique challenges, especially when it comes to transportation. We want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding as we work through numerous transportation requests and route adjustments.

Our buses are still learning their routes and are working diligently to establish consistent departure and arrival times. To help ensure a smooth, safe, and efficient transportation process, we kindly ask families to follow a few important guidelines:

- **Bus Route Changes:** Please send all requests for bus route changes to transportation@sscps.org. Each request will be reviewed and changes will be made if possible. Students must continue to ride their assigned bus and route, or utilize car pick up, until they receive official confirmation of a change.
- **Afternoon Bus Changes:** If your child will not be taking their scheduled bus home in the afternoon, please notify us by emailing transportation@sscps.org.
- **Drop-Off and Pick-Up:** For the safety of all students, **please do not** drop off or pick up your child in the adjacent parking lots or in the bus pull-out area in front of 100 Longwater Drive.

We truly appreciate your cooperation and continued support as we work together to provide safe and reliable transportation for all students.

Matthew Tondorf
Director of Student Services



New Staff Updates for 2025-2026

Please join us in welcoming new faculty and staff!

Levels I, II, and III

Elizabeth Lynch | Grade 3 Teacher

Elizabeth brings a wealth of experience to South Shore Charter. Most recently, Elizabeth served as a substitute teacher and Enrichment Coordinator for Hanover Public Schools. In other roles, Elizabeth served as Director of Communications for NVNA and Hospice, Internal Communications Manager for Ahold USA, and Donor Relations Manager for South Shore Hospital. Elizabeth holds a Bachelor of Arts from American University, where she majored in Political Science, and a Master in Teaching from Fitchburg State University.

Javoni Smith | Paraprofessional

Javoni has served in numerous classroom roles prior to arriving at South Shore Charter. Most recently, Javoni has served as a paraprofessional at the Raymond Elementary School. Javoni has also worked as a teacher assistant at the Old Colony YMCA. We look forward to welcoming Javoni to our elementary classrooms.

Level IV

Angela Laenen | Level IV Math & Science Teacher

Angela comes to South Shore Charter with a wealth of experience in math and science. Most recently, Angela served as a Teacher Resident at TechBoston Academy Pilot School, where she taught Pre-Algebra in an inclusive classroom. Angela was a volunteer teacher at Newman Catholic Center and an assistant teacher at Just Right Childcare. At the university level, Angela served as a Teaching Assistant and a Research Assistant at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Angela holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and minors in Education and Psychology. Angela is currently pursuing her Master of Education at the Teach Next Year Teaching Residency Program at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Meet the Instructional Leadership Team

This is Part 2 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 Learning Services Department.

Learning Services Department

Matthew Tondorf | Director of Student Services

Matt has expanded his responsibilities from Director of Learning Services to Director of Student Services. In this new role, he will continue to lead Learning Services while also overseeing the school's growing transportation program and a range of additional student support initiatives. Matt earned his Masters degree in Special Education from UMass Boston. Before joining SSCPS in 2011, he worked in residential treatment and held roles as a High School Special Education teacher and Special Education Director within Boston Public Schools. He brings extensive experience in advancing inclusive education and in the design, implementation, and evaluation of special education programs.



Mary Carter | Director of Guidance

Mary has been a dedicated pillar of the SSCPS Guidance Department since 2001, focusing on many different facets such as academic and college counseling, AP coordinating, overseeing the Dual Enrollment Program, managing exit standards and graduation requirements, and more. She has also helped to build many of the programs we now offer, such as On-the-Spot Admissions, college tours, our SSCPS Mini College Fair, and our Alumni College Fair, along with supporting AP, SAT, and PSAT testing. Mary earned her B.A. from Stonehill College and an M.Ed. from UMass–Boston, and holds a Professional Certification in Guidance Counseling (grades 5–12). Mary is also a proud mom of three sons, a wife, and the owner of a very energetic lab named Lucy. She is also a soccer mom, an avid runner, reader, traveler, and beach lover.



Michelle Gallagher | Learning Services Coordinator (7-12)

Michelle has worked at SSCPS since 2008, working in various roles in our special education department. She brings her wealth of knowledge and experience to her new role as Learning Services Coordinator for Grades 7-12. Michelle earned her undergraduate degree in Psychology from Bridgewater State University, studied Special Education at Eastern Nazarene College, and completed graduate work in Transition (School-to-Work) and Assistive Technology at Bowling Green State University. She is a licensed Special Education Teacher and a licensed Special Education Administrator at all levels.



Elyse Kay | Learning Services Coordinator (K-6)

Elyse steps into her new role as Learning Services Coordinator after extensive experience at SSCPS in various positions, from Special Education Teacher, Trainer, and Paraprofessional, to MCAS Math Tutor and Interim Assistant Principal for Grades 5-8. Elyse also established the SSCPS Best Buddies K-8 chapter and has been serving as Lead Advisor since the program's inception. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education from the University of Hartford and her Master of Education in Special Needs from Eastern Nazarene College.



Sheina Prince-Eugene | Civil Rights Coordinator

Sheina has been a dedicated member of SSCPS since 2014, serving as a longtime Reading Teacher and previously as Assistant Principal for grades K-4. She plays a key role in leading family outreach initiatives and organizing cultural events that enrich

our school community, such as the beloved Multicultural Food Night, African Diaspora Night, and more. Sheina also designs programs and curriculum activities that support the educational development of our youngest learners. She holds a Master of Education in Elementary Education from the Charles Sposato Graduate School of Education.



School Calendar & Announcements

SSCPS WEEKLY CALENDAR

SEPT 03 - SEPT 10

Wed 03 Board of Trustees Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom - 9AM	Thu 04 	Fri 05 	Sat/Sun
Mon 08 	Tue 09 	Wed 10 Senior Parent Night via Zoom - 6PM	Upcoming Sept 11 - Back to School Night (Grades 1-4) Sept 12 - SSCPS College Fair Sept 12 - Professional Development Early Release - 12PM

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

SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

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.

Upcoming School & Community Events

Upcoming SSCPS Events

Senior Parent Night & Back to School Nights

SSCPS

OPEN HOUSES

2025**WED
10****SENIOR PARENT NIGHT**

6:00PM via Zoom

**BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT
GRADES 1-4**

6-7PM | 100 LONGWATER CIRCLE

**THURS
11****TUES
16****BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT
GRADES 5-6**

6-7:30PM | 100 LONGWATER CIRCLE

**BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT
GRADES 7-12**

SAVE THE DATE!

**THURS
18****WWW.SSCPS.ORG**

Community Events & Programs

South Shore YMCA After School Program

In need of some after school care? Send your child to the South Shore YMCA's Laura's Center for the Arts After School Program, where our mission "The Better You Belongs Here" applies to all the children in our care. At the SSYMCA's After School Programs, we strive to provide your child with the love and care they deserve while also providing fun and exciting opportunities for enrichment and socio-emotional learning. Our program is located at the Emilson Branch of the SSYMCA in Hanover, where our kids get the opportunity to utilize many of the excellent resources, state of the art facilities, and amenities the Y has to offer, all while being guided by our dedicated, vetted, experienced, and well-trained staff. Transportation directly to our facility and program is provided at no additional cost to you by SSCPS's school busses.

This year we are excited to introduce a number of new enrichment programs and curriculums specifically designed for the different age groups our program supports (K-8). From STEAM learning and physical fitness to arts programming and real-world skill building, your child will have the chance to access these unique and fun learning opportunities in a safe and supportive environment.

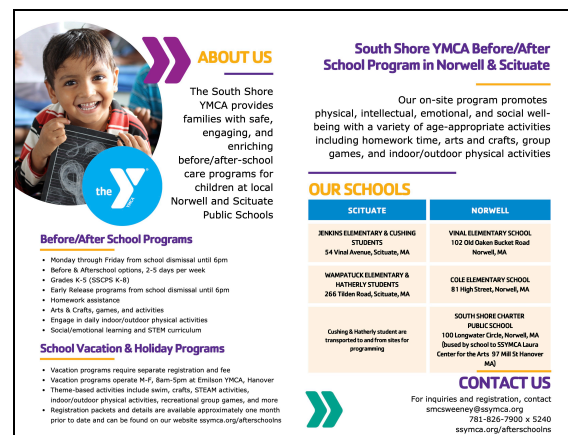
If you're interested in learning more about our program, or in registering your child for the 2025-2026 school year, please reach out to Samantha Blumberg-McSweeney, Program Director, at smcsweeney@ssymca.org or by phone at 781-826-7900 ext. 5240.



the y
SOUTH SHORE YMCA
BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

CONTACT US >>>
781-826-7900 x5240
smcsweeney@ssymca.org
ssymca.org/afterschoolins

SOUTH SHORE YMCA
The Better You Belongs Here



ABOUT US
The South Shore YMCA provides families with safe, engaging, and enriching before/after-school care programs for children at local Norwell and Scituate Public Schools

South Shore YMCA Before/After School Program in Norwell & Scituate
Our on-site program promotes physical, intellectual, emotional, and social well-being with a variety of age-appropriate activities including homework time, arts and crafts, group games, and indoor/outdoor physical activities

OUR SCHOOLS

SCITUATE	NORWELL
JENKINS ELEMENTARY & CLISHING STUDENTS 54 Vinyl Avenue, Scituate, MA	VINAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 102 Old Oakum Bucket Road, Norwell, MA
WAMPATUCK ELEMENTARY & HATCHFIELD STUDENTS 266 Tilden Road, Scituate, MA	COLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 81 High Street, Norwell, MA
Cooking & history student are transported to and from sites for programming	SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL 100 Longwater Circle, Norwell, MA Bocality school is SSYMCA Laura Center for the Arts 97 Mill St Hanover MA

Before/After School Programs

- Monday through Friday from school dismissal until 6pm
- Before & After-school options, 2-5 days per week
- Grades K-5 (SSCPS K-5)
- Early Release programs from school dismissal until 6pm
- Homework assistance
- Arts & Crafts, games, and activities
- Engage in daily indoor/outdoor physical activities
- Socio-emotional learning and STEAM curriculum

School Vacation & Holiday Programs

- Vacation programs require separate registration and fee
- Vacation programs operate M-F, 9am-5pm at Emilson YMCA, Hanover
- Theme-based activities include swim, crafts, STEAM activities, indoor/outdoor physical activities, recreational group games, and more
- Registration packets and details are available approximately one month prior to date and can be found on our website ssymca.org/afterschoolins

CONTACT US
For inquiries and registration, contact smcsweeney@ssymca.org
781-826-7900 x 5240
ssymca.org/afterschoolins

Spanish PDF

Haitian-Creole PDF

From the Dean's Desk

Dear SSCPS Families,

Each week I'll be sharing a short update about the life skills we're focusing on in our K–6 community. These skills are an important part of helping our students grow—not just academically, but as kind, respectful, and responsible members of our school.

Next week in Level III (Grades 5–6), we'll be using Advisory time to build a deeper understanding of **respect**—what it means to show respect to ourselves, to others, and to our community. For us, respect looks like:

- Listening when someone else is speaking
- Taking care of our words and tone
- Treating others' ideas and belongings with care
- Owning our choices, even when we make mistakes

I'd love your support at home by making time to talk with your child about respect and why it matters. Here's a simple "cheat sheet" of questions you can use to start the conversation:

- How do you feel when someone shows you respect?
- What does self-respect look like for you?
- Can you think of one way you showed respect at school this week?
- What's one way you can show respect at home?

When we work together—school and families side by side—your child has the best chance to thrive.

Finally, a gentle reminder: **students must arrive by 8:15am to be marked on time.** Students arriving after 8:15 will be marked tardy. While it may seem like a small detail, consistent and timely arrival is an important part of creating a strong, dependable school culture for every student.

Thank you for your support, and I look forward to continuing this journey with you and your children.

Warmly,

Walter Duncan
Dean of Students (K–6)



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



SSCPS Choir 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: Thursdays 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](mailto:tleonard@sscps.org) FOR MORE INFO

Afterschool Enrichment Program

Session I Coming Soon

Dear Families,

We are pleased to announce that registration for Session One of our Afterschool Enrichment Program is now open. 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](mailto: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
 				 CATHERINE LEAHY BRINE EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANTS cfbrine.com 781-331-8826	
FRIEND SPONSORS					
My Gym Norwell Shake Shack Burton's Grill Playa Bowls Fruit Center Marketplace Starland Sportsplex & Fun Park					

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

Parents Association, Special Education Parent Advisory Council, & English Learner Parent Advisory Council

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!



ZOOM LINK



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](#).

School Documents:

[2025-2026 School Calendar](#)

[Student and Family Handbook](#)

[Arrival and Dismissal Procedures](#)

[SSCPS By-Laws](#)

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](#)



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