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Weekly Update | November 4, 2026

VOL. 11, ISSUE 1

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A Message from Laurie

Empowering Multilingual Learners: An Update from the English Learner Education Department

At South Shore Charter Public School, our community's linguistic diversity is one of our greatest strengths. Across our campuses, nearly half of our families—48%—speak a language other than English at home. In total, our vibrant community encompasses 50 unique languages, with Haitian French Creole, Spanish, Igbo, Arabic, Portuguese, Yoruba, Vietnamese, Chinese, Tamil, and Telugu among our top 10.

This rich cultural fabric reflects remarkable growth over the past decade and a half. While overall school enrollment has more than doubled since 2011, our English Learner (EL) population has expanded dramatically—more than 50-fold — to nearly 10% of our total student body. To support this thriving community, the English Learner Education (ELE) department works tirelessly behind the scenes and in the classroom to ensure every student has the language tools and academic scaffolding needed to succeed.

Core Responsibilities: Supporting English Learners Every Step of the Journey

For those of you unfamiliar with our department, the ELE department's responsibilities include:

1. Identification, Screening & Placement of English Learners

Our team works closely with the Admissions Office during intake for all newly enrolled students to identify English Learners. Beginning with the initial Language Survey, we administer the state-mandated intake assessment (WIDA Screener) to evaluate students' listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Based on these results, we notify parents of their child's placement in our program and work as a team to develop a service schedule based on their needs.

2. Curriculum, Instruction & Academic Support

Our dedicated English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers deliver targeted English Language Development (ELD) instruction tailored to varying proficiency levels. Beyond language classes, ELE educators collaborate closely with general education teachers to scaffold content in math, science, social studies, and ELA, ensuring all students can access grade-level standards. We also design tailored interventions for newcomers and specialized groups, including Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education (SLIFE) and dually identified EL students who receive special education services.

3. Assessment, Monitoring & Compliance

To track progress, our department coordinates and administers the annual ACCESS for ELLs English language proficiency assessment and creates individualized Student Success Plans when students need extra support. Our commitment doesn't end when a student achieves proficiency; we actively monitor Former English Learners (FELs) for four years after reclassification to support long-term academic success. Our team also maintains full compliance with federal and state mandates, Title III grant requirements, and state audits.

4. The ELE Summer Experience Program

Learning for our ELs in grades 1 through 5 continues into the summer months through our ELE Summer Experience Program. Our team handles operations, enrollment, and parent outreach and designs thematic programming aligned with Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and WIDA ELD Standards. Through hands-on, experiential learning opportunities, our summer students build background knowledge and academic vocabulary in core subjects, deepen friendships, and stay engaged.

Meet Our ESL Team

Today, our department directly serves 98 English Learners across all grade levels while actively monitoring the academic progress of 95 former ELs who have successfully reclassified after passing the ACCESS test.

This vital work is led by our devoted team of ESL teachers:

- **At 100:** Nicole Alvey, Jessica Pemberton, and Samantha Kiesel
- **At 700:** Katie Sughrue and Steve Simon

Whether developing core language skills, supporting content mastery, or celebrating language milestones, our teachers are dedicated to fostering an inclusive, welcoming environment where every multilingual student can excel.

If you have questions about the English Learner Education department, our programming, or the services we provide to your child, please don't hesitate to reach out to any member of our team.

Laurie Hogan
English Learner Education Department Coordinator
781-982-4202 (x162) / lhogan@sscps.org





From the Dean’s Desk

🐾🎉 LET'S HEAR IT FOR OUR FIRST ULTIMATE JAGUARS! 🎉🐾

Dear K-5 families,

Last Friday, October 30th, was a special day at SSCPS! We announced our very first Ultimate Jaguar Award winners over the school loudspeaker, and our students cheered them on!

The Ultimate Jaguar Award celebrates students who lead by example and demonstrate our three Jaguar pillars:

💪 **Courage** — Doing what is right, even when it's hard.
⭐ **Responsibility** — Taking ownership of our choices and actions.
❤️ **Respect** — Treating others with kindness, care, and understanding.

And now, a HUGE Jaguar congratulations to our first honorees!

🐾 Kindergarten: Imaan Tahsir
🐾 1st Grade: Princess Alina Pirosca
🐾 2nd Grade: Arielle Posumath
🐾 3rd Grade: Soraya McMahon
🐾 4th Grade: Avi Katzenstien
🐾 5th Grade: Khawla Ali

Our students already gave them a roaring round of applause. Now it's our families' turn! Please join us in celebrating these outstanding Jaguars!

And remember, there are many ways to put our Jaguar values into action! Participating in Raise Craze, which runs through November 15th, is one wonderful opportunity to practice kindness, show respect, and make a positive difference in our community.

Keep roaring with pride, Jaguars! 🐾

Warmly,

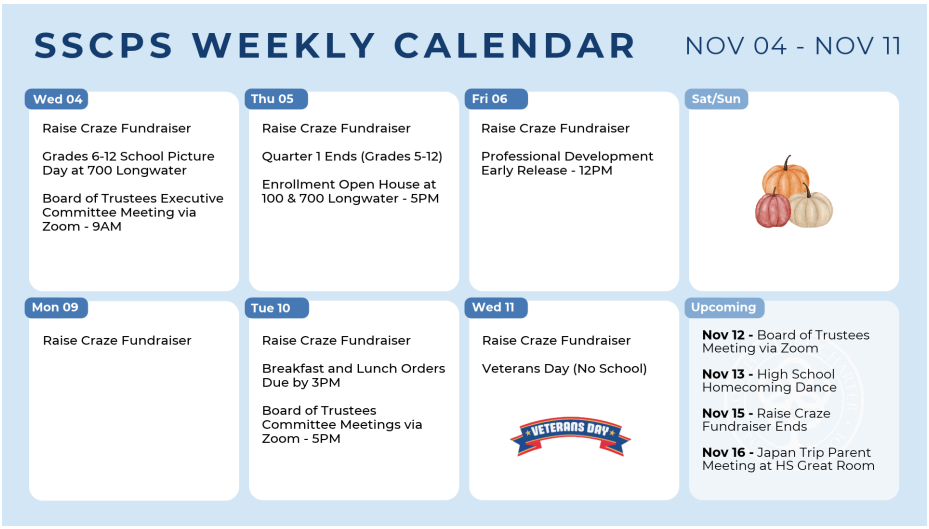
Walter Duncan
Dean of Students K-5





School Calendar & Announcements





Click here for the complete SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

SSCPS Seniors: Cap & Gown Orders Are Open!

Attention SSCPS seniors: cap & gown orders are now open on the Jostens website! Students only need the Basic Package which is $42.50. Please use **THIS LINK** to place your order online.

Orders must be received by Nov 20th to ensure that the cap and gowns are here by graduation.

Please see Mary Carter if you have any questions.

New Phone Number for 700 Longwater Drive

We now have a direct phone line to 700 Longwater Drive. Parents and students may now use the phone number **781-561-9866** to reach 700 Longwater directly.

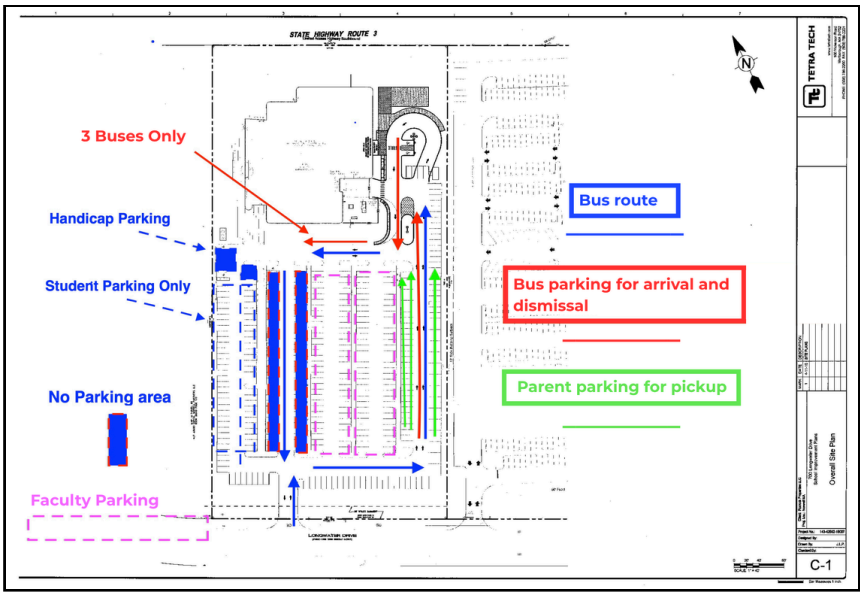
The existing phone number for 100 Longwater Circle **(781-982-4202)** is still in use and can be called to reach 100 Longwater directly.

As a reminder, to notify us of any attendance changes like absences, tardies, etc. please email **attendance@sscps.org**. To notify us of any bus-related changes, please email **transportation@sscps.org**.

Bus Transportation Reminders

This map highlights the 700 Longwater Drive parking lot, bus route, and parent pick up line for the 2026-2027 school year. Please use the button below to view all current bus transportation information.

BUS TRANSPORTATION INFO



Upcoming School & Community Events

Upcoming SSCPS Events

School Picture Retakes

Stay tuned for more details on the upcoming date for School Picture Retakes at SSCPS!

Enrollment Open House

Tell a Friend: Enrollment Open House

Thursday, November 5th | 5-7PM

Do you know someone looking to enroll their student in a great school? Tell them to join us **tomorrow on Thursday, November 5th** to explore our campus, meet students and faculty, ask us questions, and learn about our unique educational model.

If your current student has a sibling you'd like to enroll at SSCPS, don't forget that you'll need to register them separately. Click below for more information and registration links!

The 2027-2028 Enrollment Application is now open: apply here!

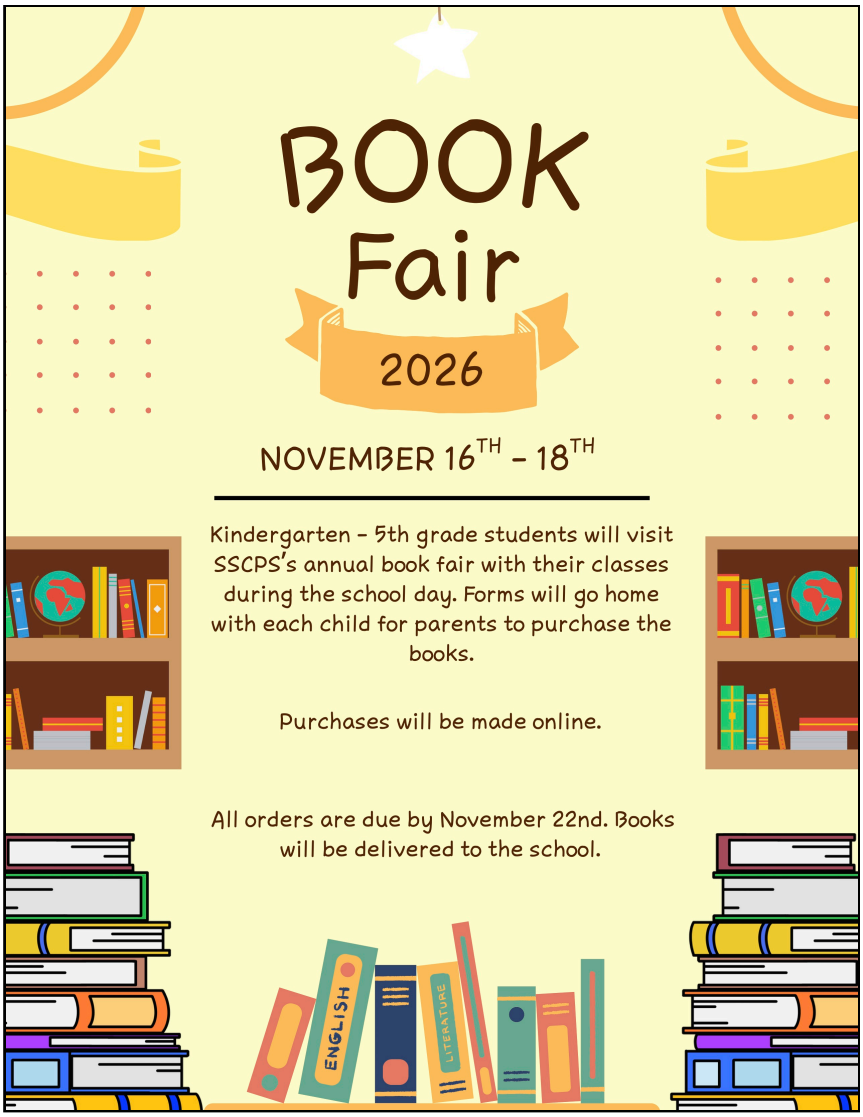
OPEN HOUSE INFORMATION

High School Homecoming Dance

HOMECOMING TICKETS



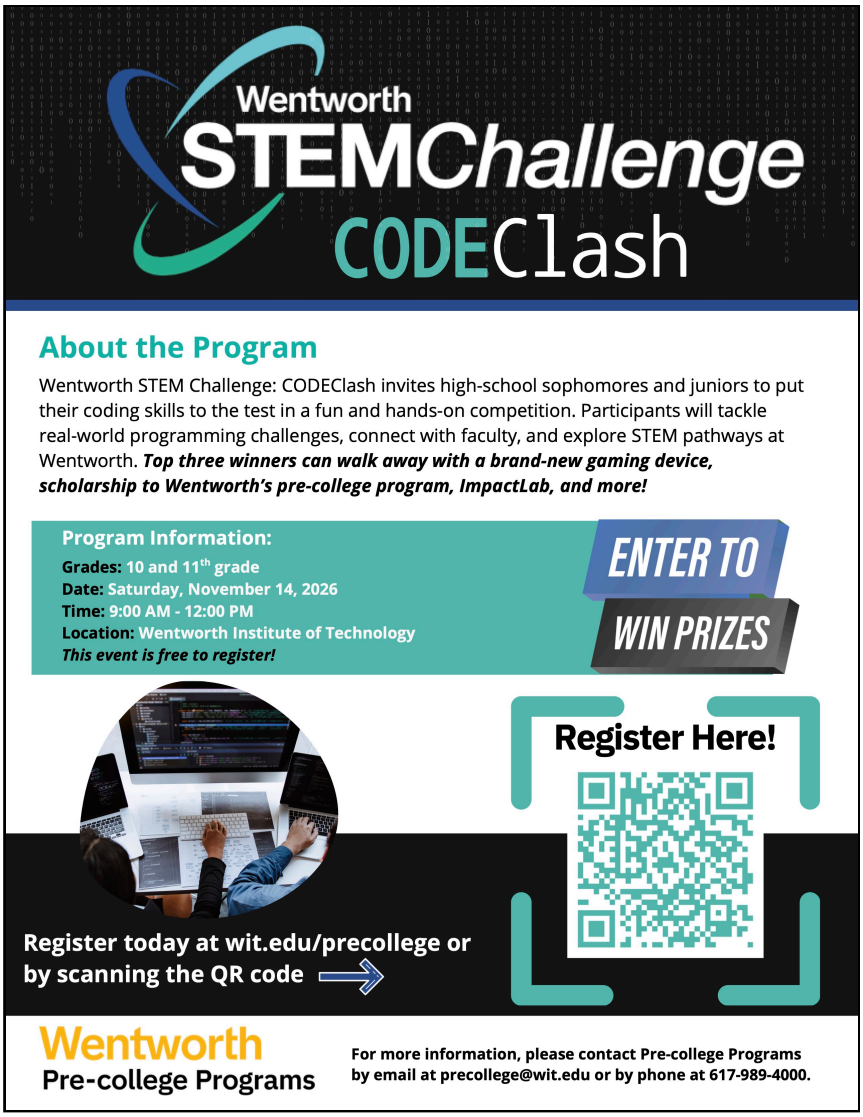
K-5 Annual Book Fair



Upcoming Community Events

Wentworth STEM Challenge: CODEClash

REGISTER HERE



From the Counseling Department

A Message from Mary Carter, Director of Guidance

"*If you don't know where you want to go, then it doesn't matter which path you take*"
-The Cheshire Cat, Alice in Wonderland

This is a quote that I have had in my office for many years because as a guidance counselor, many students seek the answer to that daunting question, *"What should I do after school?"* Or *"What should I major in*?" In my role as a guidance counselor, it is not my job to tell anyone what to do (especially a high school student) but rather guide them through the process of finding the answer to this question for themselves.

To help students with this process, guidance helps support students through various activities and events, including Parent Nights, as well as individual and group meetings. I primarily work with the Juniors and Seniors as their Guidance Counselor and Ahminchie Estime is our Freshman and Sophomore counselor.

Below is a summary of guidance services by grade level:

Senior Year - This year, Seniors started the year off with a mini college fair in early September as well as having a Senior Seminar for the first quarter. Senior Seminar is a space for students to work on college applications, go over the college search process and participate in mini lessons on resume writing, financial aid, careers, and internships. On October 13th, we had the Director of Financial Aid from Mass College of Art present a Financial Aid Workshop to Senior families. Then Fall semester will end with an SSCPS Alumni Fair on Wed Nov 25th where our former students come back and share their college experiences with our Juniors and Seniors.

Junior Year - The Juniors took the PSAT on Oct 16, 2026 and will take the SAT Day Exam on April 8, 2027. The first half of junior year is working on keeping up grades, extra curricular activities, and bringing their resume as well as looking at different career paths. Junior Seminar FIT will be in the Quarter 3 and we end the year by attending a college fair at Bridgewater State University.

Sophomore Year - During the sophomore year, guidance supports students in their academics with a focus on test taking and career exploration. As sophomores, students will take MCAS and a practice PSAT10 in the Spring.

- Work with students on career development
- Encourage students to keep up with community service
- Counsel students on Advanced Placement courses for Junior year
- Utilize Naviance for exploring college majors and careers

Freshman Year - The goal of freshman year guidance is to help students transition into high school.

- Freshman Orientation
- Assist students with time management, study skills, and report card review
- Help students understand the importance of a strong freshman year
- All freshman will create a CollegeBoard and Naviance account, PSAT 8/9

Ahminchie and I look forward to working with you and students. Feel free to reach out to us with any questions!

Mary Carter, Director of Guidance, Counselor Grades 11 and 12
mcarter@sscps.org

Ahminchie Estime, Guidance Counselor Grades 9 and 10
aestime@sscps.org









On the Levels

John & Abigail Adams Scholarship Recipients

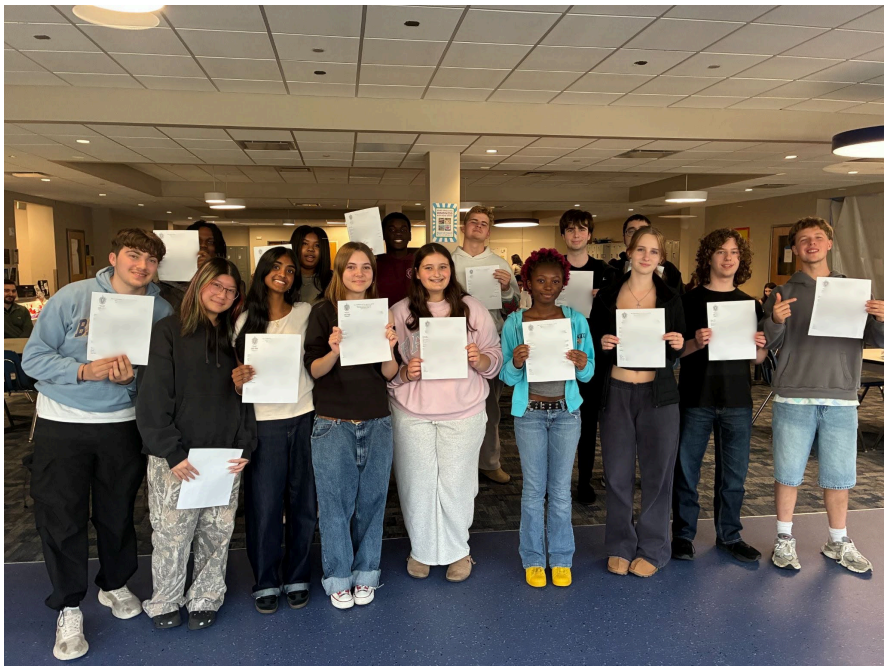
Congratulations to our senior students who earned the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship in recognition of their outstanding performance on the MCAS exams!

The John and Abigail Adams Scholarship recognizes Massachusetts students for outstanding performance on the MCAS exams. Recipients receive a tuition credit at participating Massachusetts public colleges and universities for up to eight semesters (four years) of undergraduate study. The award covers tuition only and does not include mandatory fees, housing, or meal expenses.

This achievement reflects their hard work, dedication, and commitment to academic excellence. We are proud of each of them and look forward to celebrating their continued success!

Congratulations to:

Zoe Debyah, Chloe Eschauzier, Benjamin Farris, Shrika Gandhari, Angie Guerre, Graham Koenecke, Samuel LeBlanc, Avery Lee, Charles Manewal, Daniel Olaoye, Kaylie Polefka, Noah Seeger, Raynoah Strackman, Ken Takeishi, Rodvens Telfort, Samuel Walker



NHS Induction Ceremony

On October 27th, the National Honor Society welcomed 15 new members. The current members did a phenomenal job with the decorations, the speeches, the food, and goodie bags for each member with a personalized letter and homemade bracelet. It was a beautiful night in the new High School Great Room. If you get the opportunity, please congratulate the following members:

Katie Byrne, Celine Cherant, Eliana Dehner, Victoria Dibb, Phoebe Dor, Liam Egerton, Emily Flynn, Bennett Hartman, Eileen Jean-Jules, Trevor Koenecke, Emily McKenna, Mukti Shah, Shawn Syverin, Dylan Tallon, Stella Veissid

Thank you to everyone who helped make the night a success: Chris for setting everything up, Jamie, Jerry, Margaret, and Mike for their heartfelt speeches about the students,

Nadeen for her congratulatory speech, TC for the delicious charcuterie boards, Kerri for the stunning flowers with a flair, Pam for her fast work with the programs, Theron for the music that pulls the night together, Joe for teaching me how to not have uncomfortable feedback on the mic, and for all of the faculty and staff in attendance last night. So many of you set aside time from busy lives to attend the ceremony, and it means a lot to our students!

Katie Cianelli
High School English Teacher & NHS Advisor



Middle School Newsletter

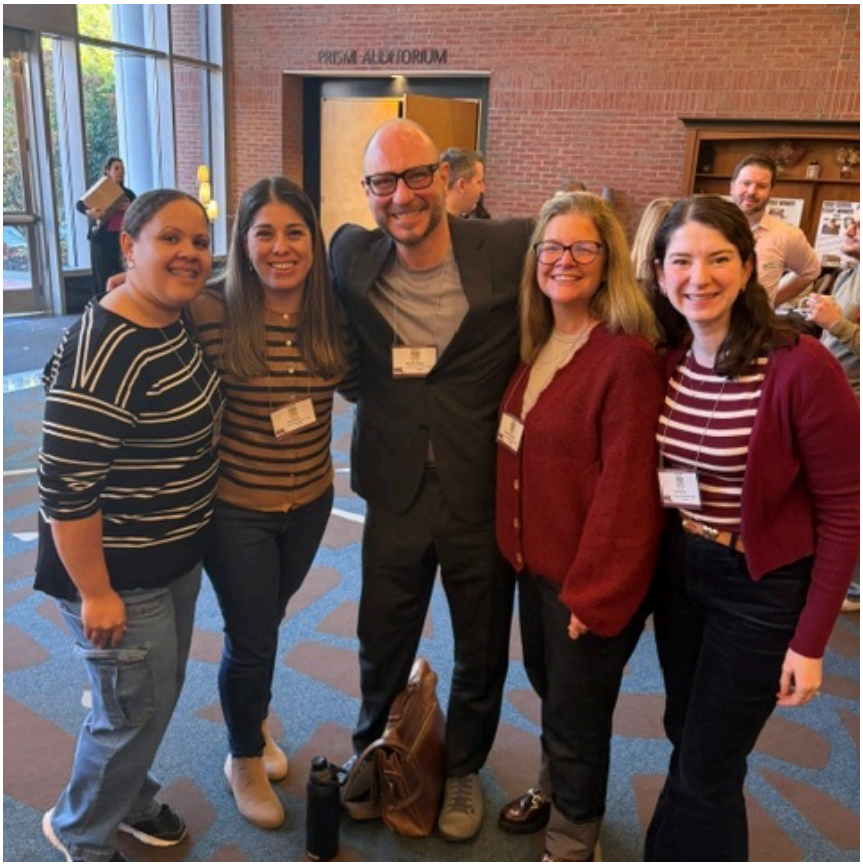
Enjoy the first edition of the SSCPS Middle School Newsletter created by the Grade 8 Newsletter Project! Students have been hard at work on everything that went into bringing this newsletter to life, including writing, photography, data analysis, and design. Please consider taking a moment to complete the quick survey on the last page. Your feedback will help students learn what our school community enjoys and what you'd like to see more of in future editions!

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



World Languages Teachers Attend MAFLA Conference

Last Friday, teachers from the SSCPS World Languages Department attended the MAFLA conference in Southbridge, MA. The focus of this year's 57th MAFLA Annual Conference was “Fostering a Sense of Belonging Through Multilingualism,” celebrating inclusive, empowering, and connected world language education.



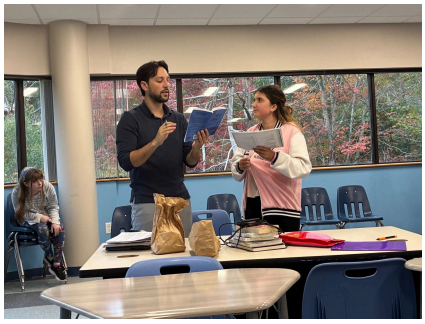
Afterschool Enrichment Program

Theater Workshop & After School Theater Collaboration

The Theater Workshop and After School Theater students are hard at work preparing for their upcoming production of *The Women of Lockerbie* by Deborah Bravoort! Working in partnership with Spotlight Theater Company and director Trevor Nataupsky, students are bringing this powerful and moving play to life. Inspired by the aftermath of the 1988 Lockerbie bombing, *The Women of Lockerbie* explores themes of grief, compassion, resilience, and the power of human connection. Through this production, students are discovering how theater can tell important stories, encourage empathy, and inspire meaningful conversations.

Our two theater programs (High School Theater Workshop and After School Theater Enrichment Program) are working together to create a complete theatrical production. In After School Theater, students develop their acting skills through character analysis, rehearsals, and vocal expression (including learning Scottish accents)! Meanwhile, Theater Workshop students are responsible for the technical elements of the show, including publicity, lighting, sound, set design, props, costumes, and makeup. Working in separate crews for each of these elements, students practice creative problem-solving, organization, communication, and collaboration as they bring their ideas to life.

Students are learning that a successful production depends on everyone, both onstage and behind the scenes. It has been especially rewarding to watch students take ownership of their work, develop confidence, and recognize the value of each person and crew's contributions. We look forward to sharing their hard work with our school community on December 9 and 10 at Hingham High School!











From the Health Office

Health Office Reminders

Screening Opt-Out
As part of our school health program, the school will be conducting state-required student health screenings, which include:

- Height and weight measurements
- Vision screening
- Hearing screening

These screenings are conducted to help identify potential health concerns that may benefit from further evaluation.

If you have any questions, please contact the Health Office by email at **jkjelgaard@sscps.org**.

Illness
As a reminder, please do not send your child to school if they are experiencing diarrhea, vomiting, or a fever. Students must be symptom-free for at least 24 hours without the use of medication before returning to school.

Students who have been diagnosed with an infectious illness should remain home and may return to school after they have been on antibiotics for at least 24 hours, when antibiotics are prescribed for that illness.

Keeping sick children home helps protect your child, classmates, staff, and the broader school community from the spread of illness. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a healthy school environment.

Change of Clothes
If you have a student in Kindergarten, 1st grade, or 2nd grade, please make sure they have a weather-appropriate change of clothes kept at school.

Young children may occasionally need a change of clothing during the school day due to spills, accidents, or other unexpected situations. The Health Office has a very limited supply of extra clothing, and we may not always have clothing available in the appropriate size.

Please send your child to school with a complete change of clothes, including:

- Underwear
- Socks
- Pants
- Shirt

Please make sure the clothing is appropriate for the current season. We also encourage you to replace or update the clothing as the seasons change and as your child grows.

Medication
If your student has a diagnosis of asthma or a food allergy, the Health Office is required to have emergency medication available at school as appropriate for your student's needs.

Please contact the appropriate Health Office to make arrangements for an adult to deliver the medication to school. Students are not permitted to transport medication on the school bus.

In order for medication to be kept and administered at school, we are required to have a current medication authorization form and/or an up-to-date Allergy or Asthma Action Plan on file. All forms must be dated after July 1, 2026, to remain valid for the entire 2026–2027 school year.

Middle and High School Students
If your middle or high school student plans to self-carry an inhaler or EpiPen, a current medication authorization form must still be on file with the Health Office. The form must include written authorization from the student's healthcare provider permitting the student to self-carry and self-administer the medication.

Health Office Contacts
K-12: Jaime Kjelggard (**jkjelgaard@sscps.org**)
K-5: Erilin Martinez (**emartinez2@sscps.org**)
6-12: Barbara Folan (**bfolan@sscps.org**)

SSCPS Health Office

From the Food Services Department

2026-2027 Meal Ordering Information

For those of you new to SSCPS, my name is Charlene Salamone and I am the Food Services Coordinator. My role at SSCPS is to ensure that our school provides our students with nutritious, healthy meals during the school day. Since SSCPS does not have cafeterias, we offer our students a “Grab and Go” hot meal, a salad, or a cold meal that complies with the nutritional guidelines set by the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program, as well as "Grab and Go" breakfast programs.

In order for your child to receive breakfast, lunch, or both, you will need to place a weekly or monthly order for meals. We utilize an online ordering system called Arbiter, and all families must register each child to order meals. Please visit the **SSCPS FamilyID Programs** webpage to register your child. Also, 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 know their homeroom teacher, that would be helpful, but that information can always be entered later. To learn more about 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.

Please review menus carefully and order them accurately. **Orders are due on Tuesdays, no later than 3:00 pm, for the following week's meals.**

Finally, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 781-982-4202 ext. 156 or email me at **csalamone@sscps.org**.

Charlene Salamone
Food Services Coordinator

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

The South Shore Charter Public School is approved to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) of the National School Lunch Program. This special provision means that families are no longer required to complete a meal benefit application, and all our students have access to breakfast and lunch at no cost.

Fee waivers for athletics, enrichment, and other applicable student fees will be based on Direct Certification for the new school year.

Direct Certification is the process by which school districts certify students whose households receive assistance from SNAP, TANF/TAFDC, or FDPIR as eligible for free meals without further application. Direct Certification is based on information provided by the state agencies administering these benefit programs.

To apply for Direct Certification, please visit: **https://dtaconnect.eohhs.mass.gov/** and apply for benefits.

All families who are Direct Certified will receive notification of their status and a Community Eligibility (CEP) information-sharing form from the school in the coming weeks. To determine if a fee can be waived, all families must complete and return the CEP Information Sharing Form to Charlene Salamone, Food Services Coordinator. The Food Service Department cannot share your Direct Certification status with any other school department without a completed form on file.

Parents Association, SEPAC, & ELPAC

Raise Craze Fundraiser Extended!

The SSCPS Parent Association's fundraiser is ongoing! The funds raised help ensure that our kids are able to go on all their field trips and enjoy other enrichment activities throughout the school year. They also help pay for teacher appreciation celebrations and other Parent Association initiatives to help build our school community. The Parents Association has decided to **extend the end date to November 15th** to ensure everyone has a chance to participate.

If you haven't enrolled your student yet, it is very easy to do. You can send emails, texts and make Facebook posts directly from the Raise Craze website to help spread the word about our fundraising efforts. You and your student ask friends and family for donations via the online RaiseCraze platform while paying it forward to others through acts of kindness and gratitude while raising much needed funds. SSCPS' mission statement is **"Inspiring every student to excel in academics, service, and life"** and Raise Craze helps support this mission as "**students will spend time serving, not selling!**"

REGISTER: https://raisecraze.com/join
CODE: 271-469

1. Enter your student's name
2. Select at least 3 Acts of Kindness
3. Enter 5-10 email addresses of potential supporters. Raise Craze will send all emails, reminders and thank you notes. Emails will never be shared with third parties or used for marketing.

At A Glance:
Dates: October 19 - November 15
Our Goal: $35,000

Every student can participate in Raise Craze by completing Acts of Kindness (AOK) so we're aiming for 100% participation.

Need help getting started? View the **Raise Craze Instructional Video** or feel free to contact Janelle Goines at **sscpspafundraising@gmail.com.**

REGISTER NOW!

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**

School Documents:

FY27 School Calendar

2025-2026 School Calendar

Student and Family Handbook

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures
SSCPS By-Laws

6. **Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance**
7. **Community Service**
8. **Parents Association Website**

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