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Weekly Update | October 14, 2026

VOL. 10, ISSUE 2

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From the Counseling Department

Dear Families,

October is National Bullying Prevention Month! This is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to work together to create a safe, caring, and welcoming environment for every student.

Bullying can affect a child's friendships, confidence, emotional well-being, and ability to learn. Every child deserves to feel safe, respected, and included at school. By teaching kindness, empathy, and acceptance, we can help every student feel that they belong.

What is bullying?

Bullying is hurtful behavior that happens repeatedly and involves an imbalance of power, making it difficult for the person being targeted to stop it.

Bullying may include:

- Verbal bullying: Name-calling, teasing, or hurtful comments.
- Physical bullying: Hitting, kicking, pushing, or damaging someone's belongings.
- Social bullying: Leaving someone out on purpose, spreading rumors, or encouraging
- others not to be friends with someone.
- Cyberbullying: Using texts, online games, or social media to hurt or embarrass someone.

Conflict vs. bullying:
Conflict is a disagreement between people who may have different opinions or needs. Bullying involves repeated hurtful behavior and an imbalance of power. Both situations create opportunities for adults to help children learn respectful communication and problem-solving skills.

How can we prevent bullying?
Families and schools can work together to encourage children to make positive decisions by teaching and modeling positive behavior:

- Be kind: Use friendly words and thoughtful actions.
- Include others: Invite classmates to join games and activities.
- Speak up safely: Tell a trusted adult when someone is being hurt.
- Be an upstander: Support someone experiencing bullying rather than joining in or
- standing by silently.
- Show respect: Celebrate differences and treat everyone with dignity.

How can families help?
Please encourage your child to talk openly about their day, friendships, and feelings. Remind them that asking an adult for help is not tattling when someone may be getting hurt. If your child experiences or witnesses bullying, contact their teacher or school staff so the situation can be addressed.

Our October Challenge: Choose Kindness!
Invite your child to complete one kind act each day. They might invite someone to play, offer a compliment, help a classmate, or stand beside someone who feels left out. **To show support, we encourage students to wear ORANGE on Wednesday, October 21st**.

Together, we can make kindness a habit and help every child feel safe, supported, and valued. Thank you for partnering with us to prevent bullying!

Visit PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center for additional information and resources.



This Saturday: SSCPS Annual Road Race

Join us on **Saturday, October 17th** at Wompatuck State Park for another SSCPS Annual Road Race! The road race is a beloved community-wide event that helps us all unite in the spirit of collaboration and togetherness, so join us with your friends and family for a morning of fun, exercise, and community. Use the buttons below for more information on this year's race, volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, and more!

RUN THE RACE

ROAD RACE INFO



At this year's road race, we're celebrating the continued enrollment expansion at South Shore Charter! 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**!

SPONSOR THE RACE

From the Dean's Desk

The Hard Work of Growing Up: A Conversation About Consequences

Dear K–5 Families,

I have been thinking about writing this particular column for some time.

It is probably the most difficult one I have written this year, largely because I know that not everyone will agree with what I have to say. Some of you may have questions. Some may disagree with our approach. I understand that.

This is a little longer than my usual column, but I hope you will take a few minutes to read it. I believe the subject deserves our attention.

I want to talk about consequences.

After more than twenty years working with children, I have come to believe something very strongly: Some of the most important learning a child will ever do happens immediately after making a mistake.

We spend a great deal of time celebrating children's successes, as we should. But what about the moments when things go wrong?

When a child says something hurtful, loses their temper, refuses to follow a reasonable direction, or makes a choice that affects the safety or well-being of others?

Those moments matter too. In fact, they are among our greatest opportunities to help children grow.

What Consequences Are For

Our faculty and I have been working together to build a school culture around three shared values: Responsibility, Courage, and Respect.

But values cannot simply be words on a wall.

If we want children to understand responsibility, we have to help them practice it when being responsible is difficult. If we want them to develop courage, we have to help them acknowledge uncomfortable truths about their choices. If we want them to understand respect, we have to teach them what to do when they have failed to show it.

This is where consequences come in.

A consequence should help a child learn something, repair what they can, and make a better choice the next time.

Sometimes that means a conversation and an opportunity to try again. Sometimes it means making amends, practicing an expectation, or temporarily losing access to an activity. When behaviors are repeated or serious, a more structured response may be necessary, including administrative involvement and family meetings. Safety concerns require prompt attention.

Our approach is restorative, but restorative does not mean there are no consequences. It means we use consequences thoughtfully, with the goal of helping children understand the impact of their choices and take responsibility for what happens next.

Our responses are not one-size-fits-all. We consider each child's age, developmental needs, individual circumstances, applicable support plans, and the nature and impact of the behavior. We also follow applicable school policies and required procedures.

Fairness does not always mean identical consequences. It means responding thoughtfully and appropriately to the children and circumstances involved.

Fiercely Warm. Unwavering in Our Expectations.

There is a phrase I have been thinking about lately: fiercely warm.

I like it because it describes the kind of school culture I want us to build.

I want our children to know that the adults in this building care deeply about them. That they belong. That even on their worst day, they have not lost our commitment to them.

And I also want them to know that we have high expectations.

We expect them to treat others with dignity, take responsibility for their choices, and respect the safety and well-being of those around them.

When they fall short, as every child eventually will, we are not going to pretend it didn't happen.

We are going to help them work through it.

Warmth without expectations does children no favors. Neither does accountability without compassion.

Growing up can be uncomfortable. Acknowledging a mistake, accepting a consequence, and making things right are not always easy. Children may feel frustrated or disappointed, and those feelings deserve our attention too.

Our responsibility is to support them through those moments with dignity and care, while maintaining the boundaries that help everyone learn and feel safe.

We Are on the Same Side

I also want to acknowledge something important. It can be difficult to hear that your child has made a mistake at school. I understand that.

We all bring our own experiences to conversations about discipline. Some of us remember teachers who helped us through difficult moments. Others remember experiences that felt unfair, embarrassing, or unnecessarily harsh.

Those memories can stay with us.

I want families to know that our goal is not to shame children, label them, or define them by their worst decisions. We want to understand what happened, respond appropriately, protect those affected, and help the child move forward.

That does not mean we will always agree about the appropriate consequence.

Sometimes we won't. But I hope we can begin from a shared understanding: We are on the same side.

When I contact a family about a difficult situation, I am not making a judgment about their parenting or suggesting that their child is a bad person. I am reaching out because something happened that requires our attention, and because I believe we have a better chance of helping that child when we work together.

You know your child in ways we never will. We see your child navigating a different world of friendships, expectations, independence, and challenges at school.

Both perspectives matter.

We also recognize that adults make mistakes. Families deserve to be heard, and we have a responsibility to explain our decisions, correct errors, and reconsider when new information warrants it.

Partnership does not require us to agree on everything. It requires us to remember that we share a commitment to your child's growth and well-being.

The Child Is More Than the Mistake

One of the things I love about working with children is how much they can change.

A student who struggles with self-control in September may develop remarkable patience by spring. A child who has difficulty accepting responsibility may eventually become the first person to admit when something goes wrong.

I have seen these changes happen countless times. Rarely do they happen in a straight line.

There are good days and difficult days. Progress followed by setbacks. Lessons we think have finally taken hold, only to discover that we need to teach them again.

That's childhood.

And that's education.

We do not stop teaching reading because a child struggles with a difficult passage. We do not give up on mathematics because a student makes the same mistake three times.

Why would we approach the development of character any differently? Responsibility must be taught. Courage must be practiced. Respect must be learned, reinforced, and sometimes relearned.

Consequences are one of the tools we use to do that work. They are not the whole story, but they have an important place in it.

A Request for Grace

As we continue through this school year, I want to ask our families for something.

Grace.

Not blind agreement. Not silence when you have a concern. I mean the kind of grace that allows people who care about the same children to have difficult conversations without assuming the worst about one another.

We will not always get everything right. Neither will our children. But we can commit to listening, learning, and working together.

And when your child comes home having had a difficult day, I hope you will remember that a consequence is not the end of the story.

It may be the beginning of an important lesson.

I hope our children learn that they can make a mistake without becoming that mistake. That they can be held accountable and still be cared for. That making things right matters more than making excuses.

And that the adults who care about them will not give up on them when growing up gets difficult.

Responsibility. Courage. Respect.



These are not just the qualities we want to recognize when our children get things right.

They are the qualities we are committed to teaching when things go wrong.

Thank you for trusting us with your children and for working alongside us in this important, sometimes difficult work.

Walter Duncan
Dean of Students K-5

School Calendar & Announcements

SSCPS WEEKLY CALENDAR

OCT 14 - OCT 21

Wed 14

Fire Safety Week

School Council Meeting via Zoom - 6:30PM

Thu 15

Fire Safety Week

Board of Trustees Meeting via Zoom - 5:30PM

Fri 16

Fire Safety Week

11th Grade PSAT Testing

Title I Information Meeting via Zoom - 9AM

Sat/Sun

Sat 17 - SSCPS Annual Road Race 2026



Mon 19

Raise Craze Fundraiser

Tue 20

Raise Craze Fundraiser

Breakfast and Lunch Orders Due by 3PM

Wed 21

Raise Craze Fundraiser

Parents Association Meeting via Zoom - 7PM

Upcoming

Oct 22 - Sociedad Honoraria Induction Ceremony at 700 Longwater

Oct 23 - Literacy Lane at 700 Longwater

Oct 27 - NHS Induction Ceremony at 700 Longwater

Click here for the complete SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

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.

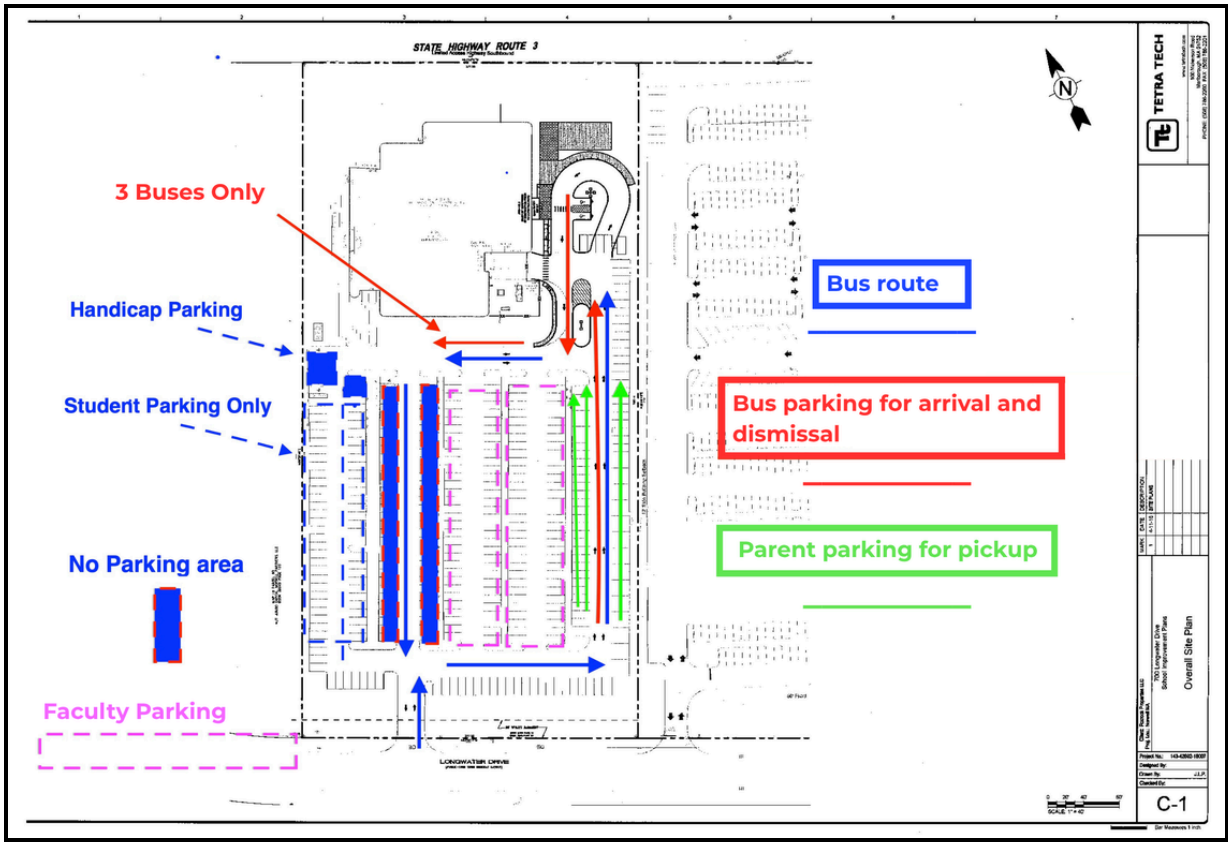
The existing phone number for 100 Longwater Circle **(781-982-4202)** is still in use and can be called to reach 100 Longwater directly.

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

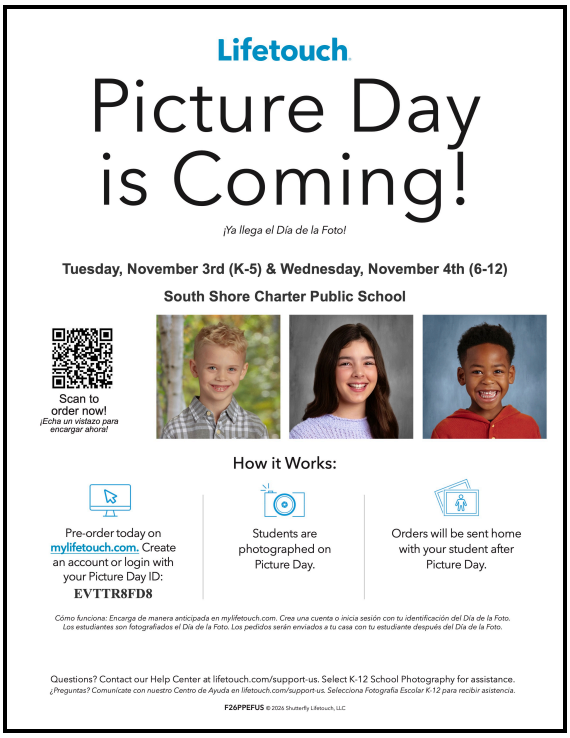
Upcoming SSCPS Events

TODAY: NHS Car Wash at 700 Longwater



More Upcoming SSCPS Events





LITERACY LANE SIGN-UP

PRE-ORDER NOW

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 next month 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!

OPEN HOUSE INFORMATION

High School Homecoming Dance

HOMECOMING TICKETS


Show Your Jaguar Spirit!
HOMECOMING
2026
FRIDAY,
NOV 13TH
7:00 – 10:00 PM
CUSHING CENTER
NORWELL
OPEN TO SSCPS STUDENTS IN GRADES 9 – 12
NO OUTSIDE GUESTS
TICKETS
$25.00
PER PERSON
PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE THROUGH FAMILYID
DRESS UP • DANCE • MAKE MEMORIES

Upcoming Community Events

Wentworth STEM Challenge: CODEClash

REGISTER HERE

Wentworth

STEMChallenge CODEClash

About the Program

Wentworth STEM Challenge: CODEClash invites high-school sophomores and juniors to put their coding skills to the test in a fun and hands-on competition. Participants will tackle real-world programming challenges, connect with faculty, and explore STEM pathways at Wentworth. ***Top three winners can walk away with a brand-new gaming device, scholarship to Wentworth's pre-college program, ImpactLab, and more!***

Program Information:

Grades: 10 and 11th grade
Date: Saturday, November 14, 2026
Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Location: Wentworth Institute of Technology
This event is free to register!

ENTER TO WIN PRIZES



Register Here!

Register today at wit.edu/precollege or by scanning the QR code

Wentworth
Pre-college Programs

For more information, please contact Pre-college Programs by email at precollege@wit.edu or by phone at 617-989-4000.

On the Levels

Flannel Friday at 700 Longwater



Fire Safety Week with Grade 5



Athletics

Varsity Volleyball Update

The Varsity Volleyball team is off to a strong 6–4 start and is closing in on a playoff spot with one more win! Our mix of young and veteran players have learned to bounce back after losses, but we're still working on staying confident and learning how to win when we're down in a match. If we can shift our mindsets, trust ourselves and keep fighting through adversity, we'll be unstoppable!

On Wednesday, October 14, students will meet with sports mindset specialist Stefani Lefevour. This workshop will focus on building mental toughness, developing resilience, staying positive under pressure and resetting our mindset when things don't go our way. A special thank-you to Adjustment Counselor Ashley Ross for organizing this opportunity!

Join us for our final home game and Senior Night on **Monday, October 19** at Starland! Wear orange and blue to support our seniors and orange for leukemia awareness as we

celebrate our team and an important cause. Let’s finish strong, believe in ourselves and keep pushing toward the playoffs! Go Jaguars!



Afterschool Enrichment Program

Perler Society Club

The Perler Society Club members are off to a great start! In Perler Society, students use Perler beads which are small, hollow plastic cylinders that you arrange on a plastic pegboard to create pixel art, and then heat with an iron to fuse them into a single solid piece. Students combine creativity, concentration, and connection through the art of Perler beads. As students design colorful patterns and create their own unique pieces of art, they are developing valuable skills that extend far beyond the pegboard.

Working with these tiny beads strengthens fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and visual-motor integration while supporting skills used in everyday tasks, such as handwriting and buttoning. Students also practice color recognition, spatial awareness, and mathematical thinking as they plan designs and match colors. Following patterns and

completing multi-step projects encourages patience, sustained attention, and executive functioning skills, including planning, focus, and impulse control. As students see their creations come to life, they build confidence and take pride in their accomplishments.

Just as importantly, The Perler Society provides an opportunity for students to socialize, share ideas, and build positive relationships. One of the most rewarding parts of the club has been watching students help one another find specific colors, offer compliments on each other's creations, and celebrate one another's work. Through creativity and collaboration, The Perler Society offers students a fun and meaningful way to learn, grow, and connect with their peers.









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.

Parents and guardians have the option to opt their child out of these screenings. If you do not wish for your child to participate, please notify the Health Office by email at **jkjelgaard@sscps.org** no later than October 15, 2026.

If an opt-out request is not received by October 15, your child will participate in the scheduled screenings.

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

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! 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 the menus carefully and order them accurately. **Orders are due on Tuesdays, no later than 3:00 pm, for the following week's meals.**

September 2026 Breakfast Menu

September 2026 Lunch Menu

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**.

Over the next month or so, we will be transitioning to a new point-of-sale (ordering) system, and we will be sending updated instructions on how to order meals using the new system to all families.

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



FUNDRAISING THROUGH KINDNESS

RAISE CRAZE™

From Tiny Seeds to Big Impact!

GOAL: $35,000 **DATES:** October 19 - October 31

WELCOME SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENTS!

1. Register & create your student's donation page! *Additional siblings can be added*
2. Help your child select 3-5 Acts of Kindness (AOK) to complete for others. Yay KINDNESS!
3. Invite friends & family to donate and start spreading kindness!

WHAT IS RAISE CRAZE?

Raise Craze is an online platform enabling parents to set up secure, custom websites where they request donations via email, text, and social. *Emails will never be shared or used for marketing*

During the fundraiser, students pay it forward by completing Acts of Kindness for others . . . a great way to learn the value of gratitude. Spend time serving, not selling!

OUR GOAL IS $35,000 FOR . . .

- Field trips for the 2026-2027 academic year and student enrichment activities.
- Building 100 improvements.
- Parent Association initiatives.

REGISTER: raisecraze.com/join **CODE:** 271 – 469

Questions? Contact Janelle Goines | sscpspafundraising@gmail.com

Important Links

Weekly Updates are emailed and posted to our website - subscribe here.

1. **Afterschool Enrichment Program**
2. DESE Student Attendance Letter Translated:(**Arabic**, **Cape Verdean Creole**, **Chinese**, **Haitian Creole**, **Portuguese**, **Spanish**, **Vietnamese**)
3. **Back-to-School Information**
4. **Food Services**
5. **Health Office**
6. **Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance**
7. **Community Service**
8. **Parents Association Website**

School Documents:

FY27 School Calendar

2025-2026 School Calendar

Student and Family Handbook

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures
SSCPS By-Laws

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