Weekly Update | October 28, 2026

VOL. 10, ISSUE 4

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A Message from Angie

Last spring, our school was awarded a three-year grant through the **One8 Foundation** to support the implementation of the **Investigating History** curriculum in grades three through seven. The grant provides curriculum materials, comprehensive professional learning for our teachers, and direct support to school leadership as we introduce the curriculum and continue to strengthen its implementation.

Investigating History is a high-quality history and social science curriculum developed for Massachusetts students and aligned with the **2018 Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework**. If you remember history class as a textbook chapter, a list of names and dates to memorize, with a test at the end, Investigating History will look quite different. Rather than simply learning about history, students are asked to think and work like historians by asking meaningful questions, examining evidence, considering multiple perspectives, and developing well-supported interpretations of the past.

The curriculum is built around four key principles:

Inquiry and investigation: Each unit is organized around big, essential questions that do not always have a single right answer. Students investigate these questions by working directly with historical evidence. This includes primary source documents, photographs, maps, artifacts, and firsthand accounts. Students consider who created a source, when and why it was created, what it can tell us, and what its limitations might be. They then develop initial ideas, gather evidence, build arguments, and revise their thinking as they encounter new information.

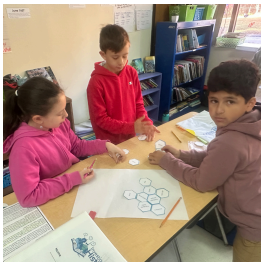
Many voices and perspectives: Students encounter history through many voices rather than a single story. They compare accounts, consider why people might understand the

same event differently, and learn about the experiences and contributions of people whose perspectives have sometimes been left out of traditional historical narratives.

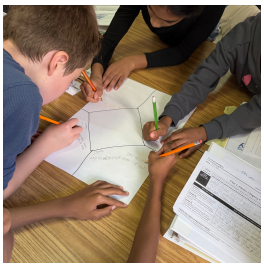
Human connections: Students work to understand the circumstances people faced in the past and why they made the choices they did. When a unit addresses a difficult chapter of history, teachers approach the content honestly and in age-appropriate ways, highlighting not only hardship but also the courage, resilience, and agency of the people who lived through it. This helps students see history as the story of real people making decisions within the circumstances of their time.

Connections to today and civic engagement: Discussion is an essential part of Investigating History. Students learn to ask thoughtful questions, listen carefully to their classmates, challenge ideas respectfully, and support their own conclusions with evidence. They also consider connections between the past and the world they live in today, including how people have worked together to solve problems and bring about change. These experiences help students develop the skills needed to participate thoughtfully in their communities and in our democracy.

Earlier this month, we hosted our first on-site visit with our implementation lead from One8 and visited the majority of our Investigating History classrooms. We were excited to see these principles at work. Students were engaged with primary sources, asking insightful questions, sharing their interpretations, and using evidence to discuss and defend their ideas.







This kind of learning builds much more than historical knowledge. Reading and analyzing complex sources strengthens literacy and critical thinking. Developing and defending claims builds reasoning and communication skills. Listening to different interpretations and revising ideas in response to new evidence teaches students that thoughtful people can disagree and that strong conclusions are grounded in evidence.

As we continue this work, we are excited to see our students grow not only in their knowledge of history, but also in their ability to wrestle with complex ideas, listen to perspectives different from their own, and use evidence to form thoughtful conclusions. These are skills that extend far beyond the history classroom and are essential to preparing our students to engage thoughtfully with their communities and the world around them.

Angie Pepin
Director of Teaching and Learning

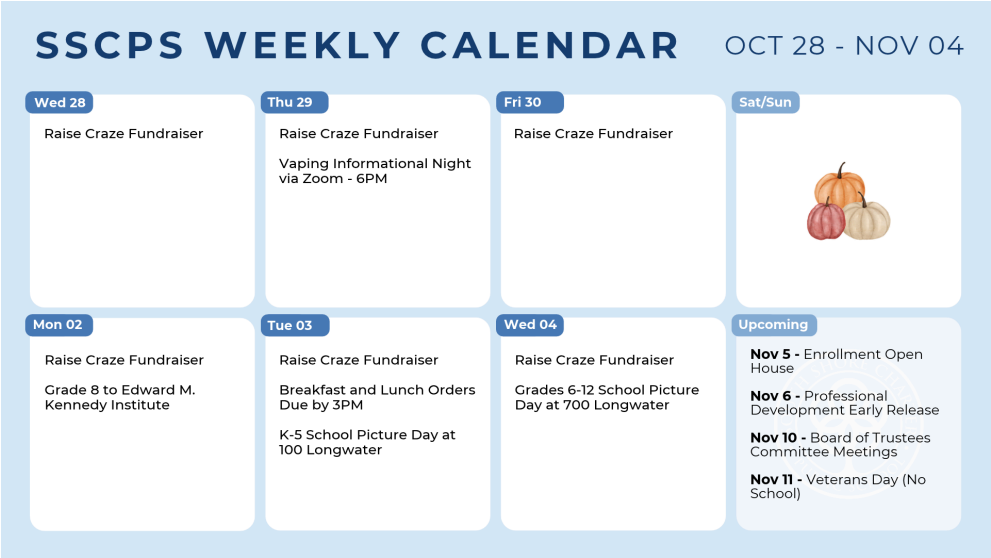
From the Counseling Department

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. Use the button below to read the full bullying prevention newsletter courtesy of the SSCPS Counseling Department!

READ THE NEWSLETTER



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.

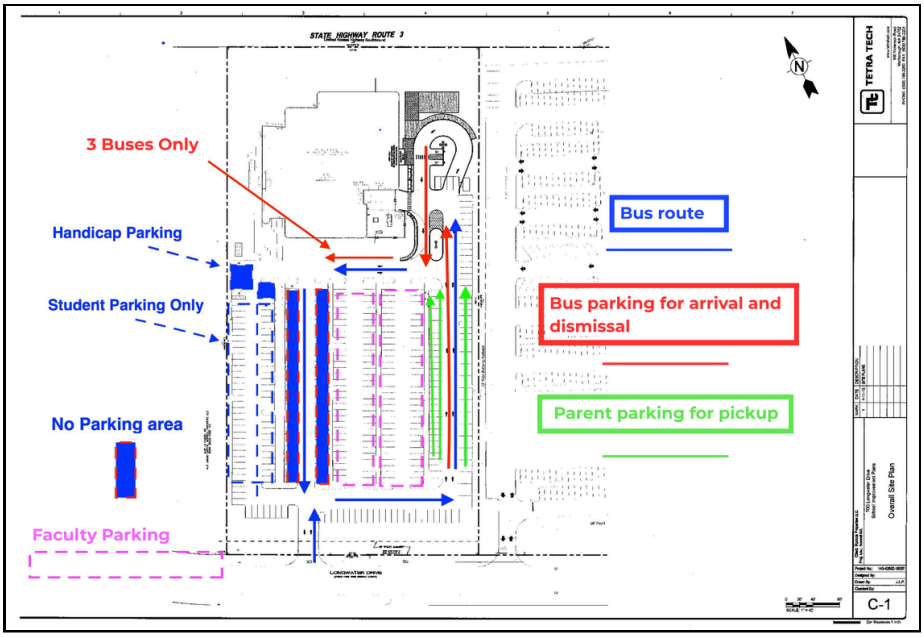
The existing phone number for 100 Longwater Circle **(781-982-4202)** is still in use and can be called to reach 100 Longwater directly.

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

TOMORROW: Vaping Prevention Informational Night

Attention All Middle & High School Families:

Please join us tomorrow, **Thursday, October 29th, 2026** for a Virtual Vaping Prevention Informational Night to learn about the risks of youth vaping and our school's vaping policy. A copy of the policy can be found **here**.

We are pleased to have guest speaker Caroline Cranos, representing UMass Chan's Center for Tobacco Treatment Research and Training and DPH's Massachusetts Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Program.
Time: 6-7 pm
Date: 10/29/26
Location: **Virtual Link**

During the evening, we will cover:

- An overview of youth vaping and student well-being
- An introduction to our new vaping policy and expectations
- Ways families can talk with students about vaping

Your involvement makes a real difference in supporting our students. We hope you will join us for this important conversation.

MEETING LINK

Picture Days: November 3rd & 4th

PRE-ORDER NOW

Lifetouch

Picture Day is Coming!

¡Ya llega el Día de la Foto!

Tuesday, November 3rd (K-5) & Wednesday, November 4th (6-12)

South Shore Charter Public School

Scan to order now!
¡Echa un vistazo para encargar ahora!



How it Works:

Pre-order today on mylifetouch.com. Create an account or login with your Picture Day ID:
EVTTR8FD8

Students are photographed on Picture Day.

Orders will be sent home with your student after Picture Day.

Cómo funciona: Encarga de manera anticipada en mylifetouch.com. Crea una cuenta o inicia sesión con tu identificación del Día de la Foto. Los estudiantes son fotografiados el Día de la Foto. Los pedidos serán enviados a tu casa con tu estudiante después del Día de la Foto.

Questions? Contact our Help Center at lifetouch.com/support-us. Select K-12 School Photography for assistance.
¿Preguntas? Comunícate con nuestro Centro de Ayuda en lifetouch.com/support-us. Selecciona Fotografía Escolar K-12 para recibir asistencia.

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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!

The 2027-2028 Enrollment Application will open on November 1st, 2026.

OPEN HOUSE INFORMATION

High School Homecoming Dance

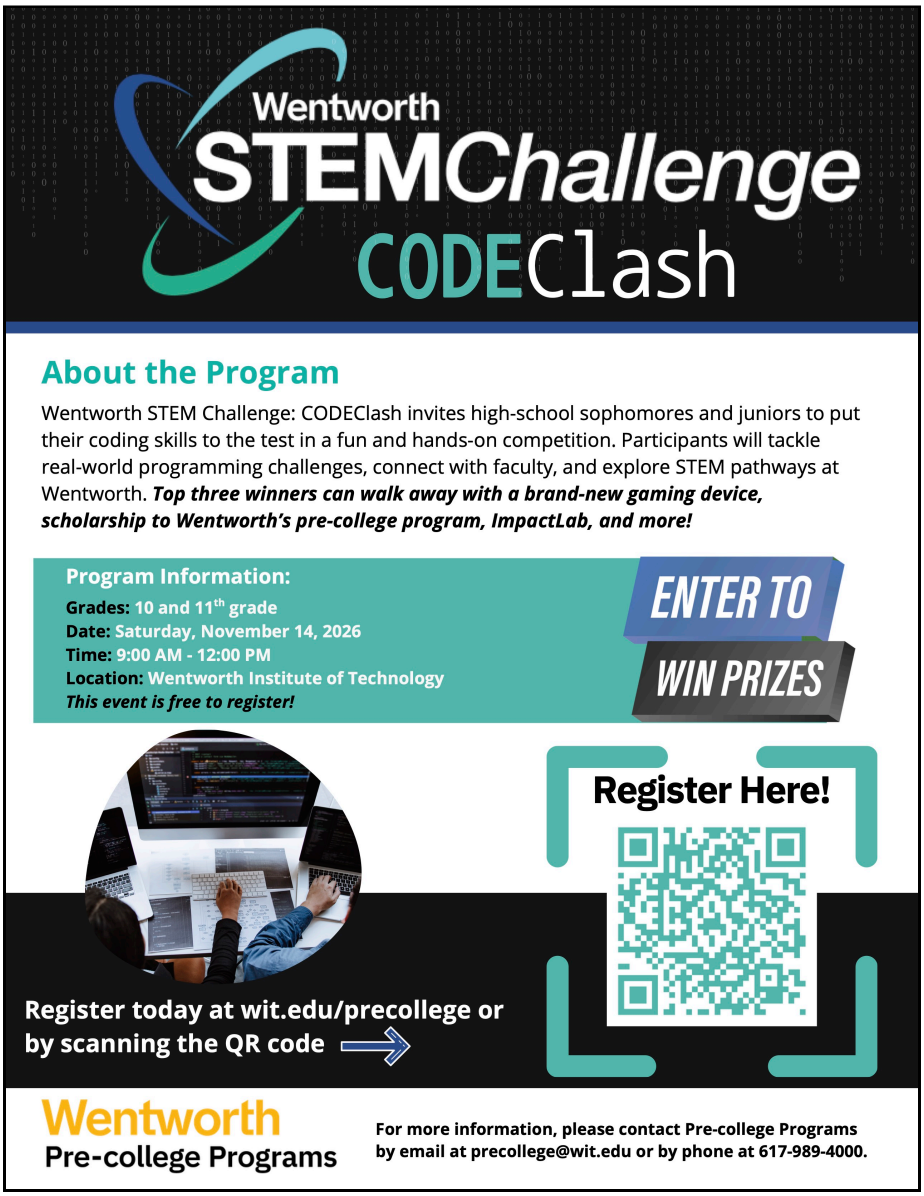
HOMECOMING TICKETS



Upcoming Community Events

Wentworth STEM Challenge: CODEClash

REGISTER HERE



From the Dean's Desk

A Friendly Reminder About Bus Safety

Dear Charter Families,

This week, I want to take a moment to revisit a few expectations that help keep our school buses safe and our mornings and afternoons running smoothly.

The vast majority of our students and families do a wonderful job following these expectations, and I appreciate your continued partnership. Still, an occasional reminder is good for all of us.

First, students must remain seated while the bus is moving. Our bus drivers have an important responsibility: getting children to and from school safely. When students leave their seats or disregard directions, it makes that job much more difficult. We ask that all students treat their drivers with respect and follow their instructions immediately.

I also want to offer a gentle reminder about how we handle disagreements or incidents involving children on the bus.

If your child shares a concern about something that happened, please contact the appropriate Dean rather than attempting to resolve the matter directly with another family's child. Parents should not approach or question another child unless that child's parent is present and has explicitly given permission.

Similarly, I ask that families avoid discussing or attempting to resolve difficult incidents at bus stops during pickup or drop-off. These moments can be busy, emotions can run high, and even well-intentioned conversations can become more complicated than anyone intended. Bringing concerns to the school allows us to look into what happened and work toward a fair and appropriate resolution.

Tonight, I encourage you to spend a few minutes talking with your children about what it means to be an Ultimate Jaguar on the bus.

What does Responsibility look like when the bus is moving? How do we show Respect to the driver and other students? What does Courage look like when a disagreement occurs or someone needs help?

And perhaps most importantly, how do we, as adults, demonstrate those same values when something upsets us?

We all know that these can be trying times, and we never really know what another person may be going through. A little patience, understanding, and grace can go a long way.

What our children see us do will always make a greater impression than what they hear us say.

Thank you for the care you show one another, for supporting our bus drivers, and for helping us maintain a safe and respectful school community.

In partnership,

Walter Duncan
Dean of Students K-5



On the Levels

K-5 Literacy Lane











James Otis Lecture Series | High School

On October 15, 2026, SSCPS students from the Mock Trial Workshop and the AP Government and Politics class travelled to Faneuil Hall in Boston to attend the *James Otis Lecture Series*. The *Otis Lectures* were created in 2008, specifically for high school students, who hear from highly accomplished women and men in fields relating to law and legal history. This year, the students saw a panel of Constitutional scholars speak, including United States Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, author Sarah Isgur, and renowned Constitutional historian Akhil Reed Amar. Justice Stephen G. Breyer resumed a position on the faculty at Harvard Law School after retiring from the Supreme Court of the United States in 2022, where he sat for 28 years, and issued a plethora of landmark decisions that impacted almost every aspect of American life. Professor Akhil Reed Amar is one of America's most prominent constitutional scholars, has published 11 books, and is a tenured Professor at Yale University Law School. Attorney Sarah Isgur is the editor of the leading blog on the U.S. Supreme Court and a legal analyst for ABC News. The panel discussed the Constitution and the authority of the United States Supreme Court in conjunction with the other branches of government. The students engaged in question and answers with the panel at the end…and the best question came from our own Trevor Koenecke! Thanks to Margaret Bulger, Mike Forrester and Mike Dupuis for chaperoning!











Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica Induction Ceremony

On Thursday, October 22, the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica held the induction ceremony, welcoming 15 new junior members into our esteemed honor society. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who attended and supported this special occasion. We look forward to continuing to grow our organization and expand our impact within the SSCPS community.



From the Foundation

2026 SSCPS Annual Road Race

Thank you to all who helped and participated in the 2026 Annual Road Race! Despite weather challenges, it was a fantastic event and a great celebration of our school community. Special thanks to Joe Kay, who always does a fantastic job of organizing the race, and to Mia Strahm for photographing the event!



















Afterschool Enrichment Program

Chemical Creations Club

This week, students explored the science of making slime! The students combined glue, activator, shaving cream, and a few drops of food coloring, and voilà - we created colorful, stretchy slime!

Everyone carefully mixed the ingredients and took their time adjusting the consistency to create their perfect slime. Once their creations were ready, the fun really began! The students kneaded, stretched, squeezed, and even punched their slime, transforming it into slime balls. They were especially fascinated by seeing who could make the biggest slime ball!

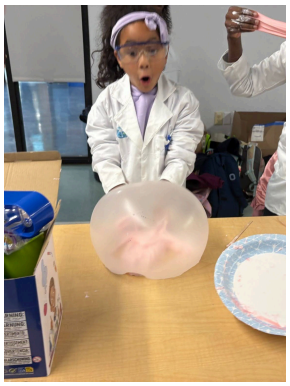
It was wonderful to see their excitement, creativity, and curiosity as they enjoyed this hands-on science activity. Please enjoy the photos capturing their fun and fantastic creations!

We look forward to another exciting science adventure next week!

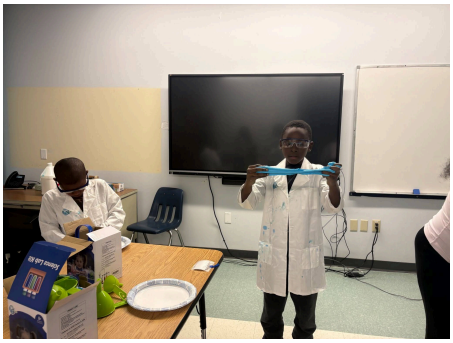












From the Health Office

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**
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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