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Weekly Update | October 7, 2026

VOL. 10, ISSUE 1

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Best Wishes On Your Retirement, Beth Dodge!

The South Shore Charter Public School would like to take this opportunity to recognize Beth Dodge as she retires from SSCPS. Beth, a beloved Elementary Paraprofessional whose endless patience, boundless compassion, and unwavering dedication has shaped a brighter future for countless students and staff. Thank you for eighteen years of showing up with a warm heart and a steady hand. You made our school a kinder, safer place, and you will be deeply missed. Wishing you a joyful, well-earned retirement filled with your favorite adventures!



Hispanic Heritage Month at SSCPS!



From the Dean’s Desk

Leave It Better

There is a sentence I hear pretty regularly in school.

“I didn't do it.”

And, quite often, the child saying it is absolutely right. They didn't drop the paper on the floor. They didn't leave the chair in the middle of the room. They didn't make the mess. They weren't the ones who left something where it didn't belong.

Fair enough.

But lately, we have been asking our students another question: What did you do when you noticed it?

Last week, our fifth graders explored this idea during advisory as part of our ongoing work around Responsibility, one of our three Ultimate Jaguar values.

For our youngest Jaguars, responsibility can be as simple as learning to take care of their belongings, their space, and themselves. As children grow, so does what we can ask of them.

Sometimes responsibility means taking care of something even when you weren't the person who caused the problem.

Pick up the paper. Hold the door. Push in the chair. Help someone who dropped their things. Notice when someone could use a hand. Small things. Most won't earn an award. Many won't even be noticed by an adult.

They matter anyway.

One of the things we want our students to understand is that a school belongs to all of us. Hundreds of children and adults share our classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, great rooms, and playgrounds every day. The way those spaces look and feel depends on what each of us contributes to them.

And this goes beyond taking care of a building. You can leave a person better too.

Invite someone into a game. Help a younger student. Make room at the table. Say something kind when someone is having a difficult day.

This week, I hope our families will help us reinforce a very simple idea: Leave it better than you found it.

A classroom. A playground. Your home. Your neighborhood. Maybe even somebody's day.

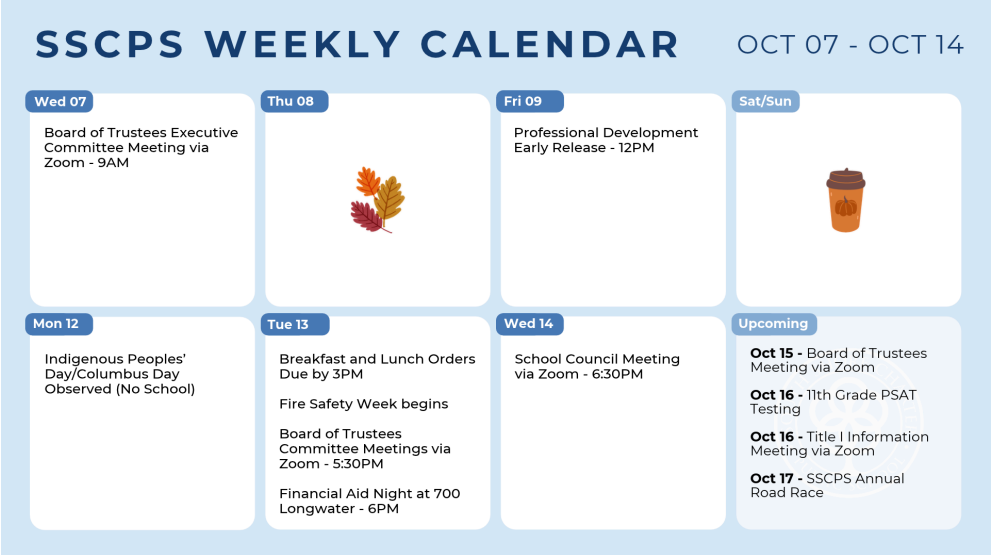
Our children won't always be responsible for what happened. But they can learn to take some responsibility for what happens next.

That's a Jaguar value worth practicing.

Walter Duncan
Dean of Students K-5



School Calendar & Announcements



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.

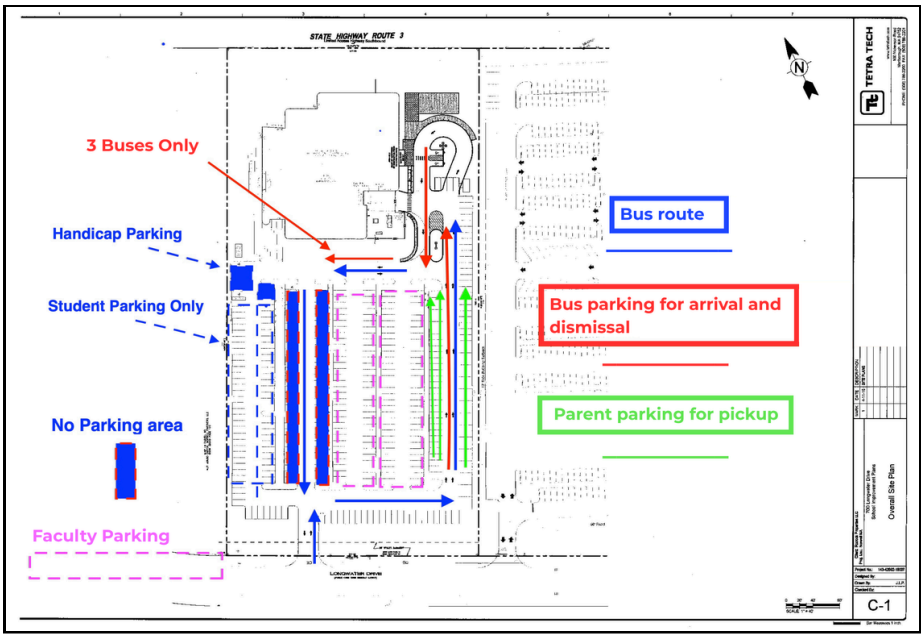
The existing phone number for 100 Longwater Circle **(781-982-4202)** is still in use and can be called to reach 100 Longwater directly.

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 Picture Days at SSCPS

Tuesday, November 3rd
Grades K-5

Wednesday, November 4th
Middle School & High School

Look for more details coming soon!

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

Upcoming School & Community Events

Upcoming SSCPS Events

MEFA Financial Aid Night

Planning for college is exciting, but figuring out how to pay for it can feel overwhelming. The good news is that families do not have to navigate the financial aid process alone!

The SSCPS Guidance Department is pleased to welcome MEFA (Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority) for a **Financial Aid Night on Tuesday, October 13, from 6:00–7:00 PM.** This informative presentation will help students and families better understand the college financial aid process, including the FAFSA, grants, scholarships, student loans, college costs, financial aid offers, and important next steps.

Whether your family is already completing financial aid applications or is just beginning to learn about paying for college, this program will provide helpful information and resources.

Who: College-bound students and their parents/guardians
When: Tuesday, October 13, 6:00–7:00 PM
Where: High School Great Room, 2nd Floor at 700 Longwater Drive
Sponsored by: SSCPS Guidance Department - contact Mary Carter, Director of Guidance with any questions at **mcarter@sscps.org**.

Don't let financial aid questions keep you from exploring your college options. Come learn about the resources and support available to help make college more affordable!

2026 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

K-5 Literacy Lane

We're hosting another K-5 Literacy Lane on October 23rd — join us at 700 Longwater from 5-6PM for another great event! Use the button below to sign up today.

LITERACY LANE SIGN-UP



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

On the Levels

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and last Friday was “Show Your Pink Day” at 700 Longwater! Staff wore pink to stand in solidarity with those affected by breast cancer and help raise awareness. Thanks to all who participated!



Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica

The SSCPS Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month!

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, the high school’s Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica visited Marion’s first grade class at 100 to teach students some basic steps of the Merengue. Merengue is the national dance and music style of the Dominican Republic.

High school students Victoria Dibb, David Anyanwu, Daniel Olaoye, and Nayara Santana led the young dancers through the steps, bringing the celebration of Hispanic heritage, and the joy of dance, to our elementary students.







Black Student Union & Community Service Club

Students from the Black Student Union and the Community Service Club met with a Salvation Army representative to explore volunteer opportunities and learn how they can support those in need. The session encouraged students to take an active role in helping others and strengthening their communities.



Arts and Music

After School Music Registration

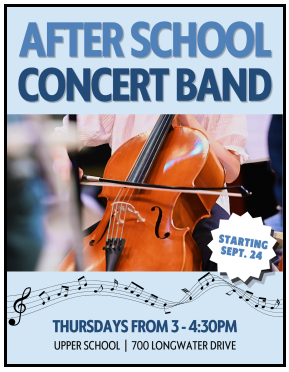
Click on the flyers below to sign up for one of this year's after school music programs! For any questions regarding our music programs, please contact Theron Leonard at tleonard@sscps.org.

**Please note that our music programs for Grades 4 & 5 are now open to Grade 3 students as well!*











Afterschool Enrichment Program

Session I Kickoff

Our Afterschool Enrichment Program kicked off on Tuesday, October 6, with plenty of energy and excitement! Students jumped into hands-on activities and creative challenges, exploring new interests, building skills and connecting with peers. Their enthusiasm made

for a wonderful start to our program which brings learning and discovery beyond the classroom.

We look forward to watching our students' creativity, confidence and friendships grow throughout the session. Thank you to our instructors, high school student volunteers and families for helping make our first day a success!









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

Fall Social & Upcoming PA Meeting

The PA welcome back outing to Wards Berry Farm was a great success! Thank you to everyone that attended for making it a wonderful evening. We hope to have more events like this to build community at SSCPS.

Please join us for the next Parents Association meeting on Wednesday, October 21st at 7PM on Zoom. We hope to see you there!

Happy Fall!


SSCPS
HAPPY FALL







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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