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Weekly Update | September 16, 2026

VOL. 9, ISSUE 3

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A Message From Alicia

These early days of the school year are ones of promise and hope, and this year even more so. It is in that spirit that I am writing to you today.

In 2017, our school passed a resolution reminding our school community of our long-standing institutional values and our commitment to providing every child a safe and welcoming place where they can learn and grow. The principles inherent in the SSCPS Resolution 2017 are what we have continually revisited and reinforced to ensure that our school community, comprising twenty-six school districts across the South Shore, is an inclusive environment where all students feel safe and valued. For over thirty years, South Shore Charter has seen itself as one community made up of many students,

families, and cultures. As the most economically, socially, and culturally diverse school setting on the South Shore, we take pride in our diversity. We recognize the strength and beauty of our unique mosaic each day.

Although the Resolution was drafted almost ten years ago, we have held fast to the tenets outlined within it. Our institutional values are based on the dignity and rights of every person, regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, national origin, or immigration and citizenship status. The South Shore Charter Public School recognizes that all students are guaranteed the right to a free and appropriate public education. Our School continues to hold to the principles set forth in the United States Supreme Court decision *Plyler v. Doe* and the United States Constitution. Students who are aspiring citizens remain entitled to full protection while at school. As always, our school will have a zero-tolerance policy for those who seek to make other students uncomfortable or to make them feel unsafe at school. There is no place for discrimination, harassment, and fear in our classrooms, hallways, grounds, and fields.

On August 5, 2026, Governor Maura Healey signed the **PROTECT Act** into law. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education released, “It is now the law in Massachusetts that, except as required by state or federal law or as required for the Commonwealth or its subdivisions to administer a state or federally supported or funded program, civil arrests for civil law enforcement, including federal immigration enforcement, are not allowed on school grounds during school hours, student drop off and pick up windows, before- and after-school programming and school-sponsored events without a Judicial Warrant or Judicial Order.”

In response to the new law, the South Shore Charter Public School has reviewed and revised all policies and procedures related to the protections outlined in the PROTECT Act. This latest version encompasses two earlier revisions: one from February 2025 and another from June 2026. On September 10, 2026, the South Shore Charter Public School Board of Trustees unanimously approved the SSCPS PROTECT Act Policy and Procedures. These policies and procedures are now in full effect, and I am sharing them with you today.

SSCPS PROTECT Act Policy and Procedures

These policies and procedures will help ensure that our school is safe and accessible for students, staff, and residents. Updates will occur throughout the school year as necessary. We will host a Zoom information session for families in the coming weeks. And as always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your commitment to our school and for your belief in our mission of inspiring every student to excel in academics, service, and life.

Alicia Savage
Executive Director

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.

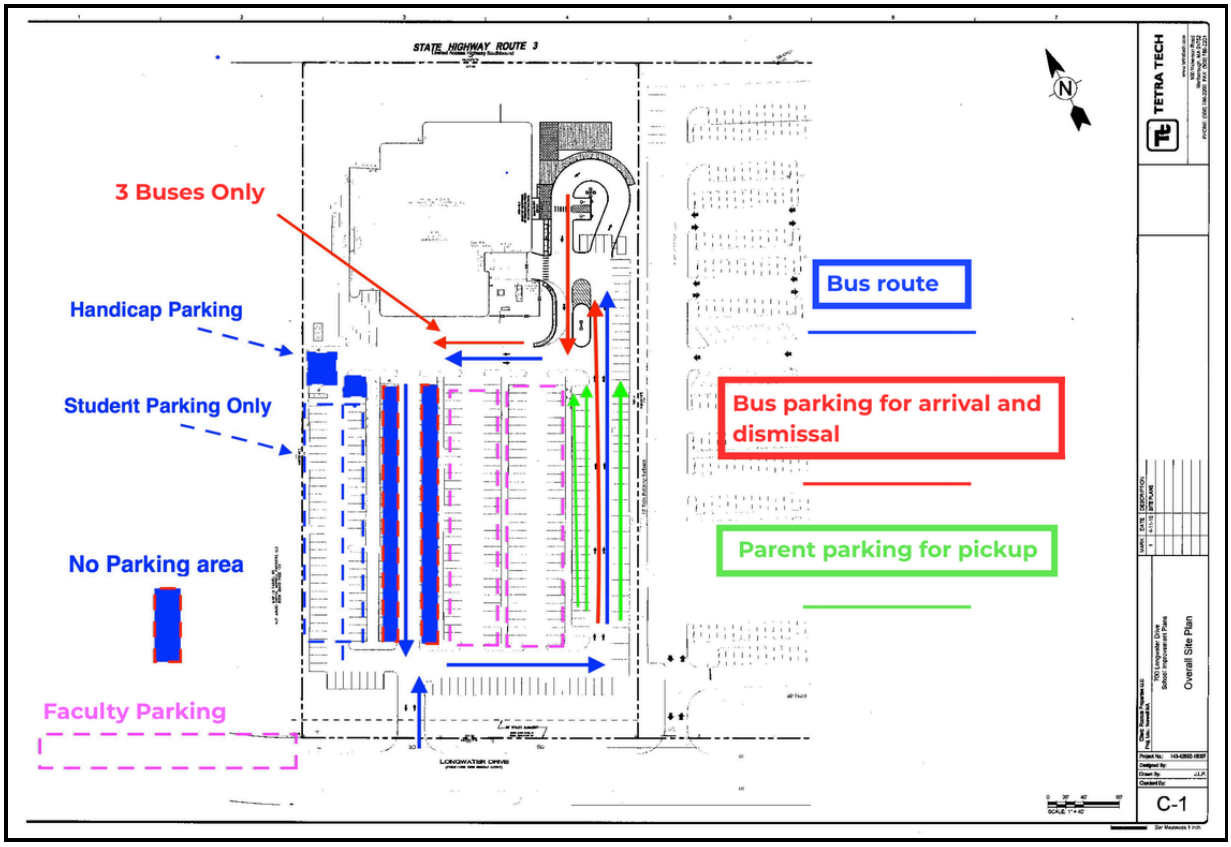
The existing phone number for 100 Longwater Circle **(781-982-4202)** is still in use and can be called to reach 100 Longwater directly.

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



School Policy Survey Reminder

2026-2027 SSCPS Cell Phone Policy Survey

Thank you to all parents who participated in our Cell Phone Policy Focus Group! If you were unable to attend, please view the Cell Phone Policy flyer for the 2026-2027 school year below.

We are asking all SSCPS families to take the Cell Phone Policy Survey by September 30th, 2026. Please use the button below to complete the survey.

TAKE THE SURVEY

SSCPS Cell Phone and Personal Electronic Device Policy

SSCPS is committed to fostering a school environment that prioritizes engaged learning, supports the development of social skills, and promotes the overall well-being of our students.

To achieve this, SSCPS is adopting a **Bell-to-Bell cell phone policy** beginning **fall, 2026**. This means that cell phones and other personal electronic devices will not be accessible to students during school hours.

DEFINITION OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

Personal electronic devices ("devices" as used herein) are defined as any electronic device utilized to access the internet, wi-fi, cellular telephone signals, or to capture or play images or video. These include, but are not limited to, smartphones, mobile phones, headphones, earbuds, smartwatches, tablets, laptops, and gaming devices. The school reserves the right to classify additional devices as personal electronic devices.

WHAT IS THE POLICY?

Each morning, students will be required to silence or power off their devices and place them in the secured box in their advisory room. The devices will remain in the secured box until dismissal. If a student arrives late or is being dismissed early, they will place their device in the secured box at the front desk.

WHAT IF A STUDENT DOES NOT PLACE THEIR PHONE IN THE BOX?

If a student is seen with a device after the boxes have been locked, the device will be placed in the secure box in the dean's office. A parent will then be notified and required to pick up the device, in person, from the dean.

WHAT IF I DON'T WANT MY STUDENT TO PLACE THEIR PHONE IN THE BOX?

While there may be exceptions for some medical circumstances, if students do not wish to participate, they should leave their device at home. (Please note the policy above regarding devices found in student use).

WHAT IF I NEED TO CONTACT MY STUDENT?

You may contact the front office, email the dean or email the student directly.

This policy helps us create a focused, connected, and respectful school community where all students can learn and thrive.

Thank you for your support and partnership!

From the Dean’s Desk

Finding Our Rhythm

Summer is a funny thing for kids. For a couple of months the schedules loosen, bedtimes get later, there is more time to play, and for at least a little while, the school day is somebody else's problem.

Then September comes.

Over the past few days, I have watched our students begin the work of finding their school rhythm again. You can see it everywhere. Kindergarteners learning where to go in the morning. Older students remembering how to move through the hallways. New teachers learning hundreds of names. Returning teachers discovering that this year's class is, of course, nothing like last year's class.

We are getting there.

I think sometimes we talk about summer as if learning stops when school ends. It doesn't. Kids spent the summer growing. They played. They argued with friends and figured it out. They explored. They got bored and found something to do. They spent time with family. They probably spent too much time on their devices. They made mistakes without a teacher standing nearby to help fix them.

All of that counts.

Now fall is coming, and with it comes the harvest. Our job is to help our students take some of what grew during those long summer days and bring it back into the classroom.

A little more independence. A little more confidence. Maybe some patience that wasn't there in June. The courage to try something new. The ability to solve a problem before immediately looking for an adult.

Of course, nobody comes back from summer magically transformed. I have already given plenty of reminders. So have our teachers. We will give plenty more.

That is September.

We learn our classrooms. We learn our teachers. We learn the new expectations that come with being a year older. We figure out lunch, recess, hallways, specials, friendships, and all the other little things that somehow make up a school day.

Eventually, the routines stop feeling new. The building settles down. We

find our rhythm.

But I don't want our students simply to return to who they were in June. They had an entire summer to grow.

Let's see what they brought back with them.

Walter Duncan
Dean of Students K-5



Upcoming School & Community Events

Upcoming SSCPS Events

This Week: Back to School Parent Nights

A reminder for all SSCPS parents and guardians: We'll be hosting our Parent Back to School Nights this week at SSCPS! These will be in-person events for parents and guardians to meet their children's teachers and learn more about the curriculum. Please refer to the details below about each Back to School Night:

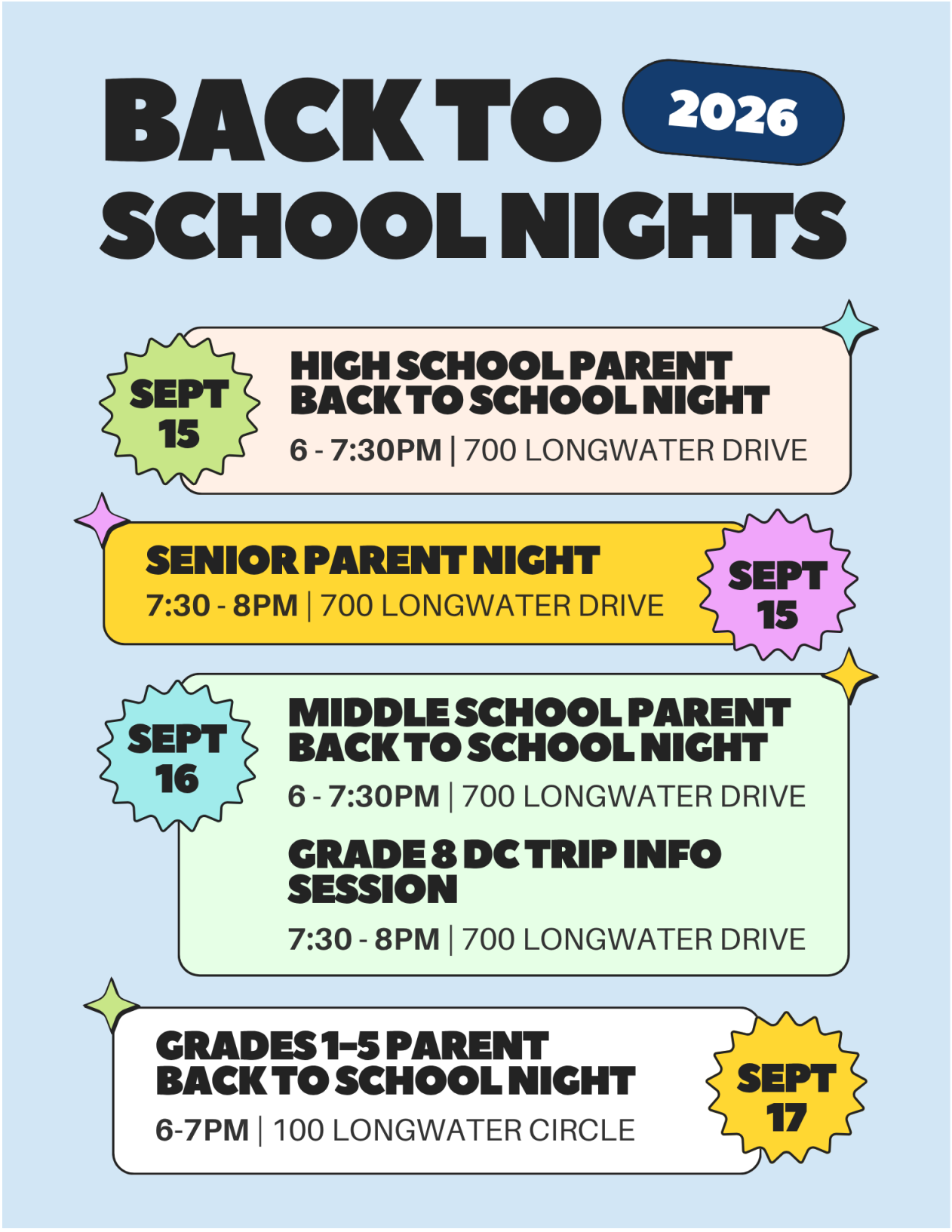
Tuesday, September 15th: High School Parent Back to School Night
6 - 7:30PM at 700 Longwater Drive
Thank you for attending!

Tuesday, September 15th: Senior Parent Night
7:30 - 8PM at 700 Longwater Drive
Thank you for attending!

Tonight: Wednesday, September 16th: Middle School Parent Back to School Night
6 - 7:30PM at 700 Longwater Drive

Thursday, September 17th: Grades 1-5 Parent Back to School Night
6 - 7PM at 100 Longwater Circle

There will also be an information session for the **Grade 8 Washington DC Trip on Wednesday, September 16th** after the Middle School Parent Night event tonight. The info session will run from 7:30PM to 8PM at 700 Longwater Drive.



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

On the Levels

Honoring the 25th Anniversary of September 11th

High school students and teachers gathered for a meaningful ceremony commemorating the 25th anniversary of September 11th. History teacher Margaret Bulger reflected on the significance of the day, followed by the singing of the National Anthem by students in the Music Workshop. The ceremony also included a reading of the names of victims from Massachusetts and a moving poem read by English teacher Kate Seavey. Together, our school community paused to remember the lives lost and to honor the courage, sacrifice and resilience shown on that day.





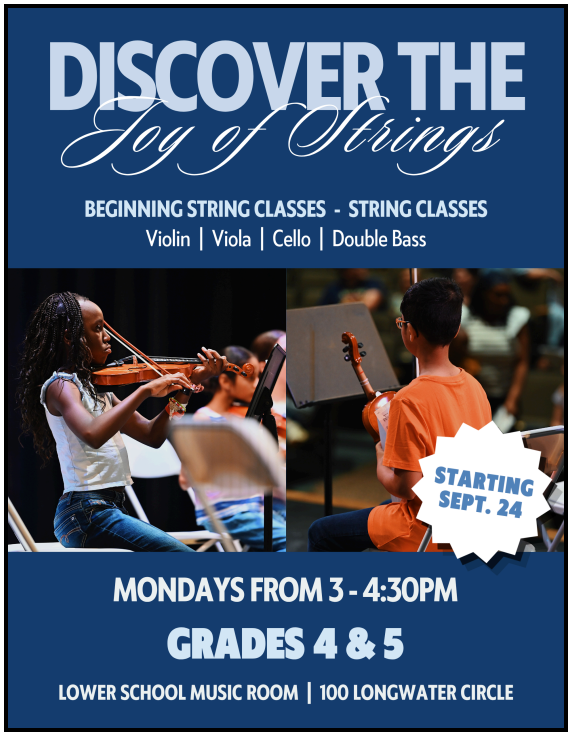




Arts and Music

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.









Afterschool Enrichment Program

Session I Registration is Now Open for Grades 3-12!

Dear Families,

We are pleased to announce that registration for Session I of our Afterschool Enrichment Program is now open. Enrichment will run for 10 weeks. The first session is from October 6th - December 17th 2026. Please review our Club Descriptions **here** and complete the Registration form **here** using FamilyID.

Registration closes on September 25th, 2026. We look forward to another wonderful session of learning, adventure and fun! Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Warm regards,

Nadeen Sullivan
Afterschool Enrichment Program Coordinator

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

AFTERSCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

SESSION ONE | OCTOBER 6 - DECEMBER 17, 2026

Tuesdays & Thursdays | 3:15 - 4:15 PM | Grades 3 - 12 | No classes Thanksgiving week

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Grades 3-5

TUESDAY

- Chemical Creations
- The Perler Society
- Write Club
- Active Zone: Sports & Fitness
- Art Club

THURSDAY

- The Perler Society
- Active Zone: Sports & Fitness
- Art Club
- Dance Blast!



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grades 6-8

TUESDAY

- Complete Athletes
- Hacky Sack Club
- Board Game Masters

THURSDAY

- Complete Athletes
- Hacky Sack Club
- The Study Spot
- STEAM Dream Team
- Write Club



HIGH SCHOOL

Grades 9-12

TUESDAY

- Theatre*
- Mindful Moments: Stress Management
- The Study Spot

THURSDAY

- Theatre*
- The Craft Lab
- Mindful Moments: Stress Management



REGISTER ON FAMILYID

BY SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

Clubs require at least 6 enrolled students to operate.

Questions? Nadeen Sullivan | 781-982-4202 ext. 356 | nsullivan@sscps.org

*High school theatre meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 - 5:30 PM.

All experience levels welcome!

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.

From the Health Office

Back to School | 2026-2027

If your student takes prescription medication during the school day, including epipens or inhalers, the medication will need to be dropped off to the school nurse by an adult. Medication cannot be sent on the bus with students. All medication needs to be accompanied by a new prescription medication form each year. Your doctor may fill out their own medication form, an Asthma Action Plan, Allergy Action Plan, or the school's **Prescription Drug Form**. The form must be **dated after July 1, 2026** in order for it to be valid for the school year. No medication can be accepted without the proper paperwork. Parents/guardians will also need to sign the form to give permission for medication to be administered in school. Students can not bring in over the counter medication. All medication needed at school must be held in the Health Office and have the proper paperwork in order for it to be administered at school. Please check expiration dates of medication before sending it in. Medication that expires during the school year will need to be replaced before it expires. Please reach out to your school nurse if you have any questions about medications.

K-12th grade: Jaime Kjelgaard, RN **jkjelgaard@sspcs.org** 781-982-4202 x104

K-5th grade: Erilin Martinez, RN **emartinez2@sscps.org** 781-982-4202 x 104

6th-12th grade: Barbara Folan, RN **bfolan@sscps.org** 781-982-4202 x 182

If your student is planning on playing a school sport in the fall they must have a current physical dated within the past 13 months of the start of the sports season. Students who do not have a current physical will not be allowed to try out or participate in sports. You may submit health forms to Jaime Kjelgaard, RN **Jkjelgaard@sscps.org** 781-982-4202 x 104.

Students entering K, 4th, 7th & 10th grade must submit current physical forms and vaccine records.

The K-5 school is a **peanut/nut free** building. Please make sure you do not send your child to school with any food that contains peanuts or nuts or the label reads “may contain nuts or traces of nuts”. Caffeinated beverages are not allowed in the elementary school. Please send your student to school with a reusable water bottle as the school does not provide water bottles.

Please reach out to your school nurse and teacher if your student is sick. Students who have vomiting, diarrhea, or a fever of 100 or above need to remain out of school until the symptoms or fever have resolved for 24 hours. If your student has strep throat, conjunctivitis or any other contagious illness they will need to remain out until they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours. Students who develop any of these symptoms during the school day will need to be picked up from school promptly. Please make sure your contact information with the school is up to date. Absences can be reported to **attendance@sscps.org**.

Level I students should have a full change of weather-appropriate clothes that is kept at school.

SSCPS Health Office

Parents Association, SEPAC, & ELPAC

PA Meeting New Date: Wednesday, September 23

Update for SSCPS Families:

The Parents Association leadership team wants to attend all 3 of the Back to School Night events so that we can meet parents and share information about the PA in person. As such, we are moving the date of our first PA meeting to next **Wednesday, September 23rd at 7PM via Zoom.** You can use the button below to join the meeting.

All parents/guardians are automatically members of the Parents Association, so please come join us! We look forward to seeing you at Back to School Night and at the first PA meeting!

Best regards,
The SSCPS Parents Association

ZOOM MEETING LINK

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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