

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL



High School Program Guide

South Shore Charter Public School
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HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

South Shore Charter Public School's mission statement is "Inspiring every student to excel in academics, service, and life." This is accomplished with an innovative curriculum that addresses the learning styles of the individual student and is complemented by a real-life experiential learning program within a community that encourages service, leadership, and respect for all.

The goal of the South Shore Charter Public School is to help prepare independent community-minded students for college and life. The rigorous core curriculum and the challenging graduation standards, complemented by the Workshops provide students with an excellent college preparatory experience.

Academically students have the opportunity to excel at the college prep, honors or AP level. Students are also required to take and pass two, 3-credit college courses during their high school career, furthering their readiness for university life. While Workshops have strong scholastic components, they enable students to pursue special interests with valuable hands-on learning.

For students entering grade 9 and new to the High School, there is a Summer Institute that introduces students to the high school, its policies, curriculum and culture. Held the week before classes begin and run by upperclassmen, attendance at the Summer Institute helps students prepare for the years ahead.

EXPLORATORY WORKSHOPS

High School Workshops provide students the opportunity to explore in depth personal fields of interest, using the master/apprentice model. In this format the faculty leader along with outside experts in the field, offer seminars and intensive hands-on learning to students. Depending on Workshop choice, students may have the chance for international travel, internships, experimentation and original creative work. Some Workshops afford the student AP exams and credit in particular academic disciplines.

Students audition, interview and/or submit a written application for a Project or Workshop at the beginning of the academic year. Projects and Workshops are yearlong. Some students elect to continue in one Workshop throughout their high school career. Others prefer to experiment with new Workshops each year.

Exhibitions of Mastery—each semester (twice a year) students prepare and present an in-depth study of a particular interest related to their Workshop. The assessment of this exhibition includes: a presentation to the Workshop, a research paper of appropriate length and visual aids explaining their work.

RECENT COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

It is a SSCPS graduation requirement that students be accepted to a college or other post secondary institution of learning. Recent graduates have been accepted to: Babson College, Barnard College, Berklee College of Music, Boston Conservatory, Boston University, Brandeis University, Brown University, Bridgewater State College, Clark University, Columbia College of Chicago, Clemson University, Curry College, Emerson College, Emmanuel College, Hampshire College, College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, New England Conservatory New York University, Northeastern University, Pace University, Providence College, San Francisco State University, San Diego State University, Temple University, Tulane University, University of California Santa Barbara, UMASS Amherst, UMASS Boston, UMASS Dartmouth, University of Rhode Island, University of Vermont, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Wheelock College, The College of Wooster and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

TOWNS IN THE SSCPS REGION

| | | | |
|------------------|----------|------------|----------|
| Abington | Halifax | Kingston | Quincy |
| Braintree | Hanover | Marshfield | Randolph |
| Brockton | Hanson | Norwell | Rockland |
| Cohasset | Hingham | Pembroke | Scituate |
| Duxbury | Holbrook | Plymouth | Weymouth |
| East Bridgewater | Hull | Plympton | Whitman |



It is the policy of SSCPS to maintain an environment that is conducive to learning, is peaceful, and respects the dignity of all persons. SSCPS does not discriminate, exclude from participation, deny benefits, nor access to programs or facilities based on race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, national origin, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy or disability, housing status, or English language proficiency in all aspects of employment and education including the selection of students or staff. SSCPS and all its programs are fully accessible to all students who can be served by our nurturing, project-based, volunteer-intensive, technology-dependent, and college preparatory academic program environment. SSCPS actively seeks a staff that fully reflects the diversity of our society. SSCPS actively seeks partner organizations which will assist in helping to diversify our student and staff population.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Town Meeting—Students at SSCPS are encouraged to be active members of their school community. On a regular basis the high school students meet as a group to review and give input on issues before them regarding school life, school policies under consideration, and items to improve the school community. These meetings are moderated by an elected Town Meeting moderator and are conducted according to modified *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Student Board & School Council - The purpose of the Student Board is to establish closer cooperation between the students and the faculty of SSCPS, to instruct its members in the principles and responsibilities of a democracy, and to promote the general welfare of the school community. The Student Board in the High School is composed of three at-large members and one from each advisory group. The three at large members are the Board officers elected in the spring semester for the succeeding year. Student Board acts as the umbrella organization for student activities and plans activities for the student body that are beneficial to the school and the community. Student Board consults with the faculty advisor and the Principal.

Student Representative to the Board of Trustees – This student, elected by peers, serves as a full voting member of the SSCPS Board of Trustees and serves for a term of one year.

ATHLETICS

Both boys and girls may participate in soccer and cross country in the fall and basketball during the winter and track in the spring. SSCPS is a member of the Massachusetts Charter School Athletic Association and plays a full schedule of games during the seasons.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

National Honor Society—Scholarship, Leadership, Character, Service are the essence of what the National Honor Society considers to be a high school student of stature. Each fall students in grades 11 and 12 are eligible to be inducted into the honor society. As members, they are asked to encourage the four qualities in their peers and support efforts toward that end. Selection is made by a faculty committee and based primarily on scholarship (85%), with the evaluation of the remaining elements comprising 15% of the criteria for membership.

Other Club options—The school encourages students to initiate clubs and activities they would like to see started in the high school. Students wishing to start a club need only to find a faculty/staff advisor and submit a proposal to the Principal for approval. Some of the current clubs are: The Debate Team, The Math Club, The Ski & Snowboard Club

High School Workshops

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|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Aquatics | Fine Arts | Recreation Design/ |
| Computer Graphics | Journalism | Engineering |
| Electronics | Music | Theater |
| Environmental | Political and Social Action | World Heritages |

ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL

We currently offer the following AP courses: English Language and Composition, Calculus AB, Biology, and Physics B.

Honors courses are specifically denoted on a transcript for mathematics, English and some levels of Spanish.

Virtual High School is another option we offer to our students in grades 10-12. VHS provides SSCPS the opportunity to offer more numerous rigorous and specialized courses to students who are looking for an additional challenge. Course options include College Prep, Honors, and AP levels. A complete course listing is available at www.govhs.org.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Students receive grades at the end of each academic quarter. The high school administration and guidance staff review grades and meet with any student who is under achieving. In this process, support and other solutions are explored to improve a student's grades in the next marking period. Parents are advised of their student's and are advised of the solutions recommended.

Four days a week students participate in Focused Instruction Time (FIT) which provides opportunities for students to receive specialized extra help, participate in lab courses, complete Advanced Placement coursework, and engage in enrichment activities. FIT assignments change each quarter to reflect changing student needs.

ACADEMIC PLANNING AND GUIDANCE SERVICES

Advisory— Each student in the high school is assigned a faculty advisor. The student meets with their advisory group on a regular basis to discuss issues related to academics and school life. Advisory helps with progress and planning and provides students with support and encouragement. The advisor serves as an advocate for the student and is the main contact person for parents.

College Planning— A Guidance Counselor is available to students as they prepare for college. Students receive assistance with academic issues throughout high school including: PSAT/NMSQT and SAT testing, college search, application and financial aid process, internship placements, and Senior Exit Standards. All student participate in Junior Seminar and Senior Seminar, courses which help students navigate the college entrance process. In this course, students work with the guidance counselor and their Advisors to consider career options, narrow down their college choices, visit schools, and complete applications.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

By the completion of high school, each SSCPS graduate must meet these minimum standards. Each student must submit evidence that he/she has met all the Exit Standards to the portfolio panel and Principal. For students with an IEP or 504, the IEP or 504 may contain details on any modification of Exit Standards.

Internal and External Performance Evaluations:

Receive a passing grade and meet the yearlong workshop goals, including two relates exhibitions of mastery per year enrolled in the High School. (Evidence of meeting this standard is documented in Grade Reports and Exhibition of Mastery Scoring Rubrics.)

Achieve a passing grade in all Core Curriculum courses English/Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science and World Language, each year enrolled at SSCPS. (Evidence of meeting this standard is documented in Grade Reports.)

Meet the Massachusetts MCAS graduation requirements.

Complete, with a grade of C or better, at least two pre-approved three-credit courses at an accredited college or university.

Attain a score of 70 or above on a Senior Project and presentation to a panel of faculty members and students.

Attain a score of 70 or above on Senior Debate.

One accredited college or university letter of acceptance.

Portfolio:

At the end of each year, each student presents a portfolio of work to a panel that must include the student's Advisor and the Principal. *A minimum score of 70 must be obtained.*

Community Service:

All SSCPS students are required to participate in community service. Level High School students must complete 30 documented hours per year for freshman, sophomore and junior year and 45 documented hours for senior year. Documentation includes standard reflective paragraphs

Senior Projects

In grade twelve, in lieu of a portfolio, SSCPS students will participate in a Senior Project. The intent of the project is to demonstrate mastery in an academic discipline and/or a hands-on endeavor that complements the student's scholastic experience in high school. These projects may be seen as the culmination of high school career in a project based school. The Senior Project is a graduation requirement.

| GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS | |
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| English | 4 Credits |
| Math | 4 Credits |
| History | 4 Credits |
| Science | 4 Credits |
| Spanish | 4 Credits |
| Workshop | 4 Credits |

| ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Community Service | Complete a total of 135 hours, grades 9-12 |
| College Courses | Pass two 3-credit college courses with a C/75/2.00 |
| Senior Debate | Attain a 70% or higher in a formal debate |
| Senior Project | Internship |
| College Acceptance | Receive at least one accredited college or university letter of acceptance |
| Portfolio | Present a writing portfolio containing samples representing all curricular areas to a panel of judges. |