

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.

Judicial Council – The Judicial Council consists of five elected students. The purpose of the council is to advise the Principal on matters of student disciplinary action to be taken in cases in which suspension would be considered the minimum action. The council is not determining guilt or innocence. The council would be convened by the Principal (non-voting member) and testimony would be heard from the accused party and consider evidence submitted by the administration. The council would then make a recommendation on the appropriate disciplinary action to be taken.

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.

ACADEMIC PLANNING AND GUIDANCE SERVICES

Advisory/Pod Teacher - At the middle school level, each student is assigned a pod teacher and each student in the high school is assigned a faculty advisor. The student meets with the advisor/pod teacher on a regular basis to discuss issues related to academic progress and planning as well as to provide support and encouragement. The advisor/pod teacher 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.

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL



Grades 7-12 Program Guide

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Level IV (Grades 7 & 8) and High School Program

In keeping with the school's motto *Independence, Knowledge, Community*, 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.



This guide gives students an overview of courses and workshop options along with graduation requirements. Consult with the guidance counselor and/or your advisor to map out your personal plan of study.

While Level IV shares a schedule with the high school, grades 7 and 8 maintain their unique middle school identity within the 7-12 program. Level IV uses a team approach, with a group of teachers dedicated to the grade levels. Students in 7th and 8th grade engage in a weekly town meeting, allowing for active involvement in the community and student input. In addition, students participate in a community meeting at the conclusion of the week that celebrates exemplary work and encourages an engaged learning community.

For students entering grade 9 and new to the High School, there is a mandatory three-day Summer Institute that introduces students to SSCPS, its policies, curriculum and culture. Held the week before classes begin, attendance at the Summer Institute is required of all freshman and new students to the high school.

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 (70 or better) 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 (70 or better) 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 Level Coordinator. *A minimum score of 70 must be obtained.*

A sample of best artistic work from a course or project (which may include literary work, dance, music, theater or visual arts) (*Only in junior year*)

Community Service:

All SSCPS students are required to participate in community service. Level IV students must complete and document 20 hours of community service for grade 7 and 25 hours of community service for grade 8. 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.

ACADEMIC STANDING

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 and his or her adviser. 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 Academic Review status and are advised of the solutions recommended.

Students receiving any failing grade in a core class or workshop or has not completed his or her Exhibition of Mastery from the previous semester will be considered to be not in good academic standing and will be restricted from certain school activities until their status improves.

EXPLORATORY PROJECTS AND WORKSHOPS

SSCPS Level IV (grades 7 & 8) Projects and 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 year-long. 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. Consult the *Exhibition of Mastery Guide* for more details.

The Theater Workshop allows students to explore all areas of the performing arts through acting seminars and exercises, writing for the stage exercises, directing and designing sets for the stage, light and sound production. The workshop enters the annual Massachusetts High School Drama Guild Competition. At least one other stage presentation is produced by this workshop and performed on stage. Students also receive training on how to compile a portfolio/audition piece for college entrance.



The Writing Workshop fosters writing and editing skills among students who produce the monthly school newspaper, a twice yearly literary magazine and the K-12 yearbook. Students are responsible for all aspects of these publications from writing and editing to design and layout.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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.



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



Projects Level IV (Grades 7 & 8)

The Calligraphy Project

The Calligraphy Project studies the art of calligraphy through the lens of history. Students work to develop the art form, with a focus on both the Western and Arabic styles. The project also runs a business that provides calligraphy based graphic arts products to clients at the school.

The Conservation Project

Through activities and habitat exploration, students gain an understanding of the importance of species diversity and population. With this knowledge students study the importance of conservation of species and their habitat.

The Hispanic Cultures Project

The Hispanic Cultures Project allows students to take a closer look at Spanish-speaking cultures from around the globe. Students work to deepen their understanding of many elements of Hispanic culture including art, food, and literature. Through culture, the project helps students to improve their Spanish language skills.

The Literary Magazine Project

Students in the Literary Magazine Project focus on developing creative writing skills. Both by producing their own work and critiquing the work of their peers, students produce two magazines that highlight writing and art over the course of the school year. Students are involved in writing and illustrating as well as formatting and publication to create the final product.

High School Workshops

The Art Workshop helps students to develop their skills in drawing, painting, sculpture, theory of color design, computer-aided art, portfolio preparation, as well studies in art history. This is a workshop for serious students who are required to prepare materials for competitions and external art shows.



The Biology Research Workshop enables students to conduct scientific research through questioning periods, literature searches, data collection, lab reports and presentation. Topics researched study the problems facing animals and the environment. SSCPS is partnered with the New England Wildlife Center, Shenandoah Valley Spay/Neuter Clinic, South Shore Sustainable, Holly Hill Farm and Briarwood Marine Science Center to facilitate the research. Students also conduct a legislative case study on a topic related to biology or ecology, while exploring the relationship between scientists, non-profit organizations and the legislature. Students also participate in the Massachusetts Envirothon, a state-wide natural resources education program and competition.

The Design Engineering requires students to design and build mechanical devices and equipment with an eye to entering various state and national competitions. As the school year progresses, these designs and devices will become more complex and sophisticated.

The Early Childhood Development Workshop partners with Levels 1 and 2 at the Charter School and other early childcare centers/preschools. Students will spend time mentoring small children and assisting classroom teachers. Opportunities will be given for participants to receive hands on training in a number of areas related to early childhood education.



The Filmmaking Workshop provides hands on experience with the production of short individual films and a larger group-based film production. Using the latest camera equipment and computer technology students learn the basic elements of film production from scripts to storyboards, directing, set designing, lighting and sound engineering. The workshop leader also conducts seminars on the history of film and classics from different cinema genres.

The History Workshop utilizes local museums, their curators, archivists and historians to train students in the discipline of history. Students learn how to conduct historical research in primary documents from libraries, local historical societies and town records. Working with local non-profit organizations, students take the knowledge and skills from the workshop and produce non-personal media for these agencies such as, brochures, stand-alone exhibits and display boards. Students will also produce a public exhibit from their research to be placed in a local library or government building. During the first two quarters of the school year, students will also join the Art Workshop for Art History lessons.

The Music Workshop is for serious instrumental or voice students. Students learn the elements of music theory, history, composition, individual instruments, ensemble and performance. Workshop members also learn how to prepare for auditions at conservatories and schools of music. At least twice a year students perform in concerts for the school and other outside musical events. Students who have taken this workshop for at least two years have the opportunity to take the high school AP Music exam.

