

## 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.



*South Shore Charter Public School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation, mental or physical disability, age ancestry, athletic performance, special need, proficiency in the English language or in a foreign language, or academic achievement in admitting students, nor does it set admission criteria that are intended to discriminate on any of these bases.*

# SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL



## Grades 7-12 Program Guide



## **SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL**

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

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 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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.

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

## **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.

**Theater Workshop:** The Theater Workshop begins the year with Improvisation, an introduction to Stanislavski's Method Acting and a short children's theater one-act. We then prepare a 30-35 minute one-act for participation in the METG Festival in late February. The year ends with scene work, stage combat and a third, small, presentation of works-in-progress. Students MUST be committed (starting the second week of workshop) to regular after school time for set construction, painting, line-throughs and rehearsals.



**World Heritage Workshop:** This workshop will raise student awareness regarding cultural diversity by looking into the world heritages. Students will research, inquire, differentiate and gain appreciation of each country: its history, its people and its culture. They will become familiar with four major subareas of each culture: art, food, music and dance.

**Writers and Poetry Slam Workshop:** Students will learn how to create and present rollicking and freewheeling oral poetry. Taken through the steps of inspiration and creation of the basics of poetry, students will be given open reign to present their creative spirit in this format. Presentations are made in the Workshop and then honed for public competition. Students will be expected to be available for after school events, including major competitions.

**Writing and Publication Workshop:** This workshop is predominately a writing workshop, but will include video casting. Focus will be on the newspaper, newscast and yearbook to capture spirit, essence and heart of SSCPS. Students are responsible for writing, editing, formatting, taking pictures and video footage.

## 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.

**National Spanish Honor Society** (Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica) started a chapter at SSCPS. Students who were chosen and inducted to this organization showed exemplarily progress and achievement in their Spanish classes. The Spanish Honor Society looks forward to more students applying and being accepted this year.

**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

## 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.



## Projects Level IV (Grades 7 & 8)

**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.

**A Healthy You Project** focuses on the wellness of mind & body, including nutrition and fitness. Students participate in physical activities, learn about age-appropriate nutrition, and learn to manage & cope with stress. Students use what they learn to teach and inform different age groups using student produced skits, PowerPoints, videos, and magazines.

**Helping Hands** is a project that's name can describes it's purpose. The crew of Helping Hands will be contributing to the school and the community around it by diagnosing problems and solving these problems through the use of their hands. Whether it is building a bookshelf for a teacher or planting flowers out front to brighten up the parking lot, students will be learning about each task from the planning process, to the design, and finally, the installation or completion of the task. Students will be able to see how a group of hands can affect many others around them.

**Repertory Project:** Students will become familiar with all elements of drama. The students will have the opportunity to write and produce plays with various themes that are relevant to young adults. Students will share their performances with members of the community bringing the theater arts to them. In addition students will have the opportunity to develop and hone their own artistic skills throughout the year.

**S3 (Sailing, Students, and the Sea)** Students explore technology, engineering, tools, tactics, and history through the lens of sailing. Over the course of the year students will learn knot tying, model boat construction, navigation, and sailing techniques. Students visit local marine facilities and take part in sailing trips

## High School Workshops

**Computer Graphics Workshop:** Today, computer-generated images touch many aspects of daily life. Computer imagery is found on television, newspapers, brochures, fliers, posters, and web sites. A well-designed image can present complex ideas in a form that is easier to understand by combining text, illustration, and color. Students will be expected to work on projects that will be used in the community. This workshop will help the student determine if a career in computer graphics may be for them.

**Design and Engineering Workshop:** Students will learn and apply the engineering process to design & build creative ways to solve problems. Data gathering and organization, following directions, forming strategies, developing team skills, developing leadership qualities, and enjoying the learning environment will be the aim of this course. A journal will be kept by each student about the activity. Extensive use of internet sites, concerning the topic being studied, will be used. The students will be encouraged to share their knowledge with acquaintances and the local community.

**Environmental Transportation Workshop:** Students implement the school's use of the Veggie Van, including oil collection, oil filtering, fill-ups, and maintenance. Students are responsible for disseminating information about the veggie van to the surrounding community. The workshop is responsible for continuing positive and responsible relationship

with our sponsors. The workshop will also continue to propose new environmentally responsible transportation options for the community, including the newly proposed shuttle system.

**Fine Arts Workshop:** This Workshop offers students who are interested in pursuing a career in the arts a classically based curriculum with an emphasis on drawing and painting along with 3D work, digital photography, and computer graphics. Students are expected to attend and participate in outside events and shows. Students maintain the workshop web site and The Art Store, a web store which features student and staff work for sale to the public. Students interested in the Workshop must apply by attending an interview and submitting a portfolio with an essay. For application information, contact the Art Dept.



**Green Building Workshop:** In this workshop, students will be introduced to green building and related environmental science concepts. This includes the study of sustainable sites, energy efficiency, and how they relate to building construction, operation, and maintenance. Students will also be conducting an energy audit of the school, which will be instrumental in the greening of SSCPS. The GEF Green Buildings Course is aligned with USGBC guidelines and based in the core concepts of environmental science. Units will be broken down as follows: 1. Introduction to Sustainability/Green Building, 2. Energy, 3. Water, 4. Materials and Resources, 5. Sustainable Sites and Land Use, and 6. Environmental Quality.

**Kitchen-Free Cooking Workshop:** Learn to create healthy snacks and meals without the use of a kitchen! Based on the raw foods diet, this workshop will learn about the benefits of eating healthy, raw food, and will create various healthful dishes without the use of heat or flame. Hip celebs like Demi Moore and Robin Williams strictly adhere to the diet, believing that eating food in its raw form—uncooked and unprocessed—is the most healthful and beneficial way to maintain a healthy body. As the main fundraiser, this workshop will also manage and run the School Store. Come learn to eat like a famous—and cook like them, too!

**Music Workshop AP curriculum:** Instruments will participate in the seasonal and other school functions, both on and off site and during non school hours. Juniors and seniors who have participated in the program for three years are offered the opportunity to prepare for and take the AP Music Theory Exam in May. Participation in this class requires good academic and behavior standing as participation in outside events is expected.



**Political and Social Action Workshop:** The political and social action workshop will raise student awareness regarding current social issues in the community, state and country as a whole. Students will research, debate and raise awareness about an issue they choose and follow all year long. They will become familiar with current laws, politicians' stances and propose solutions as well as interact with local organizations that attempt to address the issue. Requirements: During the year, students will be required to complete: a research paper, contribute articles to the workshop's magazine, oral presentation of a current controversial issue, assist in the planning and execution of the Day of the Arts as well as regular journal entries/reflection papers.