

— March 27, 2025 —

# Thursday Thoughts

By Superintendent William Burkhead



*Thursday Thoughts is a monthly newsletter intended to keep community stakeholders connected to SPS.*

## Here's What's Inside!

- Hatherly-Cushing Update
- News & Noteworthy
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- Spotlight

### **Construction Planning Progresses on New Cushing/Hatherly Elementary School**

The development of the new Cushing/Hatherly Elementary School continues to move forward, with construction documents well underway. The 60% construction document submission was officially issued to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) on March 3, 2025, and work is now in progress on the 90% construction documents.

In parallel with these preparations, the permitting process is currently underway with local regulatory bodies, including the Scituate Planning Board and the Scituate Conservation Commission. Additionally, the prequalification process for the General Contractor (GC) and Filed Subcontractors (FSB) is in progress. A list of prequalified contractors will be released prior to the issuance of bid documents, scheduled for June 26, 2025.

The bidding phase will take place over the summer, with FSB bids due by the end of July and GC bids finalized in early August. A contract award is expected by the end of the summer, setting the stage for construction to commence in September 2025. A groundbreaking ceremony will be planned to mark the beginning of this significant project.



## Enrollment Planning and Resource Rebalancing

The opening of the new Cushing/Hatherly Elementary School presents an opportunity to optimize districtwide resources and reassess student assignments across elementary schools. Key considerations for our Enrollment Plan (redistricting) include available capacity in elementary buildings, resource management, and the specific programming needs of students. Enrollment Planning discussions have been ongoing in various public meetings and were outlined in the project's Statement of Interest (SOI) submitted to the MSBA.

According to School Committee policy JC, the Enrollment Plan (redistricting) process falls under the authority of the Superintendent, with final approval by the School Committee. Policy JCA further provides guidelines on attendance areas and student assignment decisions.

The goal of the Enrollment Planning initiative is to complete a comprehensive K-5 realignment through a process that evaluates:

- School capacity
- Student enrollment
- Student demographics
- Community engagement
- Additional factors assessed by an expert consultant

The anticipated outcome will establish:

- A strong structural foundation for effective and efficient school environments
- Balanced enrollments in accordance with school building capacities
- Student placements based on geographical zoning relative to their residences

As construction progresses and planning efforts continue, the district remains committed to fostering an inclusive and well-balanced educational environment for all students.



# News & Noteworthy:

## SHS Excels in Winter 2024-25 Athletic Season

The SHS winter athletic teams had an impressive 2024-25 season, finishing with an overall record of 78-67-3. The school saw success across multiple sports, highlighted by championship victories, standout individual performances, and significant postseason achievements.

### Patriot League Recognition

SHS athletes earned 21 Patriot League (PL) All-Star honors, with four athletes receiving the prestigious League Most Valuable Player (MVP)

Patriot League MVPs

- Lauren Thompson - Indoor Track & Field
- Ryan Johnson Rees - Swimming
- Liam Holden - Wrestling
- Luke Ryan - Ice Hockey

### National-Level Competitor

Lauren Thompson showcased her talent on the national stage, qualifying for and competing in the New Balance National Track & Field Championships in Shot Put. She improved from a 50th seed to finish 30th overall in the nation.

### Patriot League All-Stars

A total of **21 SHS** athletes were named Patriot League All-Stars for their exceptional performances:

- **Ice Hockey:** Caroline Ellis, Luke Ryan, Owen Lochiatto, Cole Ryan, Nate Sannella, Mark Francis
- **Basketball:** Roman Glowac, Carolyn Good
- **Indoor Track & Field:** Lauren Thompson, Grace Taylor
- **Swimming:** Deryn Collins, McKenzie Gilmore, Rose Lindblom, Bella Trevaskis, Ryan Johnson Rees, Peter Nelson, Cruz Tompkins
- **Wrestling:** Wyllys Ames, Liam Holden, Xander Pizer, Grayson Loeffel

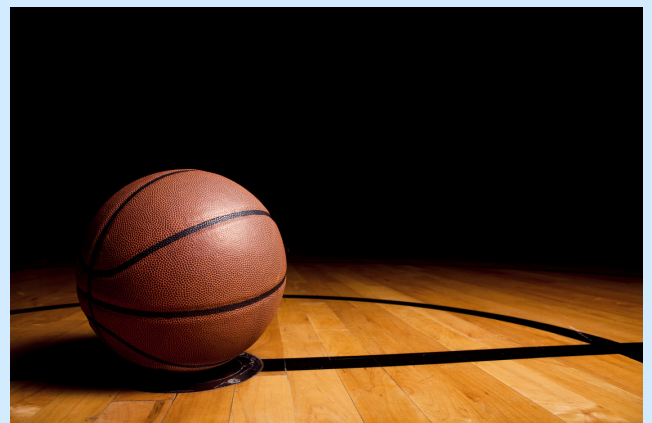
### Patriot League Champions

- Girls Ice Hockey
- Boys Ice Hockey
- Wrestling

### Postseason and Tournament Highlights

SHS teams and individual athletes made deep runs into postseason play and tournaments:

- Girls Ice Hockey qualified for the tournament.
- Boys Ice Hockey advanced to the Final Four in the tournament.
- Wrestling finished 2nd in the Sectional Tournament and placed 10th in the State in Division 3.
  - Wyllys Ames was crowned Sectional Champion.
  - Three wrestlers qualified for the All-State Championships.
  - Liam Holden qualified for the New England Championship.
- Coach Petrosino was honored with induction into the Massachusetts Coaches Hall of Fame.





## Patriot League Scholar-Athletes & Sportsmanship Honorees

SHS recognized outstanding student-athletes who excelled in academics and sportsmanship:

### Scholar-Athletes:

- Liah Brennan - Gymnastics
- Aiden Sheehan - Boys Indoor Track
- Narissa Lipchitz - Girls Indoor Track
- Nora Gosnell - Girls Swimming
- Nicolai Bokavich - Boys Swimming
- Stephen Marshall - Boys Hockey
- Wyllys Ames - Wrestling
- Aidan McNamara - Boys Basketball
- Clara Adams - Girls Basketball



### Sportsmanship Honorees:

- Hailey Gill - Gymnastics
- Jack Dalicandro - Boys Indoor Track
- Maryn Noble - Girls Indoor Track
- Hannah Dwyer - Girls Swimming
- Philippe Laniel - Boys Swimming
- Lucas Henderson - Boys Hockey
- Brady Standridge - Wrestling
- Will Griffiths - Boys Basketball
- Jennifer Scanlon - Girls Basketball



### Cheerleading Achievements

The SHS Cheer team had a standout season with several high placements in competitions:

- **2nd place** in the PL Competition
- **4th place** in the Regional Competition
- **4th place** in the State Competition
- **SHS Cheer will represent Massachusetts at the 2025 CNESSPA Spirit Championship on March 22nd at Worcester State University.**



### Swimming Success

SHS swimmers delivered strong performances at Sectionals and States:

- **Girls Swimming** finished **13th in Sectionals** and **12th in the State Championships.**
- **Boys Swimming** placed **15th in Sectionals** and **14th in the State Championships.**
- **School records** were set by **Bella Trevaskis, Ryan Johnson Rees, Peter Nelson, Cruz Tompkins, and Tommy Guinan.**



As the winter season concludes, SHS celebrates these incredible achievements, setting the stage for future success. The community eagerly awaits the announcement of the All-Scholastic selections in the coming weeks.



## WE Inspire

*"WE Inspire" is a monthly "Sailor Shoutout" to those SPS community who inspire us to greatness through their own actions.*

### **Scituate Public Schools Celebrate 'Music in Our Schools Month' with Special Video**

March is recognized as "Music in Our Schools Month," and Scituate Public Schools are celebrating by highlighting the incredible musical talents of students across all six district schools. This special project showcases the passion and dedication of students from Scituate High School, Gates Middle School, Jenkins Elementary, Wampatuck Elementary, Hatherly Elementary, and Cushing Elementary.

The finished video is not only a stunning display of musical ability but also a work of art in its own right, thanks to high-quality audio, video production, and expert editing. The goal of this initiative was to foster a sense of unity among students through music, demonstrating the strength of the arts in Scituate's schools. The resulting video is truly remarkable and "a testament to the thriving arts programs in our district," said Fine Arts Music Teacher Mr. Peter Mundt.



To view the district-wide performance of Don't Worry, Be Happy, [click this link.](#)



This project wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of our students, teachers, and administrators who made this collaboration a reality.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the students who participated, as well as the educators and staff who helped bring this project to life.



# SPS Spotlight

## Scituate DECA Chapter Qualifies 11 Students for the DECA International Career Development Conference in Orlando FL



**Scituate High School DECA Team Departing to the Boston Convention Exhibition Center**

The Scituate DECA Chapter returned home triumphant on Saturday, March 1, from the 66th annual Massachusetts DECA State Career Development Conference (SCDC) at the Westin Seaport and Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC) with 9 students qualifying for the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Orlando, FL. Thirty-Three Scituate High School students joined over 4,000 students, advisors, and business professionals for the 3-day conference where students competed in over 50 categories of marketing, hospitality, finance, and entrepreneurship.

Scituate DECA earned 11 medallions for a top score on the comprehensive exam or role play, 5 Top-12 State-Finalist, and 11 State Champions. The State Conference theme was Chart Your Course.

In addition, the Scituate High School Store, "The Shipyard," received its first ever recognition as National DECA Gold Certification. The qualification consists of members documenting in a 50-page report the school store's adherence to the required 10 achievement standards. These standards document the retail operations of the school based enterprise for the 2024-2025 school year.

The SCDC took place from February 27 to March 1 with preliminary rounds on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning, finals on Friday afternoon, and the Grand Awards on Saturday morning. Students participated in one of three types of competition:

**Role-Play Competition:** In the preliminary round, all role-play competitors took a 100-question comprehensive exam then performed 2 role-plays with business professionals who volunteer as judges. Role-plays ask students to solve a problem and present their solution to the judge while covering specific performance indicators.

**Written Projects:** In the preliminary round, project competitors wrote a 10- or 20-page paper then presented their work to the judge. Written projects include project management, operations research, and entrepreneurial business plans.



**Final Projects:** The Top 12 competitors from the preliminary round advanced to the finals, where their previous role-play and presentation scores were dropped. In the finals, competitors performed one more role-play or presentation to determine their ranking in the Top 12. At the Grand Awards, trophies were awarded to the Top 7 in role-plays and Top 6 in written projects and those students qualified for ICDC in Orlando, FL.

**State Finalists (Top 12): ICDC Alternates**

Student & Grade	Category
Will Hine 10	Sport and Entertainment Marketing Event
Parker Shaw 11	Quick Serve Restaurant Mgmt
Gracelyn Veiga 12	Financial Literacy Project - Women’s Business Association
Jake Linnell and Quinn DeCourcey 12	Travel and Tourism Marketing Event

**State Champions: ICDC Qualifiers**

Student & Grade	Category
Ben Hill and Calvin Anderson 12	Sport and Entertainment Marketing Event
Bailey Young and Savanna Garabedian 12	Financial Team Event
Kadenn LaVangie, Molly Quirk, Taylor Tourtillott, Roman Glowac, and Ashton Seymour	SBE - School Store Certification - Gold Level Status
Griffin McGirr and Aiden Toomey	Travel and Tourism Marketing Event



**State Finalists (Top 12): ICDC Alternates**



**State Champions: ICDC Qualifiers**



DECA is a co-curricular organization of high school students that builds transferable skills for college and career with over 200,000 members in all 50

states, four US territories, Canada, Mexico, Germany, Korea, and more. DECA helps students develop skills for successful careers, builds self-esteem, provides leadership opportunities, and stresses community involvement and service.



The Scituate DECA Chapter is led by Ross Maki, DECA Advisor & Business Teacher, and supported by Department Chair Greg Ranieri, and SHS Business Teacher Eric Fagerlund. The program is in its 18th year at SHS with 140 overall DECA members. The experience would not be possible without the support of faculty who donated their time to chaperone the trip: PE Teacher Will Seward and Director of Business and Finance Tom Raab.

To learn more about DECA, visit [www.deca.org](http://www.deca.org) and [www.madeca.org](http://www.madeca.org).

## **Are You a Registered Nurse?**

**Looking for some extra hours with a flexible schedule?**

**Come work with fantastic teachers, administrators, and other staff and support wonderful students in a safe, supportive environment.**

**If interested contact, Kellie Bell. District Nurse Leader for more information  
[kbell@scit.org](mailto:kbell@scit.org)**

