



# Scarborough Public Schools

October 31, 2025

## Food Assistance During the Government Shutdown



In addition to the separate communication that we sent out earlier this afternoon informing you about our Backpack Program here at Scarborough Public Schools and how to register for help, here is additional information that the state has provided If you or your family are worried about food during the government shutdown. **Help is available!**

- School Meals will Remain Available for All Students All students can still get free breakfast and lunch at school every day.
- Find Local Food Assistance If your family needs food support, call 211, or visit the Good Shepherd Food Bank's Food Pantry Locator to find help near you. Visit [www.gsfb.org/get-help/food-map](http://www.gsfb.org/get-help/food-map) or scan the QR code.
- General Assistance Families can apply for General Assistance, which can help meet basic needs including food, housing, utilities, medical costs and more. Visit [www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofl/programs-services/general-assistance](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofl/programs-services/general-assistance).
- Continue to Apply or Renew SNAP Benefits You can still apply for or renew SNAP during the shutdown. If you qualify, doing this now will help make sure your benefits are ready as soon as funding resumes. Apply or renew at: [www.mymaineconnection.gov](http://www.mymaineconnection.gov).



**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES:**  
**Food Assistance During the Government Shutdown**

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- **School Meals will Remain Available for All Students**

All students can still get free breakfast and lunch at school every day.

- **Find Local Food Assistance**

If your family needs food support, call 211, or visit the Good Shepherd Food Bank's Food Pantry Locator to find help near you. Visit [www.gsfb.org/get-help/food-map](http://www.gsfb.org/get-help/food-map) or scan the QR code.



- **General Assistance**

Families can apply for General Assistance, which can help meet basic needs including food, housing, utilities, medical costs and more. Visit [www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/programs-services/general-assistance](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/programs-services/general-assistance).

- **Continue to Apply or Renew SNAP Benefits**

You can still apply for or renew SNAP during the shutdown. If you qualify, doing this now will help make sure your benefits are ready as soon as funding resumes. Apply or renew at: [www.mymaineconnection.gov](http://www.mymaineconnection.gov).

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## School Referendum Vote is on THIS TUESDAY! Have You Cast Your Ballot Yet?

Interested in learning more about the Scarborough School Building Project before you cast your vote on Tuesday? There are a wealth of resources available to provide lots of information to you if you visit <https://www.scarboroughschools.org/building-project> .

# OVERCROWDED SCHOOLS

It's About More Than Just Enrollment Numbers



**Most of our schools were built before today's mandated programs & services**

(e.g. special education, intervention, & support for multilingual learners)

**Programs must share spaces that were not designed to accommodate them.**

**This makes teaching and learning more challenging.**

**Learn More About Scarborough's  
K-8 Schools Solution**

## Our Amazing Scarborough Transportation Department!!!

**Maine Department of Education highlights two of our bus drivers in Last Week's State Level Priority Notice**


**The Pizza Men of Shooting Stars: How Two Scarborough Bus Drivers Deliver More Than Lunch**

At the Shooting Stars Program for pre-K students in Scarborough, lunchtime is about a lot more than food—it is about smiles, laughter, and two beloved visitors who the children affectionately call, "The Pizza Men."

Dave Gardner and Rick Harden, school bus drivers for Scarborough Public Schools, delivered meals every day last year to the public pre-K partnership classroom at the Shooting Stars Program. Over time, what began as a daily delivery turned into something far more meaningful: a joyful connection that bridged the classroom and the community.



"We might have a tough day, but the kids would never know it," Gardner said. "We come in all smiles. It's impossible not to when you see how happy [the children] are."



The nickname “The Pizza Men” took shape after one Friday pizza delivery last year, and it stuck. Since then, the children have greeted the duo with excitement and giggles, hoping that the day’s lunch might include pizza.

Gardner, who has been driving a school bus for nine years, and Harden, who has been behind the wheel for seven, have made positivity their trademark.

“We go out of our way to greet every child,” Harden said. “We crack jokes. We make them laugh. It starts their day off right—and ours, too.”

That genuine connection has not gone unnoticed. The class regularly shows their appreciation by creating holiday ornaments, Valentine’s Day candy bags, and colorful thank-you cards for Gardner and Harden.

“It’s those little things that remind you why this job matters,” Gardner said.

Last spring, the pair went above and beyond once again. They brought a full-size school bus to the Shooting Stars Program, so that the preschoolers could explore, learn about bus safety, and get comfortable with the sounds and excitement of the bus before starting kindergarten.

“The kids were thrilled,” a teacher shared. “It was even more exciting than when the fire department brought the fire truck!”

For Gardner and Harden, the visit wasn’t just for fun, either.


“We wanted to show them that the bus isn’t scary,” Gardner explained. “All of the children got to try things independently. That was a big moment for them and for us.”

“To me, these kids are like my grandkids,” Harden added. “I want every interaction to be positive. If they trust us, they’ll speak up when something’s wrong—and that’s what keeps them safe.” That sense of care shines through in every visit. One day during snack time, Gardner couldn’t resist joining the children at their tiny table.

“They were having snacks, so I sat down with them,” Gardner laughed. “The chairs were a little small for me, but the kids thought it was the funniest thing ever.”

Now, some of those same pre-K students ride Gardner and Harden’s buses as kindergarteners. They still wave, giggle, and shout, “Hey, Pizza Men!” when they see them.

As Maine celebrates [National School Bus Safety Week](#), the staff at the Shooting Stars Program say it best: that Gardner and Harden aren’t just delivering meals—they’re delivering joy, confidence, and care to the next generation.





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## Oak Hill Players November Performances

Click here for the [LINK](#) to purchase tickets to OHP's performances

**Save the Date!**

Oak Hill Players of Scarborough High School  
Proudly Present:



Performances will be on November 20, 21, and 22, 2025  
at the *Winslow Homer Center for the Arts*  
Scarborough High School Auditorium

Friday November 21st will be an ASL Interpreted Performance

**Tickets on sale:**

<https://www.scarboroughredstorm.org/ohptix/>

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## K-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences are coming up!



Check out your child/ren's school newsletter for links to make appointments.

Middle School - November 3rd - November 14th

Wentworth School - November 10th - November 21st - **Correction**

Blue Point School - November 3rd - November 14th

Eight Corners School - November 3rd - November 14th

Pleasant Hill School - November 3rd - November 14th

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## News from the SPS Nutrition Department about Nutrislice

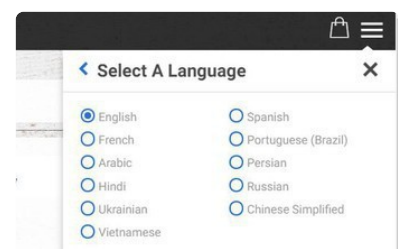
All Kindergarten and new students to the district will have to make a Nutrislice account through the Nutrislice app or through

<https://scarboroughschools.nutrislice.com/menu/create-account>

before they can order breakfast and lunch. Parents will need the child's ID# before they can start the registration process.

Did you know the Nutrislice technology that provides all of your

child/ren's school digital menus, can now be translated into a number of different languages.



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## Scarborough Primary PTA Fundraiser

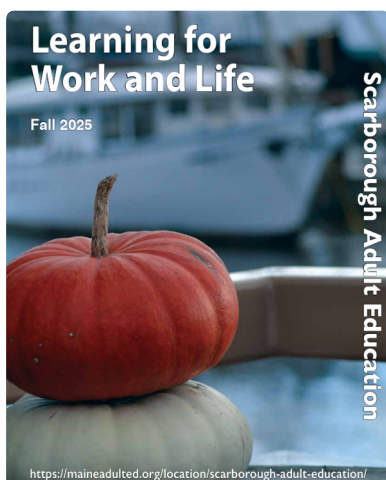
Click on this [LINK](#) for more information.

- All proceeds go to the PTA
- November 15th
- 8:00am - 12:00pm
- \$150.00



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## Scarborough Adult Education



FALL 2025 Registration is now available! Our general office hours are Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday afternoons. Students may [register 24/7 online](#) or email [adulthood@scarboroughschools.org](mailto:adulthood@scarboroughschools.org) for assistance!

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## 2025-2026 School Calendar

### [2025-2026 School Calendar](#)

This year's calendar will allow for up to three "traditional snow days" (or any type of emergent no school days). If more than the allotted three days are needed, those days will be asynchronous remote learning days.



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## Central Office Hours

# OFFICE HOURS



Scarborough Public Schools' Central Office is open Monday-Friday, 8:00 am-4:00 pm. On Fridays, because Municipal Offices are closed, please use the video intercom system located to the right of the main doors (Route 1 front doors only) to contact the School Department and be allowed entry into the building. As always, if you have any questions, please contact the Central Office at 730-4100.

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## High School Calendar of Events for November

Hey, Scarborough High School fans—get ready for a school year full of energy, talent and school spirit! Our high school athletes and club members are bringing their A-game, and they want YOU there to cheer them on! From thrilling matchups on the field to inspiring performances from our incredible student clubs, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Whether you're a fan of football or theater, your support helps build pride, connection and community.



Visit our new [events page](#) to explore all the exciting ways to support Scarborough. Rally your friends, wear your school colors with pride and join the celebration. Let's go Red Storm—Scarborough strong!

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## Community Events & Bulletin Board Information



Please access this link to the [Community Bulletin Board](#) for information about great community events and fundraisers going on in Scarborough. In this week's posting, you will find information relating to the:

- [Scarborough Primary PTA Fundraiser](#)
  - [Oak Hill Players Wizard of Oz Performance](#)
  - Community Services Theater Workshop
  - Cub Scout Flyer
  - Girl Scouts of Maine Flyer
  - 2025-2026 Scarborough Public Library Parent Letter
  - Scarborough Education Foundation
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## Important Dates

### [2025-2026 School Calendar](#)

- November 4, 2025 - Voting Day (**K-12 School is in Session**)
- November 6, 2025- School Board Business Meeting

- November 11, 2025 - Veteran's Day - No School
- November 19, 2025 - Early Release Day
- November 20, 2025 - School Board Workshop and Business Meeting
- November 26, 27, & 28, 2025 - Thanksgiving Break



\*\*Early release times:

Grades 6-12: 12:55pm

Grades K-5: 1:45pm

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## Scarborough Public Schools is HIRING!

Scarborough Public Schools is currently hiring. Interested candidates may visit the School District's Employment site for details and application instructions by using this link here:

<https://www.applitrack.com/scarborough/OnlineApp/default.aspx>

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## Scarborough Community Services' Fall Catalog is available

Click [here](#) to view catalog.

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## What to do in Scarborough?



For upcoming [Scarborough Community](#) events, be sure to check out Scarborough Community Services website and follow them on Facebook.

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## Links to Our Schools



**Blue Point**



**Eight Corners**



**Pleasant Hill**



**Wentworth School**



**Middle School**



**High School**

### Services & Information

- [Spec. Services](#) | Chris Rohde, [crohde@scarboroughschools.org](mailto:crohde@scarboroughschools.org)
- [Transportation](#) | Sarah Redmond, [sredmond@scarboroughschools.org](mailto:sredmond@scarboroughschools.org)
- [Food Services](#) | Peter Esposito, [pesposito@scarboroughschools.org](mailto:pesposito@scarboroughschools.org)
- [Athletics & Activities](#) | Mike LeGage, [mlegage@scarboroughschools.org](mailto:mlegage@scarboroughschools.org)
- [Curriculum](#) | Katie Vetro, [kvetro@scarboroughschools.org](mailto:kvetro@scarboroughschools.org)
- [Facilities](#) | Todd Jepson, [tjepson@scarboroughschools.org](mailto:tjepson@scarboroughschools.org)

### Tech Support

For technology assistance with SPS student laptops, please visit <https://tickets.scarboroughschools.org> to open a ticket and someone from Technology will be in touch to assist you.



### Scarborough Schools

- Website:** [www.scarboroughschools.org](http://www.scarboroughschools.org)
- Location:** [259 U.S. Route 1, Scarborough, ME 04074, USA](#)
- Phone:** (207) 730-4100
- Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/scarbmeschools/>
- Twitter:** [@scarbmeschools](https://twitter.com/scarbmeschools)



**Cheryl Callahan**

Cheryl is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

