Scarborough Public Schools

November 6, 2026

Veteran's Day, Wednesday, November 11, 2026



On **Wednesday, November 11, our schools will be closed for students in Pre-K through Grade 12 in observance of Veterans Day.**

As we mark this day, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all who have served or are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, and to the families and loved ones who support them. Your service does not go unnoticed.

ALRM at Scarborough Public Schools

Safety Support for Those who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

What is ALRM?

ALRM is a **free smartphone app** designed to recognize certain emergency sounds — such as fire alarms, sirens, and even gunshots — and turn them into unique visual and vibration alerts on the user's own phone or tablet. It was built to make emergency sound awareness accessible to people who are Deaf or hard of hearing. ALRM uses geofencing technology to connect to the app at each of our school sites.

Key Information

- **ALRM Zone signs** with QR codes will be posted across our school buildings.
- Anyone (staff, students, families, visitors to our schools) can learn more and download the app at getalrm.com or by access from this QR code.

- Sound recognition occurs on-device; no audio is recorded, stored, or transmitted.



Important Details for Staff & Community

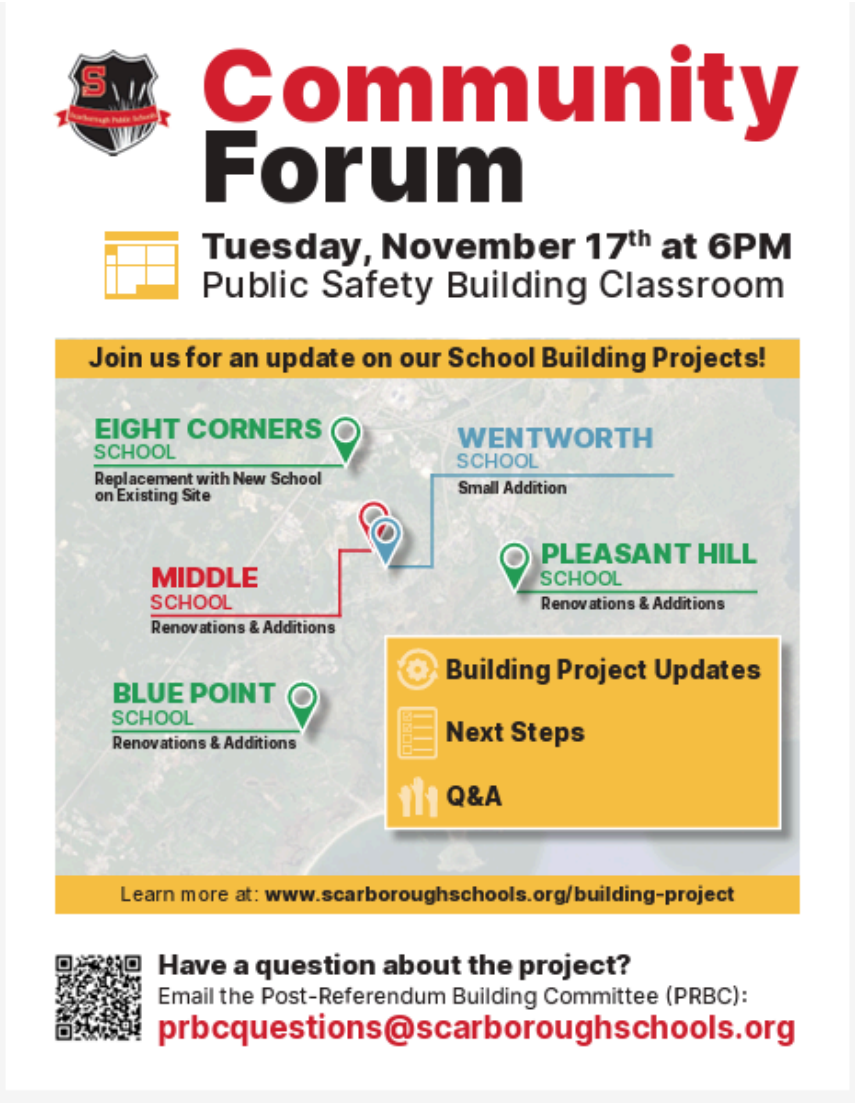
- **Entirely voluntary:** The family of a student with a documented need can choose whether they agree their child would benefit from this support. Staff and visitors to our schools for events and performances can also access this app as they choose, at no cost.
- **No personal data** is collected or stored.
- **Supplementary tool:** ALRM is an addition, not a replacement for school alarms or emergency procedures. Our established emergency protocols at each of our schools remain exactly the same.

Why This Matters

ALRM was started in Maine after the 2023 Lewiston shooting, where Deaf community members were among those killed, raising a hard question: who hears alarms, and who doesn't? ALRM is built for the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community, guided by the principle "Nothing About Us Without Us." Scarborough joins a growing set of Maine ALRM Zones that includes Hadlock Field, the State Theatre and Thompson's Point in Portland, Cape Elizabeth Schools, and the Maine Turnpike's Kennebunk service plazas.

SAVE the DATE! - November 17, 2026

Join us Tuesday, November 17 at 6 p.m. at the Public Safety Building Classroom for a community forum on progress being made for each of the school building projects. Get updates on plans for Blue Point, Eight Corners, Pleasant Hill, Wentworth, and the Middle School, hear about next steps and bring your questions for a Q&A. Learn more at scarboroughschools.org/building-project. To submit project questions in advance, please email prbcquestions@scarboroughschools.org.



Scarborough's Board of Education, Board Beat!



Welcome back to Board Beat, a regular feature that shines a spotlight on the Board of Education's standing committees. It is within these committees that school board members and district leaders collaborate to shape communication, revise policies, refine curriculum, prepare budgets, plan facilities, and guide construction projects. We hope this regular feature "drums up" interest in the vital work happening across our standing committees. All committee meetings are open to the public, and attendees have the opportunity to make public comment.

This Board Beat features the **Long-Range Facilities Planning Committee**. The current board members and district staff that serve on this committee are: John Kelleher, Alex Weber, Shannon Lindstrom, Diane Nadeau and Todd Jepson. This committee identifies investments and actions needed to maintain, renovate, and ensure public safety at 10 separate building structures. This includes school buildings and associated grounds, three detached modular buildings, the transportation building, a storage garage, and the central district office. All these structures and spaces add up to more than 700,000 square feet.

For fiscal year 2026-27, the school capital budget totals $1.3 million. This budget is smaller than normal years in light of the significant new investments that will occur with the voter-approved

bond funds for renovations, additions, and new construction. This year's budget is being directed toward the following improvements:

- Completion of track and turf improvements at the High School.
- Reroofing portions of the Middle School not affected by construction of a new addition.
- Floor work at the High School's main offices and All Purpose Room.
- Alumni Gym floor restoration.
- Removal and replacement of the Auditorium's rear bleachers.
- Interior painting at various school sites.
- Continued repairs of stormwater catch basins and ponds.
- Ash tree removal at the Middle School and High School.
- Various paving improvements, including crack filling, sealing and re-striping.

The committee grapples with a number of ongoing challenges. One difficulty is managing big projects with limited staffing. Todd Jepson, Facilities Director, oversees an assistant/facilities scheduler, a foreman and 3 maintenance workers. When necessary, the district contracts licensed providers in the electrical, HVAC, and plumbing trades. The day-to-day cleaning of all school structures is accomplished by 29 full- and part-time custodians.

Containing energy costs presents another dilemma. Using the advice of an energy procurement company, the district usually negotiates the cost of electricity and heating fuels for multi-year periods. This allows the district to avoid paying "street prices" and to bank significant savings.

Finally, planning and timing major improvements poses an ongoing challenge. Many facilities are used 7 days a week year-round for school, community and sports events. This has sometimes produced delays in completing capital projects, such as the track and turf replacement at the High School.

The committee meets twice a year, once in the fall and again after the new year to review progress on planned work and address any unexpected challenges. All committee meetings are open to the public, and anyone can make public. For meeting info visit: Long Range Facilities Planning Committee - Scarborough Public Schools.

That's it for now! Next up on Board Beat: The Policy Committee.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

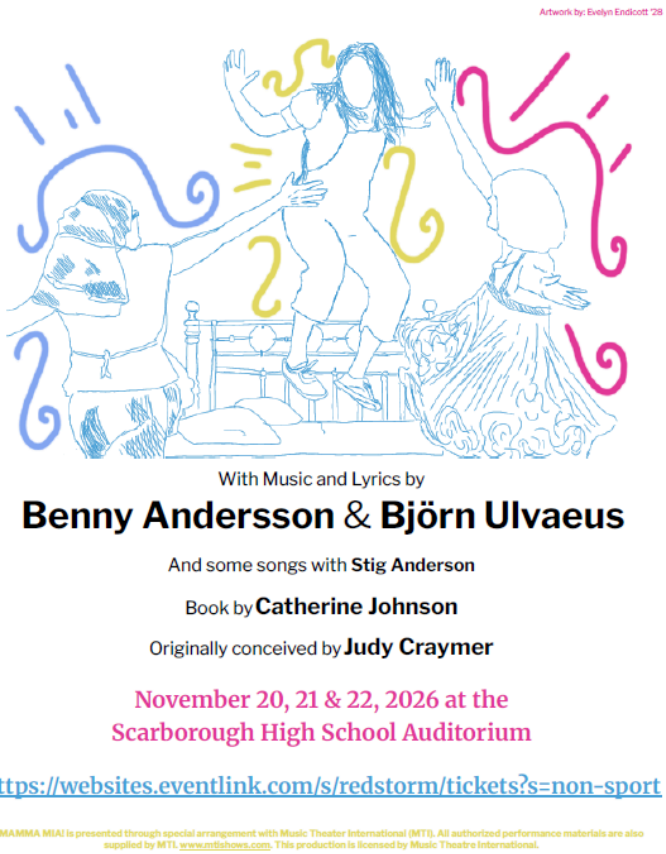
Fall parent/teacher conferences are in process for grades PK-8! Please check your child's school newsletter for dates, scheduling details, and more information.



Scarborough Schools Expectations for Adult Collaboration and Communication

Elements of Engagement	School Community Expectations	Examples of Expectations
Communication 	• Encourage students to advocate for themselves • Assume positive intent • Be polite and respectful in interactions with all members of the school community • Communicate directly with appropriate staff first to resolve issues before going to administration	• Help students draft written communication to staff (emails to teacher, note to bus driver, etc.) • Brainstorm communication strategies that your child can use at school when they are having difficulties • Seek to clarify your student's version of events with staff directly involved to bring about peaceful resolution • Voice concerns about school issues to staff, instead of using social media • Discuss issues with appropriate staff (teacher, bus driver, coach, etc.) when they happen
Collaboration 	• Prepare for the school day • Encourage students' academic, social, and emotional growth • Support students in following school and classroom rules • Reinforce school policies and expectations	• Know students' schedules and help them be prepared with necessary materials (ex. bus scan cards, laptops, library books, snacks, weather-appropriate clothes, etc.) • Create and maintain a consistent dismissal schedule • Support healthy habits (sleep, eating, managing emotions, limited screen time, time management, etc.) • Read district, building, and classroom newsletters and communications • Check take-home folders and online programs regularly (ex. PowerSchool and SeeSaw) • Emphasize appropriate and safe use of technology (laptops, cell phones, smart watches, etc.)
Community Culture	• Treat staff as trained educational professionals • Respect staff time • Prioritize safety and educational time for all students	• Acknowledge the hard work, expertise, experience, and education of staff • Recognize that educators make decisions with the safety and benefit of the group as a whole in mind (ex. being mindful of allergies, cultural differences, etc.) • Be positive when posting about Scarborough Schools on social media • Understand that staff will attempt to respond to communications in a timely manner but that staff will prioritize instructional time • Appreciate that safe driving is a bus driver's top priority • Limit interruptions during the school day (ex. avoid texting and calling students during school hours)

Oak Hill Players Performance of Mamma Mia!



Get ready to sing, dance, and say "Thank You for the Music!" Scarborough High School's Oak Hill Players present Mamma Mia! November 20, 21, and 22, 2026, at the Scarborough High School Auditorium.

Featuring the music and lyrics of Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus, with some songs by Stig Anderson, and a book by Catherine Johnson, this is a show you won't want to miss!

🎟️ Tickets: Purchase tickets here
Artwork by Evelyn Endicott '28.

High School's Music Department News

VOCES8 Masterclass



On October 13th, the SHS Chamber Singers were honored to participate in a masterclass with world-renowned vocal octet VOCES8! Shoutout to ChoralArt for sponsoring, and to Waynflete for hosting!

District 1 Honors Auditions

On October 20th, SHS was proud to have 44 musicians accepted to the 2027 District 1 Honors Ensembles! Special shoutouts go to Magdalena Goebl-Shupp, Gregory Kildow, Sophia Mahecha, Ayla Smith, and Delaney Strader for receiving the top score in their respective audition rooms! Congratulations to our singers and instrumentalists!



ACDA National Honor Choirs



On October 28th, we learned that three SHS seniors were accepted to the National Honor Choirs of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). In March of 2027, Magdalena Goebl-Shupp, Gregory Kildow, and Ayla Smith will travel to Minneapolis, Minnesota to represent SHS at the highest level. Their selection came after a rigorous audition process and an application pool of thousands. Please join us in congratulating these singers on this extraordinary achievement!

Important School Transportation Updates



First, It has come to our attention that some users have been experiencing connectivity issues with the use of our Transportation Software and the MY RIde App. Please be aware that we are working with our IT department and our vendor to correct these issues now, so in the interim **you may not have real time access to track your child on their bus.** It is not expected that families will contact the bus garage to verify their child is on the bus, unless there is a concern that they are not dropped off as expected.

Secondly, we need to make you aware that we are reaching a critical juncture with the number of drivers that we currently have on staff. Although it takes 22 full time drivers to run our program as designed, we currently have 15 drivers, despite our best efforts to hire. This is a universal issue across school districts in our state, and one that is only compounded by the reality that it takes 4 -6 months for an employee to obtain their CDL license from the state. If you know folks interested in this work, please let us know!

We are incredibly appreciative of the unwavering commitment of the amazing staff and director we have. Day in and day out, as absences occur, bus routes are modified and drivers are pivoting in an effort to ensure all of our students have transportation. At times, this may include a later pick up or dropoff time, for which we will keep you informed. If you see a Scarborough bus driver, please thank them for their efforts. We appreciate your understanding and grace as we try to navigate our current reality.

High School's Calendar of Events for November

Visit our 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 Storm—Scarborough strong!

2026 -2027 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.
2026-2027 School Calendar

Central 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.



Community Events & Bulletin Board Information

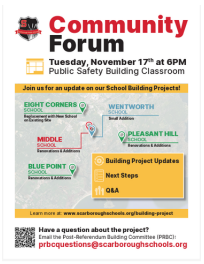


Please access this link to the Community Bulletin Board for information about great community events and fundraisers going on in Scarborough. In this week's posting, you will find information relating to the:

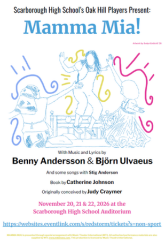
- Post-Referendum Building Committee Community Forum
- Oak Hill Players' Performance of Mamma Mia
- Scarborough Primary PTA Mariner's Game
- Scarborough Primary PTA Photo Mini's
- Adult Education is hiring a CNA
- Information on the Cub Scouts
- Scarborough Library After School Information Guide



Primary PTA Mini Phots



November 17, 2026 Community Forum



Mamma Mia!!

Important Dates

[2026-2027 School Calendar]

- November 11, 2026 - Veterans Day - No School PreK-12
- November 17, 2026 - Post-Referendum Building Committee Community Forum
- November 18, 2026 - Early Release Day**
- November 19, 2026 - School Board Workshop and Business Meeting
- November 25 - 29, 2026 - Thanksgiving Break - No School PreK-12



**Early release times:
Grades 6-12: 12:55pm
Grades Pre-K-5: 1:45pm

Scarborough Public Schools is HIRING!

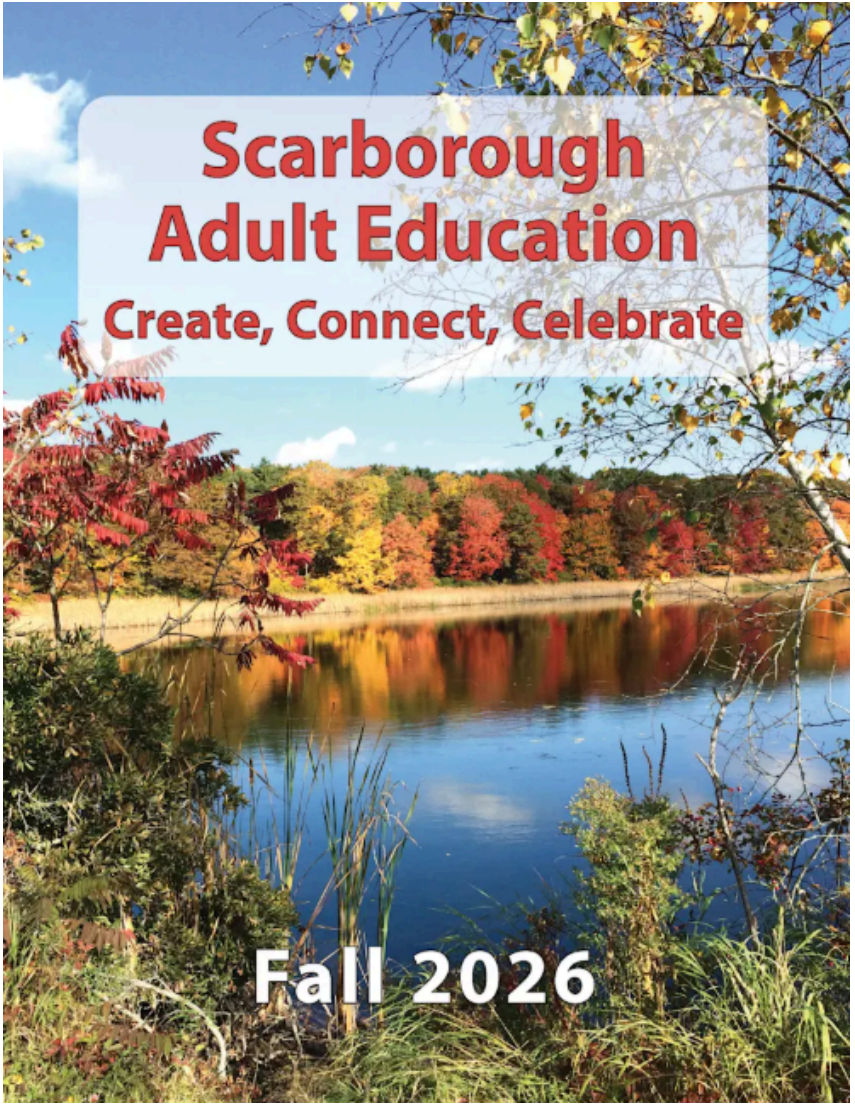
Scarborough Public Schools is currently hiring. Interested candidates may visit the School District's Employment site for details and application instructions by using this link here:

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



Scarborough Adult Education

Register now for current classes. Visit our online course catalog or click the image to download our print catalog. If you have any questions about classes or programs please call Director Yvonne Wentz at 730-5040 or email her at ywentz@scarboroughschools.org. **Walk-in hours for registration are between 3PM - 6PM, Tuesdays through Thursdays.** Students may also register online at any time.



What to do in Scarborough?

For upcoming Scarborough Community events, be sure to check out Scarborough Community Services website and follow them on Facebook.



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
Transportation | Sarah Redmond, sredmond@scarboroughschools.org
Food Services | Peter Esposito, pesposito@scarboroughschools.org
Athletics & Activities | Mike LeGage, mlegage@scarboroughschools.org
Curriculum I Katie Vetro, kvetro@scarboroughschools.org
Facilities | Todd Jepson, 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
Location: 259 U.S. Route 1, Scarborough, ME 04074, USA
Phone: (207) 730-4100
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/scarbmeschools/
Twitter: @scarbmeschools

Cheryl Callahan
Cheryl is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters