



Shady Side Academy Parent Communications

GENERAL

- Parent communication is primarily electronic at SSA - email and website.
- It is critical that SSA has up-to-date contact information for your family – especially parent emails – in our Veracross database, which feeds other SSA systems (website, email, directory, Canvas, Magnus Health, School Messenger, VC Pay, etc.)
- Household profile information can be updated anytime through the Veracross Parent Portal.

EMAIL

- Academy-Wide Emails - sent by the SSA Communications Office (via website email software)
 - **Bulldog Bulletin Parents' Newsletter**– Sent every Thursday when school is in session, except breaks. Issues alternate between Reminders & Upcoming Events and Good News & Recaps. A one-stop shop for parent info.
 - **Other Emails**– Periodic academy-wide emails are sent about things like Parents Association events, Hillman Series shows, Summer Programs registration, Blue & Gold Fund support, etc.
- School-Specific Emails - sent by the school offices (via Veracross or Microsoft Outlook)
 - **School Office Emails**– Each school office regularly emails parents about school-wide and grade-specific news and information.
 - **Teacher Emails**– Individual teachers will email parents as a class or individually regarding your child.

SSA WEBSITE

- Responsive and mobile-friendly website is a key marketing and communications tool for SSA.
- The PARENTS section of the website is the centralized information hub for current parents. Access this section via the “Parents” link at the top of any page or at www.shadysideacademy.org/parents.
- VERACROSS PARENT PORTAL login is required to access secure information such as directory, student billing, report cards, etc.
- See page 2 for more detailed information.

SHADY SIDE iOS APP

- Pulls content from SSA website: news, directory, calendars, athletic schedules, etc.
- Tap “Account” at top left, sign in with your Veracross Parent Portal login and click “Remember Me” to save login
- Searchable directory puts entire S-Book in your iPhone!
 - Must be logged in to access parent & student directories (faculty & staff accessible without login)
 - Tap a phone number to call, tap an email address to send an email, tap an address to open in Maps.
- **NOTE: SSA plans to launch a new app for iOS + Android later this school year. Stay tuned for details!**



SOCIAL MEDIA

- Shady Side Academy is very active on social media, including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Follow SSA on your favorite platform and please like, share and comment on our posts!

WEATHER & EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

- SSA uses **SchoolMessenger** to alert families of weather delays/closures and emergencies. School Messenger allows SSA to send a recorded phone call, text alert and email message to all SSA families within minutes. Notices are also posted on the SSA website, Facebook, Twitter, weather hotline, and local TV stations.
- Families will automatically receive phone, text and email alerts by default, but can opt out of alerts via their School Messenger account. Details will be emailed to parents in September.



SHADY SIDE ACADEMY

SSA Website Resources for Parents

The Parents section of the website is designed to provide you with a centralized hub for information concerning your child's academic and student life at SSA. In addition to the information available on the public pages of this section, once you have logged in to the Veracross Parent Portal, you also will have access to password protected family information.



To access the Parents section, go to www.shadysideacademy.org and click on Parents (upper right) or visit www.shadysideacademy.org/parents. Bookmark this page for easy access.

The Parents page provides easy access to lots of helpful information before logging in, including:

- Parents' Association
- Parents' Newsletter archive
- Parent Education Programs
- Lunch Menus
- Important School Contacts
- Helpful Links and Forms
- Technology Resources
- Policies and Calendars

WELCOME, SSA PARENTS!

This section is designed to provide a centralized hub for information concerning your child's academic and student life at SSA. Explore the tabs below and the pages in the section menu for helpful links and information for all four SSA campuses.

- Log in to the Veracross Parent Portal to access password-protected information such as the S-Book directory, your child's schedules and report cards, your VC Pay billing account, Magnus Health medical forms, household profile update form, school handbooks and forms, and more.
- Log in to Canvas using your Veracross credentials to access teacher pages for your child's classes.
- Trouble logging in to Veracross or Canvas? [Email the HelpDesk](#).

[VERACROSS PARENT PORTAL LOGIN](#) [CANVAS TEACHER PAGES LOGIN](#)

[Home](#)
[Country Day School](#)
[Junior School](#)
[Middle School](#)
[Senior School](#)

S-BOOK DIRECTORY

Log in to Veracross to access the S-Book via your web browser. To access the S-Book through the Shady Side app, tap Account, enter your Veracross credentials and click Remember Me (Note: returning parents must update their app login credentials to their new Veracross credentials.)

Trouble logging in? [Email the HelpDesk](#).

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

Visit the SSA Parent Instructional Technology Guides website for helpful information, resources and video tutorials on the following:

- Canvas LMS
- Zoom & Meeting Owl Pro
- Seesaw
- SSA's 1:1 iPad program for K-5

SHADY SIDE APP (IOS)

The official Shady Side IOS app gives you on-the-go access to the S-Book directory, news, calendars, lunch menus and more!

[DOWNLOAD THE APP](#)

BLUE & GOLD FUND

Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference. Support SSA today!

[MAKE A GIFT](#)

PARENTS

- Important School Contacts
- Parents' Association
- Parents' Newsletter
- Canvas Login
- Event Reservation Form
- Family and School Partnership
- Health Services
- Lunch Menus
- MyPaymentsPlus Login
- Parent Education Programs
- SSA Store
- Summer Information
- Technology Resources
- Transportation
- Veracross Login
- Weather & Emergency Notifications

NEWS HEADLINES

Posted July 25, 2021
Shady Side Academy Announces Partnership With BSN Sports, Under Armour

Posted July 8, 2021
Rising Senior Wins National Championship in Rowing

Private information that requires a login is located in the Veracross Parent Portal. To access the Parent Portal, use the blue VERACROSS LOGIN button located on the Home tab of the Parents page and enter your username and password. Once logged in to the Veracross Parent Portal, you can access:

- Your child's Daily Schedule and Report Cards
- S-Book Directory and Directory Preferences
- VC Pay Student Billing Account
- Required Household and Medical Forms
- Canvas Teacher Pages
- Handbooks, Policies and more!

[Shady Side Academy](#)
[My Children](#)
[SSA Home](#)
[Parents Home](#)
[COVID-19 Updates](#)
[Social Media](#)
[S-Book Directories](#)
[VC Pay](#)
[Canvas](#)

Welcome to the Veracross Parent Portal!

Here you can securely access household forms, your VC Pay student billing account, schedules and report cards, the S-Book, handbooks, Canvas and more.

2021-2022 MEDICAL & ATHLETIC FORMS DUE IN MAGNUS HEALTH AUG. 1, 2021
Families enrolled for 2021-2022 must complete medical and athletic forms for each child by **Aug. 1, 2021**. Click the gold Magnus Health button under My Household and use your Veracross login (remembering dssa.local from your username) to access your Magnus Health account and complete the forms. [See the June 1 Email](#) or download the [SSA Medical & Athletic Forms FAQs](#) for more information. (Note: It may take up to a day after setting up your Veracross portal account for your Magnus Health login to be activated.)

HOUSEHOLD UPDATES

Click the gold buttons under My Household to update this information anytime:

- Household Profile Update - your family's biographical and contact information
- Directory Preferences - show/hide information that appears to other families in the S-Book Directory

ERB REPORTS

Archived PDFs of your child's past CDS, JS and/or MS ERB test reports are available on the Files tab of your child's Classes & Reports page.

My Children

My Household

- Household Profile Update
- Directory Preferences
- School Policy Forms
- Magnus Health
- My VC Pay Account

School Links

- S-Book Directory
- Canvas LMS
- Academy Handbooks
- Parent Education Videos

Questions?

Jen Roupe, Director of Communications, jroupe@shadysideacademy.org or 412-968-3236

Megan Grguras, Web & Social Media Manager, mgrguras@shadysideacademy.org or 412-447-2243