



Somerville Public Schools

Education • Inspiration • Excellence

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Dear Somerville Public Schools Families and Staff,

We are continuing to compile resources, ideas, and activities to help students stay engaged in their learning while at home. Below is the list of websites – some new and some that we have been sharing over the last week – where you can find a range of high quality, grade-level activities for students. These lists are evolving as we learn about new resources, so we encourage you to check them often. We hope that among the resources and activities we offer, you will identify those that you find helpful as you establish new schedules and routines for your students and your families during this health crisis. Teachers have also been communicating with students and families in a number of ways, helping students stay connected to their school community. We are proud of our teachers' commitment to supporting their students and families, and their positive energy and creativity in doing so.

As a reminder, per the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) guidance for this three-week emergency shutdown, the resources and activities we are sharing will not be graded and are not intended to replace formal classroom instruction. We are continuing to stay in touch with DESE regularly and will share any new guidance that the Department may issue regarding virtual learning expectations or requirements.

Resources for Students to Explore and Stay Engaged in their Learning

- High quality grade-level home learning resources: www.somerville.k12.ma.us/home-learning.
- High school online resources: www.somerville.k12.ma.us/shs
- List of resources from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to help students stay engaged in their learning while at home: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/ed-resources.html>
- WGBH's new online Distance Learning Center: www.wgbh.org/distance-learning-center
- PBS LearningMedia: <https://mass.pbslearningmedia.org>

Breakfast and Lunch Grab-and-Go Meal Distribution

SPS students and families can pick up breakfast and lunch meals Monday-Friday, 9:00-11:00am at any of the sites listed below. No ID is required, and one person can pick up for more than one member of the family. Bring a bag if you are picking up for multiple family members, and please remember to dress appropriately for the weather as we may ask you to stand out in the elements to ensure that we follow social distancing norms.

- East Somerville Community School
- West Somerville Neighborhood School
- Winter Hill Community Innovation School
- Healey School (new site)

Resources and Information on City Website

We encourage you to visit www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus for the most current information on COVID-19 in Somerville, and to find out about additional food-related and other resources available in the city. Scroll down to the light grey menu bar and click on the "Give Help or Get Assistance" tab for a list of food access, business & employee assistance, and other resources.

Distribution of Diapers for Families with Babies and Young Children

Distribution of free diapers to families with babies or young children will continue this week, through Friday, March 27, at each of the four school food distribution sites listed above from 9:00-11:00am. Diapers will be packaged and available by size throughout the week.

Other Important Reminders and Information

- Talking to your kids about COVID-19: www.somerville.k12.ma.us/TalkingAboutCoronavirus.
- Remember to take all recommended preventative measures.
 - The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus. Please follow social distancing norms. The virus is thought to spread from person-to-person, typically between people in close contact (less than 6 feet apart) through respiratory droplets, which are produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
 - Clean your hands often. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If you are unable to wash your hands, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Avoid close contact with others outside of your household.
 - Cover coughs and sneezes.
 - Clean and disinfect touched surfaces daily.
 - Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care, and try to isolate yourself as much as possible from other members of your household

Just for Fun

San Diego Zoo activities, live cams, games, and stories: <https://kids.sandiegozoo.org/>

We recognize how challenging and disruptive the last week and a half have been, and we hope that you are finding comfort and support in our daily communications and efforts to keep students connected to their learning and to their school communities. We also encourage you to take time for your own health and wellness as you are able to. Thank you for your continued partnership as we work to overcome this unexpected health crisis – together.

Sincerely,

Mary Skipper, Superintendent