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Dear Somerville Public Schools Families and Staff,

We hope that you are able to take some time this weekend to focus on self-care and quiet time with your family. Thank you for all that you and your families are doing to support the community's efforts to combat this health crisis, and to help your children stay connected. Today's communication includes information on what to expect in the next week given Governor Baker's announcement earlier this week about schools remaining closed until at least May 4th, as well as some highlights of work happening in our district to keep students engaged in their learning and to support the community.

NEW INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- **What to Expect in the Next Week:** As you know, earlier this week Governor Baker announced the extension of school closures until at least May 4, 2020. Our curriculum team is working on developing a more structured plan for keeping students engaged with their learning, informed by the guidance that we received yesterday from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Please be assured that we are developing a plan through a lens of equity and access, and with the understanding that our plan needs to be flexible to accommodate the needs of our students and families without creating additional undue stress. We will be providing more details in our communications next week, as we finalize our plans and rollout schedule. In the meantime, we hope that the resources we have been providing, and the connections that our teachers and staff have made with you and your kids, have been helpful as you have developed your own family schedules at home.

- **Distribution of Diapers for Families with Babies and Young Children:** Beginning the week of March 30th, distribution of free diapers and wipes to families with babies or young children will continue on **Wednesdays only from 9:00-11:00a.m.** at each of the four school food distribution sites (East Somerville Community School, Healey School, West Somerville Neighborhood School and Winter Hill Community Innovation School). Diapers will be packaged by sizes. Diaper distribution will continue through April and while supplies last.
- **Just for Fun:** Take a virtual field trip to the Deserts and Grasslands of Africa:
https://www.natureworkseverywhere.org/resources/deserts-grasslands-africa/?utm_source=Social&utm_medium=FB&utm_campaign=WAT_MDR&utm_content=TNC_1711_Article

HIGHLIGHTS

Connecting through Daily Videos: Ms. Baumgarten, Grade 1 SEI-1 teacher at the Argenziano School, has been posting daily videos for her students as a way to connect with a quick morning meeting or a short activity or challenge for the day. You can find her YouTube playlist at:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLSFNj7jGdbYSSIGwFOnLvvs0Sm5LWRI>

Supporting Frontline Workers: CTE teachers Dan Bendel and Juan Alvarez (even as he celebrates a newborn) have been printing 3D masks and face shields to donate to front line workers in our community.



CONTINUING PROGRAMS AND IMPORTANT LINKS

Continuing Programs and Resources

- ***Breakfast and Lunch Grab-and-Go Meals*** can be picked up Mondays-Fridays, 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the East Somerville Community School, Healey School, West Somerville Neighborhood School, and Winter Hill Community Innovation School. No ID is required. 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.
- ***Other food-related resources in the city***, visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/food-resources.

Curriculum Resources and Tech Support Available Online

- 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>
- If you are having trouble with your device, please submit a request for support using this [Somerville Public Schools Remote Tech Support Contact Form](#).
- Language Support for Technology Questions: SPS parents/students who need language assistance with technology should call 311 or email 311updates@somervillema.gov. A bilingual educator will contact you to assist you. Dial (617) 666-3311 if you are calling from a number outside of Somerville.

Other Important Links

- Visit www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus for the most current information on COVID-19.
- Visit www.somervillema.gov/coronavirushelp for additional resources and ways to contribute during the COVID-19 crisis.
- Talking to your kids about COVID-19: www.somerville.k12.ma.us/TalkingAboutCoronavirus.

Have a safe and restful weekend.

Mary Skipper, Superintendent