



# Somerville Public Schools

Education • Inspiration • Excellence

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April 3, 2020

Dear Somerville Public Schools Families and Staff,

As we head into the weekend, we want to share a few additional resources and highlights of some of the ways our educators are connecting with students. Earlier this week, we mentioned our work on our district's Remote Learning Plan. We expect to launch that site on Tuesday and will provide the link in Monday's communication. One of the common threads you will see in our plan is our continued priority on the overall wellness of our students and staff, and ensuring that students and families have the resources and support they need during this crisis. I cannot emphasize how much we appreciate your partnership through this difficult period.

## NEW INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

**Somerville Public Library:** The Somerville Public Library offers a treasure trove of digital resources that can be accessed at [www.somervillepubliclibrary.org](http://www.somervillepubliclibrary.org). Among the available resources are databases/streaming services such as Tumblebooks, Kanopy, Overdrive, Hoopla, and many more. A library card is needed to gain access to the databases from home. If you need assistance resolving an issue with a library card, or if you're not sure you have an SPL library card and would like to apply for one, email [somrefquestions@minlib.net](mailto:somrefquestions@minlib.net). As part of a years-long collaboration with Somerville Media Center, prerecorded story times are available at [www.somervillepubliclibrary.org/kids/somerville-storytellers-video-storytimes](http://www.somervillepubliclibrary.org/kids/somerville-storytellers-video-storytimes). The library staff are also streaming live story times, a Reading to Rocky series, and other programs. Follow them on social media to learn more: [www.somervillepubliclibrary.org/how-do-i/follow-library-facebook-other-social-media](http://www.somervillepubliclibrary.org/how-do-i/follow-library-facebook-other-social-media).

**Friday Food Pantry Bags at ESCS:** Thanks to a donation of about 2,000 additional lbs. of food pantry items and fresh produce from [Food for Free](#) next week, approximately 100 weekend bags will be available for ESCS families in need to pick up on Friday, April 10, between 9:00 and 11:00am. This donation is in addition to the 200 weekend bags of food that the City of Somerville and Food for Free have been donating each week. Those 200 bags will be distributed among the three remaining meal distribution sites (Healey, Winter Hill, and West Somerville). Families can also continue to pick up daily breakfast and lunch Grab-and-Go meals, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Mondays-Fridays, at the four sites. Visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/help-resources-and-ways-contribute-during-covid-19-crisis> for additional food access resources in the city.

**Just for Fun:** Take a peek at what the Giant Pandas are doing at the Smithsonian National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute in real time by visiting: <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/webcams/panda-cam>.

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## HIGHLIGHTS

Members of the Somerville Public Schools Music Department, including Mr. Saunders, SPS Director of Music and Performing Arts, have been recording and sharing sing-alongs to connect with students and staff. Here are a few for you to enjoy:

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I\\_X94MVS7rg&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_X94MVS7rg&feature=youtu.be)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gj9-0tC3XZs&feature=youtu.be>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZDjCj2bnJXs>

## 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, Healey, West Somerville, and Winter Hill schools. No ID required. Bring a bag if you are picking up for multiple family members, and 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](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/food-resources).
- **Distribution of Diapers:** 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 (ESCS, Healey, WSNS, and Winter Hill). Diaper distribution will continue through April and while supplies last.
- **Comcast Internet Essentials:** We want to remind families that Comcast is offering two months of free internet service to families in need, through their Internet Essentials program. **If you qualify for the school free/reduced lunch program, you are eligible for this important service.** Information on how to apply and sign up for Internet Essentials from Comcast is available at: <https://internetessentials.com/>
- **AP Exams:** Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, there will be no in-person AP Exams in 2020. Instead, College Board is creating 45-minute online exams designed to be taken at home. This website (<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/coronavirus-updates>) has more details, free resources for students to prepare for exams, and will have an exam schedule by April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please contact your student's AP teacher or Melanie Kessler at [mkessler@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:mkessler@k12.somerville.ma.us) if you have questions.
- **Instrument Rentals:** A reminder that Needham Instruments and Acoustic Strings of New England are providing replacement instruments for students whose rental instrument is not accessible. We have not been able to connect with Johnson String Instruments. Please contact Mr. Saunders [rsaunders@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:rsaunders@k12.somerville.ma.us) if you have any questions.

### Curriculum Resources and Tech Support Available Online

- High quality grade-level home learning resources: [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/home-learning](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/home-learning).
- High school online resources: [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/shs](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus) for the most current information on COVID-19.
- Visit [www.somervillema.gov/coronavirushelp](http://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](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/TalkingAboutCoronavirus).

Have a safe weekend. We look forward to reconnecting on Monday.

Mary Skipper, Superintendent