



Somerville Public Schools

Education • Inspiration • Excellence

Mary E. Skipper, Superintendent

8 Bonair Street · Somerville, MA 02145-3246
mskipper@k12.somerville.ma.us · www.somerville.k12.ma.us
T 617-629-5200, x6005 · F 617-629-5611

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Dear Somerville Public Schools Families and Staff,

As we head into the April break, we want to remind families that our Grab-and-Go breakfast and lunch meal program will continue as scheduled every day next week, including Monday, April 20th, Patriots' Day. Below, please find information about virtual camps and activities available to families during the April break. We also encourage families to utilize the Home Learning (www.somerville.k12.ma.us/home-learning) and Just for Fun (www.somerville.k12.ma.us/JustforFun) resources on our website as much as you feel is appropriate for your family throughout the April break.

We appreciate families' flexibility and support as we mark the end of a month since the Emergency Closure began. We will continue to work diligently to support all of our students and families, keep students connected and engaged to their learning, and keep you informed as we implement new programs and expand our resources.

NEW INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

April Vacation Virtual Camps and Activities: Somerville Community Schools afterschool program and other community organizations will be offering virtual camps and activities throughout April break. Visit <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/2020-april-break-virtual-camps-and-activities> for a list of interactive virtual activities available to families next week.

Census Update: The national deadline to respond to the U.S. Census has been extended to August 14. The census determines the amount of federal funding Somerville will receive to support a wide range of services for families including roads, schools, hospitals, food access, and more. Completing the census online is quick and easy, at www.my2020census.gov. You can also learn more about the "Get Out the Vote Video Challenge" at <https://accelerate.census.gov/video-challenge/>.

Just for Fun: Tune in to a web cam and find out the scoop on some amazing sea animals by visiting the Monterey Bay Aquarium at <https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams>. For more fun, interactive activities, visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/JustforFun.

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.
- ***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, 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/>

- **Somerville Public Library:** The Somerville Public Library offers a treasure trove of digital resources that can be accessed at www.somervillepubliclibrary.org. 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.
- **AP Exams:** College Board is creating 45-minute online exams designed to be taken at home between May 11-22. Each subject has a different assigned date and time. Visit <https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/coronavirus-updates> for the updated schedule, free resources for students to prepare for exams, and more details about the exams. We are asking all students to complete [this survey](#) about their ability to take AP exams this year. Please contact your student's AP teacher or Melanie Kessler at mkessler@k12.somerville.ma.us if you have questions.

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.
- SPS Remote Learning Plan can be accessed at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/RemoteLearning

Other Important Links & Information

- Social Distancing: One of the most important things we can all do right now to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 is to be diligent about following social distancing measures, and ensuring that our kids are following those measures as well. We can stay connected while staying away, with a phone call, video chat, or through social media. We all can be carriers, and practicing social distancing impacts not only our own health, but the health of those around us as well. That's why it's so important that we **ALL** do our part to combat the spread of this virus by following CDC [social distancing guidelines](#). It could be the difference between life and death for someone.
- 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.

Respectfully,

Mary Skipper, Superintendent