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Dear SPS Families and Staff,

I hope the April break offered you an opportunity to focus on your family without having to monitor schoolwork, and for some much-needed self-care. The last several weeks have challenged us all in ways that we had not expected. As we move into the final eight weeks of the school year, we will continue to refine and implement our remote learning plan and finalize grading structures for the fourth quarter. We will also continue to work with students to develop alternative plans for our incredibly resilient Class of 2020 graduates, and develop plans for gathering remaining student possessions such as instruments, personal belongings, and medications. We will share details as they are finalized. Most importantly, we will continue to focus on ensuring that our students, families, and staff feel supported and connected throughout this continuing crisis.

We are so grateful for the many community partners who continue to reach out and support our students, families, and staff. Thank you for your continued partnership in this important work.

NEW/UPDATED INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

P-EBT Program Reminder: Massachusetts families with children who were receiving free and reduced-price school meals will be receiving food support through the federal Pandemic-EBT program. P-EBT is a separate program that functions like SNAP. Benefit amounts are based on a daily student rate. Learn more about this important program at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/pandemic-ebt-p-ebt>. Eligible families should expect to receive their P-EBT benefits soon. Please note that the Public Charge rule does NOT apply to P-EBT benefits.

- For families on SNAP, P-EBT benefits will be issued on their normal SNAP EBT card.
- Families not already receiving SNAP will get a special P-EBT Food Card in the mail for each child that can be used to purchase food at local grocers.
- Eligible families include those approved for National School Lunch Program free or reduced-price meals, including all children in *Community Eligibility Provision* (CEP) schools or school districts.
- The Public Charge rule does NOT apply to P-EBT benefits. Using P-EBT benefits does NOT impact your or your child's immigration status.

School Committee Finance & Facilities Meeting of the Whole: Somerville School Committee meetings are continuing to take place remotely. A schedule and links to upcoming meetings can be found at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/school-committee-meetings. Wednesday's *Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole* can be accessed at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6127507239760619536>.

Facial Covering Advisory to Become Mandatory: Earlier today, Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone and the Somerville Board of Health announced that Somerville's facial covering advisory will become mandatory, in efforts to help further slow the spread of COVID-19. The new order will require anyone over the age of two to wear a clean face mask or face covering when in any indoor or outdoor space that is open to the public. The order, which has the unanimous support of the City Council, goes into effect on April 29th, with a one-week grace period. Visit www.somervillema.gov/facecoverings for the complete notice.

Just for Fun: Get an insider's look at the [London Symphony Orchestra](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/LondonSymphonyOrchestra) and its performances. For more fun, interactive activities, visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/JustforFun.

LIST OF RESOURCES, CONTINUING PROGRAMS AND IMPORTANT LINKS

Curriculum Resources and Tech Support Available Online

- High quality grade-level home learning resources from multiple sources: www.somerville.k12.ma.us/home-learning
- 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

Continuing Programs and Resources

- **Breakfast and Lunch Grab-and-Go Meals** 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.
- **Other food-related resources in the city**, visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/food-resources.
- **Distribution of Diapers:** Distribution of free diapers to families with babies or young children will continue on **Wednesdays 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/>

Other Important Links & Information

- Visit www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus for the most current information on COVID-19 and resources available in our community.
- Talking to your kids about COVID-19: www.somerville.k12.ma.us/TalkingAboutCoronavirus.

Respectfully,

Mary Skipper, Superintendent