



Somerville Public Schools

Education • Inspiration • Excellence

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Dear SPS Families and Staff,

Aside from making sure that we are meeting the most pressing needs of our students and families, and putting new structures in place to support remote teaching and learning, we are continuing to prepare for the upcoming school year. The first batch of Pre-K and Kindergarten assignments for the 2020-2021 school year have been made. Assignment notices will be going out next week to families. Brown School families whose students are transitioning from 5th to 6th grade should also expect to receive their assignment notices next week. We look forward to the opportunity to welcome all of our students back to our schools.

If you have a few minutes this weekend, I invite you to enjoy this short video message to families from the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC) and the Somerville Partnership for Young Children (SPYC) – [*Learning, Helping, and Playing at Home*](#). We appreciate you and all you do to support our kids.

NEW/UPDATED INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Help & Resources: The City has compiled a comprehensive list of resources and assistance available to residents, families, staff, and businesses in the community: <https://www.somervillema.gov/coronavirushelp>. We encourage you to call 311 if you need assistance connecting to a particular resource or are looking for additional assistance.

Ways to Support: People have asked how they might be able to support families and staff in our local community through this crisis.

- The ***Somerville Cares Fund*** provides emergency financial assistance to individuals and families during the COVID-19 public health crisis to meet needs such as food, housing, medicine, funeral costs, and other essential services. To donate, visit www.somervillema.gov/SomervilleCares. Somerville residents, persons who work in Somerville (including those recently laid off due to the pandemic), and families with children enrolled in the Somerville Public Schools are eligible to apply. Applications will be prioritized and funded on the basis of need. Learn more and apply at: www.somervillema.gov/SomervilleCaresFunding.
- The ***Welcome Project's Immigrant Assistance Fund*** supports residents in Somerville, Medford, Everett, Malden, or Cambridge, regardless of immigration status. Donations can be made at: https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/XGU31WJc8HEcZOFgptSs2g. Due to demand and available funding, applications are currently not being accepted.
- ***The Beautiful Stuff Project***, working in partnership with the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative, is raising money for diapers to support Somerville families with infants and toddlers. Diapers are packaged and distributed every Wednesday from 9-11 a.m. at the four school food distribution sites. Visit <https://www.thebeautifulstuffproject.org/donate> to make a donation.
- Donations to support specific ***Somerville Public Schools*** programs or initiatives can be made by completing an SPS donation form at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/donate. You can select from a list of the most urgent current needs, or designate another program that you would like to support.

Today's Shout-Out: Somerville High School Social Studies teacher Adda Santos was recently named this year's recipient of the *William Spratt Award for Excellence in Teaching Secondary Social Studies*, by the Massachusetts Council for the Social Studies. The award is presented to an educator who has demonstrated exceptional ability in fostering a spirit of inquiry and the development of the skills needed for citizen

participation appropriate to secondary age classroom, school and community settings. Ms. Santos will be formally recognized at a Northeast Regional Conference for the Social Studies in October.

Just for Fun: Crack secret codes and do a scavenger hunt with National Geographic Kids' Explorer Academy (<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explorer-academy/games/>). 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