



Mary E. Skipper, *Superintendent*

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Dear SPS Families and Staff,

I hope you are doing ok as we move into the final seven weeks of the school year.

As we mentioned last week, we are also looking ahead and preparing for the coming school year and beyond. As you can imagine, the financial impact worldwide of this global pandemic is not yet fully known, but will likely be significant. Working closely with the City, we have already taken steps to eliminate all unnecessary spending to help mitigate the financial impact as much as possible. We are also evaluating the necessary shifts in our budgeting process and strategy for the coming year given our current context. We will keep you informed as we get more clarity on what that process will be.

Thank you for all you continue to do to support our students and keep them engaged in their learning despite the unprecedented challenges that this health crisis has presented over the last seven weeks.

NEW/UPDATED INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Student Instruments Pickup Schedule: Student instruments can be picked up starting this week. Please see the schedule below. Please ensure that you are following the city's mandatory face covering order. We will be observing social distancing measures during this instrument pickup process.

- Somerville High School – Wednesday, May 6th, 11:00am-noon
- Argenziano – Thursday, May 7th, 11:00am-noon
- Brown School – Friday, May 8th, 11:00am-noon
- East Somerville Community School – Friday, May 8th, 1:00-2:00pm
- Healey School – Monday, May 11th, 11:00am-noon
- Kennedy School – Tuesday, May 12th, 11:00am-noon
- Winter Hill Community Innovation School – Wednesday, May 13th, 11:00am-noon
- West Somerville Neighborhood School – Wednesday, May 13th, 1:00-2:00pm

Today's Shout-Out: Thanks to all our families who are working hard to help students stay connected with their learning while at home. Thanks also to the Somerville Media Center, Somerville Family Learning Collaborative, and the Somerville Partnership for Young Children (SPYC) for acknowledging the critical role that families are playing in their child's learning during this challenging time, with this video message about [Learning, Playing, and Helping at Home](#).

Just for Fun: Visit London's Tate Gallery (<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids>) and create some virtual street art, make some Pop Art, and take a quiz to redesign your bedroom. 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 June 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