



Mary E. Skipper, *Superintendent*

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Dear SPS Families and Staff,

We are actively planning for modified end-of-school-year celebrations and student transitions. Our high school teams are also working to finalize graduation celebrations for the Class of 2020. Please look for more information as plans are finalized in the next few weeks. As a reminder, the last day of school will be Friday, June 19th.

NEW/UPDATED INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Relief for Families during COVID-19: Looking for a place to find a list of basic resources and supports for families during this global pandemic? Visit <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-departments/somerville-family-learning-collaborative-sflc/relief-our-families>.

Congratulatory Messages to Class of 2020 Graduates: Do you have a Somerville Class of 2020 graduate that you would like to celebrate? Wicked Local is offering the opportunity to send a congratulatory message or shout-out to your graduate, at no cost to families. Send to somerville@wickedlocal.com with the following: 1) The subject line of your email should be "Congrats Grad Message." 2) A 25-word congratulatory message. 3) The graduate's name (to) and the writer's name (from), which is not included in the 25-word limit. Please send by the end of the day Friday, May 22. Due to space constraints, they cannot guarantee any photo or graphic accompanies the message.

Today's Shout-Out: It's Teacher Appreciation Week! A huge shout-out to our teachers, who are finding new and creative ways to continue supporting students and families while juggling family responsibilities of their own. Thank you for your passion, your resilience, and your commitment to kids every day of the year. We appreciate you and the incredible work you do to prepare kids for a lifetime of learning and success.

Just for Fun: The Somerville Arts Council found a creative way to keep one of our favorite festivals going - this Saturday PorchFest is becoming CouchFest! From noon to 6 p.m. you can watch online performances from local musicians. No need to worry about a rain date or putting on shoes! You can find links to performances on the [CouchFest map](#). If you're a musician who would like to participate, you have until May 7 to register on the [Arts Council's website](#). For more fun and 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

- **Student Instruments Pickup Schedule:** Pickup of student instruments is continuing on the following schedule. We will be observing social distancing measures during this instrument pickup process and ask that you please ensure you follow the city's mandatory face covering order.
 - 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
- ***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