



# Somerville Public Schools

Education • Inspiration • Excellence

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Dear SPS Families and Staff,

As we approach the end of the school year, we invite you to join us in congratulating and celebrating our Class of 2020 graduating students. Please see the note below from Wicked Local on the opportunity to send a congratulatory message to your graduate. We will share out additional opportunities to recognize our students in the coming weeks, as well as details about Somerville High School, Full Circle, and SCALE Class of 2020 celebrations. Also, please look for an update on Breakthrough Greater Boston programming next week.

The global pandemic has presented significant challenges for many families. On Monday, we will be sending out information on how to apply for free/reduced lunch if your financial situation has changed since the start of the school year. If your situation has changed, we encourage you to apply as it may open up additional resources for your family, such as eligibility for P-EBT benefits.

As always, thank you for all you are doing during this difficult time.

## **NEW/UPDATED INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

**Somerville SEPAC Meeting:** The Somerville Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) invites you to their first remote SEPAC meeting on Monday, May 18, 8:00-8:45pm. Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect with other Somerville parents of students with special needs, and meet your new SEPAC officers. A presentation by Massachusetts Advocates for Children, *Special Education during the Coronavirus Era*, and Q&A will follow. Please register [HERE](#). You will receive a confirmation email containing information on how to join.

**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](mailto: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:** Earlier this week, Argenziano 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in Ms. Bakey's 7/8 ELA class were joined in a Google Meets video conference session by toxicologist/biochemist, Dan Bolt. Using questions that students submitted prior to the session, Mr. Bolt helped students better understand various elements of the Novel Coronavirus, including how the virus is spread, the rationale behind social distancing and wearing masks, and what the global scientific community is doing to combat the disease through the development of treatments and vaccines. Mr. Bolt also fielded questions about how and why he chose his career path and what his daily work in his laboratory, Metabolic Solutions Inc., involves. A shout-out to Mr. Bolt for helping students get a deeper understanding of the current global health crisis, and for offering a glimpse in the life of a toxicologist/biochemist.

**Just for Fun:** A reminder that this Saturday PorchFest becomes CouchFest! From noon to 6:00pm, you can watch online performances from local musicians. Visit the Somerville Arts Council's Porchfest 2020 website

(<http://somerilleartscouncil.org/porchfest/2020>) for links to performances. For more fun and interactive activities, visit [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/JustforFun](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/JustforFun).

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## 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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.
  - Healey School – Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am-noon
  - Kennedy School – Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am-noon
  - Winter Hill Community Innovation School – Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am-noon
  - West Somerville Neighborhood School – Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/TalkingAboutCoronavirus).
- List of basic supports for families during COVID-19: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-departments/somerville-family-learning-collaborative-sflc/relief-our-families>

Respectfully,

Mary Skipper, Superintendent