



Somerville Public Schools

Education • Inspiration • Excellence

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Dear SPS Families and Staff,

For our high school seniors, this health crisis has interrupted one of the most important milestones in a young person's life. We invite you to join us in acknowledging their tremendous work to reach this milestone, and in celebrating them as they venture into the next phase of their journeys.

Somerville High School and Full Circle graduation committees have a full array of efforts planned to honor their graduates. SCALE is also finalizing plans for their graduates. Videos for each school are under production. SHS is finalizing plans for a caravan that will deliver caps and gowns, diplomas, and a senior gift bag containing school swag to every graduate. Full Circle will be holding a virtual graduation ceremony on June 3rd, their original graduation date, and will be posting lawn signs at every graduates' home. Banners will be posted across the city and staff will be sending personal postcard and video messages. SHS is also highlighting graduates on their @SHS_SeniorSpotlight Instagram account. This is just a sampling of what is planned to honor and celebrate our Class of 2020 graduates.

Below are a couple of opportunities for you to join in honoring and celebrating our seniors and SCALE graduates. Thank you for being part of this effort.

NEW/UPDATED INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Class of 2020 Graduation Celebrations: Help us celebrate the Somerville High School, Full Circle and SCALE Class of 2020!

We invite you to make posters/signs to put on your windows or yards (or use chalk on your driveways or sidewalks) to congratulate our 2020 graduates. Feel free to start putting up signs as soon as you like, and share on social media. Thank you for helping celebrate this important milestone for our students.

Wicked Local is offering the opportunity to send a congratulatory message out to your graduate, at no cost to families. To participate, send an email to somerville@wickedlocal.com with the subject line "Congrats Grad Message." Include a congratulatory message of up to 25 words, the name of the graduate the message is going to, and who the message is from. Please send your submission by the end of the day Friday, May 22.

Upcoming Virtual Town Hall Meetings: The City is hosting a series of virtual town hall meetings with Mayor Curtatone where you can learn about local COVID-19 impacts and the City's response. You can participate live via Zoom or by calling in by phone. You can also submit questions in advance and watch the town halls live on City Cable TV (channels 13 and 613 on RCN, channel 22 on Comcast). For more information on how to participate, visit www.somervillema.gov/virtualtownhall.

Today's Shout-Out: A huge shout-out to Healey 7th graders Gianni Previlon, Ethan Barros and Eleanor Bogosian for having placed in the annual Longfellow Poetry Contest. All 3 competed in the 6-8 grade division. Gianni won 1st place, Ethan took 3rd place, and Eleanor claimed Honorable Mention honors. The contest is sponsored by the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site, the Friends of the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters, and the New England Poetry Club. The Longfellow Poetry Prize is presented annually. This year's event will be held virtually on Sunday, June 21, at 3:00p.m., when all award winners will be recognized. Congratulations Gianni, Ethan, and Eleanor!

Just for Fun: Learn about Pioneering Women in Aerospace (<https://airandspace.si.edu/highlighted-topics/pioneering-women-aerospace>) by visiting the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum 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

- **Free/Reduced Lunch Application:** Qualifying for free/reduced lunch may open up additional resources for your family, such as eligibility for P-EBT benefits. All students attending schools designated as CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) do not need to complete a lunch application and already receive free lunch. These students are also automatically eligible for the P-EBT federal benefits offered to help alleviate the financial burden on families caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Somerville High School, Healey School, Next Wave/Full Circle, Winter Hill Community Innovation School, and East Somerville Community School are all CEP-designated schools in our district. If your student attends another school in our district and you believe your financial situation might now make you eligible for free/reduced lunch, you can apply online [HERE](#).
- **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.
- 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