



Somerville Public Schools

Education • Inspiration • Excellence

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Dear Families and Staff:

Today, we welcomed Somerville High School students in grades 9-11 to their new school building for an orientation and an opportunity to meet with teachers and staff as they begin their transition back to full in-person learning, 5 days a week. Approximately 670 SHS students in grades 9-11 are joining about 300 of their SHS classmates who have been in-person since March, including many students in our highest-needs programs and in Career and Technical Education (CTE). Starting Monday, May 17 all students who opted for in-person instruction will be attending school full-time, five days a week.

Due to building space constraints and to minimize further disruption to their learning, students in grade 12 -- with the exception of CTE seniors and students in special education programs -- will remain remote for their final week of school, May 17-21. We received notification from DESE late Wednesday that our waiver request had been approved. There will be opportunities for seniors to meet with SHS teachers and staff in-person as they wrap up their final week of high school. We are very excited to have SHS students returning to our classrooms, and are looking forward to celebrating our amazing Class of 2021. We recognize what a challenging four years it has been for our seniors, and we are incredibly proud of their resilience, determination, and leadership.

SKIP and Life Skills K-8 students and staff also successfully transitioned back to the Kennedy School this week, and are settling nicely back into their Kennedy classrooms.

Class of 2021 Graduations

Somerville High School: The Somerville High School Class of 2021 graduation ceremony will take place Monday, June 7 (rain date, June 8) at Dilboy Stadium, with attendance limitations and other COVID safety measures in place. Attendance will be limited to 2 family members per graduate, and the event will also be live-streamed. SHS families will receive additional information as details continue to be finalized.

Full Circle: We are exploring indoor and outdoor options for the Full Circle Class of 2021 graduation ceremony. Full Circle families will receive additional details about graduation as they are finalized.

SCALE: Class of 2021 graduates from the Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences (SCALE) will be recognized at a virtual graduation ceremony scheduled for 6:30pm on Thursday, June 3. SCALE graduates will receive additional details about graduation as plans are finalized.

COVID-19 Testing Protocol and Reminders

While our COVID-19 testing has been going very well, with a district [percent positivity rate of around 0.2%](#), we want to remind everyone **how important it is to continue to follow COVID safety protocols outside of school to minimize the risk of students or staff having to quarantine as a close contact of someone who may test positive.** Close contacts can be from a positive that resulted outside of school. As more people are vaccinated and guidelines are relaxed, we are seeing more and more students not following facemask and physical distancing guidelines after hours. **It is also critically important that students and staff check daily for any symptoms of COVID-19, including doing a temperature check each morning. If your child or someone in your household is showing symptoms, is in quarantine, or has COVID-19, it is important that you keep your child home and notify the school nurse, to avoid the risk of transmission. Last week, we had the first positive case in the district for which in-school transmission cannot be ruled out. The success of our safety plan rests on all of us**

continuing to be diligent in following the protocols that were put in place. We appreciate everyone's efforts and cooperation with this critical piece of our safety plan.

School Choice Public Hearing and Next School Committee Meeting

The Somerville School Committee will hold its annual School Choice Public Hearing on Monday, May 17, from 6:30-7:00 p.m. That meeting will be followed by the Regular School Committee Meeting starting at 7:00 p.m. The full meeting agenda and the meeting Zoom links are available [here](#).

FY22 SPS Proposed Budget

On Wednesday evening, May 12, the District presented its proposed budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year (FY22) to the Somerville School Committee. The School Committee hosted several virtual and in-person office hours over the last two weeks to gather input from the community, and continues to welcome feedback regarding the proposed budget as they prepare for deliberations. School Committee member contact information can be found at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/school-committee. A link to the budget presentation and other budget documents are available at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/finance.

Summer Programming

Visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/summer for Summer 2021 programming information. The site will continue to be updated as additional programs and details are finalized.

COVID-19 Vaccination Update

As of May 13, 2021, COVID-19 vaccines are available for anyone 12 years or older. Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) offers walk-in vaccinations at three of their sites including their Somerville location at 176 Somerville Ave. as well as Encore Boston Harbor in Everett, and Tufts University. Visit the [CHA COVID-19 website](#) to learn more. We have held vaccine clinics at Somerville High School, and will continue to offer vaccination opportunities for students 12 years and older at school sites in the coming weeks.

Respectfully,

Mary Skipper, Superintendent of Schools