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Dear SPS Families and Staff,

In just a few weeks, our Class of 2020 graduates will be closing one important chapter in their lives and preparing for the next. It has been a challenging time for all of our seniors, but as I have come to expect, they continue to rise to the occasion as resilient and passionate young leaders of our communities. I invite you to take a few minutes this weekend to join us in recognizing their efforts and accomplishments. See below for a couple of ways in which you can do that.

Many of our younger students will also be going through their own milestone transitions, whether entering our school system for the first time, moving into middle grades, or transitioning into high school. Over the next few weeks, we will be sharing information on alternative plans and celebrations for these important transitions. Each of these transitions helps set a foundation for continued success for our students, and although it may look different this year, we want to make sure that our students feel supported and prepared for what comes next.

NEW/UPDATED INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Ages and Stages Developmental Online Screening: Did you know you can get a developmental snapshot of your child (between the ages of 2 months and 5 years old) using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)? Once completed, you will hear from an SFLC staff member with your child's results along with ideas for activities to do at home. Available for Somerville residents only at this time. You can access the ASQ survey at: English www.asqonline.com/family/4da2f1; Spanish: www.asqonline.com/family/4ba1af. Learn more about the ASQ and the SFLC online Playgroup schedule and activities at: <https://www.facebook.com/SFLCplaygroups>.

Help us Celebrate the Class of 2020!: Here are 2 ways you can help us celebrate the Somerville High School, Full Circle and SCALE Class of 2020:

- Make posters/signs to put on your windows or yards (or use chalk on your driveways or sidewalks) to congratulate our 2020 graduates, and share messages on social media.
- 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.

Fourth Quarter Assessments: Fourth quarter assessment plans have been finalized for all grades. Aligned with guidelines from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the focus continues to be on supporting access and engagement, going deeper with standards already taught, and introducing new core standards that help prepare students for the next grade level. Progress is being measured based on percentage completion of work, recognizing that some standards cannot be assessed remotely and that data may be limited by limited access to school buildings. For additional details, see the Remote Learning-Foundation page of our Remote Learning Plan (www.somerville.k12.ma.us/RemoteLearning).

- For grades preK-5, student work shall be assessed on a Meets / Progressing scale.
- For grades 6-8, student work will be assessed on a Pass / Progressing scale.
- For grades 9-12, student work will be assessed on a Pass / No Credit scale.

Today's Shout-Out: With the guidance of Grade 6 ELA teacher Julia Allen and Art teacher Emma Alcott, sixth graders at the East Somerville Community School recently completed an inspiring video project celebrating essential workers for all they do. Students spent time reading, listening to podcasts, looking at

pictures, and interviewing essential workers via video as part of their research for this project. They produced their artwork and then collaborated on a poem. Take a look at the final product: <https://vimeo.com/418672390>. Congratulations, Phoenix 6th graders, on a beautiful and inspiring project!

Just for Fun: Explore the Kids' Corner of the Franklin Park and Stone Zoos to learn about honey bees, giant anteaters, and more (<https://www.zoonewengland.org/kids-corner/>). 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. SHS, Healey, Next Wave/Full Circle, Winter Hill, and ESCS 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