



Mary E. Skipper, *Superintendent*

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Dear SPS Families and Staff,

The extended closure has challenged us in many ways, including prompting us to think of creative alternatives to many of the annual events that our students have enjoyed over the years. As you'll see in the Virtual Field Day 2020 link below, our physical education teachers have done an incredible job of bringing Field Day to you this year! I hope your kids will log on and enjoy.

As we continue to take action in response to the recent events and the systemic racism that has plagued our communities for centuries, our youth are leading the change. Today's Shout-Out is a powerful poem by one of our students that captures the impact of systemic racism on our communities of color. We are so proud of our student's leadership and honored to share Marcus' message with you.

NEW/UPDATED INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Virtual Field Day: Welcome to [Virtual Field Day 2020!](#) Our Physical Education teachers have worked hard to create a Field Day that you can do at home. Although we can't be together in person, your virtual Physical Education teachers await you [HERE!](#) Have a great time!

Grab and Go Meals Distribution Moving to M-W-F Starting June 22: Grab and Go breakfast and lunch meals will continue to be available throughout the summer, from 9:00-11:00am at the 4 school food distribution sites (ESCS, Healey, Winter Hill and WSNS). Starting June 22, distribution will shift to Monday-Wednesday-Friday of each week (closed Tuesdays and Thursdays).

Today's Shout-Out: Thank you to Marcus for sharing this powerful poem:

My Dream

By Marcus Odilon

MLK had his dream, and now I have mine: That one day, black people in this country can walk past an officer unperturbed,

That one day we may walk the streets undisturbed,

That one day, this country will stop acting like racism and discrimination don't occur,

That one day, the incarceration rates of my people will take a turn,

That one day, my dream will become a priority and no longer be deferred,

That one day, my dream will no longer be spurned,

That one day, that young black man from the "hood" that flipped his life around, will find work,

That one day, systemic racism will be burned,

That one day, the ideology that blacks are a savage, uncivilized, inferior people, will take a turn,

That one day, the murder rates in places with a high number of minorities will take a curve,

That one day, the respect of a white man, won't have to be earned,

That one day, the life of a black man will have more worth,

And that one day, my dream will be heard.

Just for Fun: The [Boston Harbor Habitat Atlas](#) has virtual tours, habitat information, and species information. 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: 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. If your student attends a non-CEP school in our district (a school other than SHS, Healey, NWFC, WHCIS, and ESCS) 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, 9-11 a.m. at ESCS, Healey, WSNS, and Winter Hill. 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.
- Basic supports for families during COVID-19: www.somerville.k12.ma.us/relief-our-families.

Respectfully,

Mary Skipper, Superintendent