



# Somerville Public Schools

Education • Inspiration • Excellence

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Dear Families and Staff:

We hope the extended weekend provided an opportunity for you to relax and re-energize as we approach the end of the school year. With two weeks remaining in this most unusual and challenging year, we are looking forward to celebrating the incredible resilience of our students, families, and staff, and recognizing our students at various end-of-year events as they prepare for what lies ahead.

Congratulations to our SCALE Class of 2021 graduates! Last night, SCALE Director Lisa Cook and her dedicated staff celebrated their graduates in a virtual ceremony. We wish all of them much success as they move on to the next phase of their journeys.

On Monday, June 7 starting at 6:00pm, Somerville High School Class of 2021 graduates will walk across the stage in a modified but more traditional ceremony at Dilboy Stadium, marking the end of one chapter of their lives and beginning of another. We are so excited to celebrate them and to recognize them for their many accomplishments amidst a number of challenges. You are an inspiration to us all, and we are grateful for your advocacy, leadership, and resilience. Attendance will be limited to four guests per graduate, but Somerville EdTV will be live-streaming the celebration on the city's YouTube channel. Tune in at: <https://youtu.be/N6S4D9N5sbk>.

The Full Circle Graduation ceremony will be held on Wednesday, June 9 at the Armory, 191 Highland Avenue. The celebration starts at 5:00pm. Guests will be limited to those on the graduates' invitation list, Next Wave/Full Circle staff, SPS Central Administration, and School Committee members. Those not in attendance can enjoy the celebration, which will be live-streamed by Somerville EdTV. Tune in at: [https://youtu.be/4Nyfqt\\_e5ww](https://youtu.be/4Nyfqt_e5ww).

Moving On ceremonies will be happening for 8th graders at each school. We will post these events on our website calendar as the dates are finalized.

## **High Temperatures early Next Week**

With temperatures projected to be in the mid-90s on Monday and Tuesday, recess and physical education classes will be held indoors. We encourage parents to remind their students to bring a water bottle to school and to wear sunscreen for protection for the time that they are outside.

## **Update on Last Day of School**

Although the last day of school is currently listed as a full day on the [2020-21 District School Year Calendar](#), in keeping with our past practice, June 17th will in fact be a half day with **dismissal at noon for all PK-12 students**. There is a great deal to accomplish between now and the end of the year in terms of unpacking materials stored throughout the buildings and in the storage containers to ready our schools for summer programming and the next academic year. We appreciate all of the time and effort that our teachers and staff have and will continue to put into reorganizing the physical learning environment of our classrooms and schools to ensure a warm and welcoming environment for students at every transition. We anticipate that Community Schools afterschool programming will be available starting at 12:00 that day for students enrolled in the program.

## **Summer Programming**

We are continuing to work on Summer 2021 programming opportunities. Please visit [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/summer](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/summer) for summer program information. The site will continue to be updated as additional programs and details are finalized. The following targeted summer programs currently have space available. Please contact the respective program coordinator listed on the summer website or Heather McCormack ([hmccormack@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:hmccormack@k12.somerville.ma.us)) if your child qualifies for a program and you would like to register them.

- Elizabeth Peabody House On-Site Summer Program - City Explorers for ages 5-12
- YouthRising for 2nd-5th graders at ESCS who qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch
- The Calculus Project for rising grade 7 through grade 12 Black and Latinx students
- Drew Hendrickson's Summer Tennis/Literacy Program - contact [hmccormack@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:hmccormack@k12.somerville.ma.us) for information
- Teen Empowerment - hiring up to 40 youth ages 13+ to participate in summer leadership programming.
- Somerville Arts for Youth Summer Theater Institute (SAY! Summer Institute 2021) - for rising 7th through rising 12th graders

## **COVID-19 Testing Protocol and Reminders**

Our COVID-19 testing continues to go well. Our district [percent positivity rate remains between 0.1 and 0.2%](#). Students and staff should continue to follow COVID safety protocols outside of school and to 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. Thank you for your continued efforts and cooperation.

## **COVID-19 Vaccination Walk-in Sites and Pop-up Clinics**

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. Visit the [CHA COVID-19 website](#) to learn more. The City of Somerville Health and Human Services Department are also holding mobile COVID-19 vaccination clinics in partnership with CHA. Mobile vaccination clinic dates will be released as sites are confirmed, and are free, open to all people 12 years or older, regardless of immigration status or health insurance. Identification will not be required. Dates and locations will be listed at [www.somervillema.gov/vaccine](http://www.somervillema.gov/vaccine) and will be announced via City vaccine alerts (by text, phone, and e-mail). You can sign up for City vaccine alerts by completing the form below in your preferred language, or by calling 311 (617-666-3311).

- English: [tinyurl.com/VaccineAlerts](http://tinyurl.com/VaccineAlerts)
- Spanish: [tinyurl.com/AlertasVacuna](http://tinyurl.com/AlertasVacuna)
- Portuguese: [tinyurl.com/AlertasVacina](http://tinyurl.com/AlertasVacina)
- Haitian Creole: [tinyurl.com/AletVaksen](http://tinyurl.com/AletVaksen)
- Nepali: [tinyurl.com/AlertsNepali](http://tinyurl.com/AlertsNepali)

Respectfully,

Mary Skipper, Superintendent of Schools