



Somerville Public Schools

Education • Inspiration • Excellence

Mary E. Skipper, *Superintendent*

8 Bonair Street · Somerville, MA 02145-3246
mskipper@k12.somerville.ma.us · www.somerville.k12.ma.us
T 617-629-5200, x6005 · F 617-629-5611

June 10, 2020

Dear SPS Families and Staff,

With only a week and a half remaining in the school year, summer is fast approaching and with it, questions about programs and activities for kids over the summer and what's in store for the fall. As we had previously mentioned, district summer programming will look very different this year. Community Schools has a wonderful program planned, our Summer Program for English Language Learners (SPELL) will be virtual, we will be offering one-on-one tutoring support to targeted students, and Breakthrough Greater Boston also has a robust and engaging virtual program for their students. In addition, we are continuing to curate a list of other summer programs that families can consider. You can find that information at: www.somerville.k12.ma.us/summer. We also encourage you to continue to explore activities on our #JustforFun page (www.somerville.k12.ma.us/justforfun).

NEW/UPDATED INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Additional School Committee Spring Office Hours: Four additional School Committee virtual office hours have been added to the Spring 2020 schedule. Join any of the new sessions and share your thoughts about Somerville Public Schools with your elected officials. Visit <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-leadership/somerville-school-committee/spring-2020-virtual-office-hours> for a list and links to each session.

Public Budget Hearing: On Wednesday, June 17, 2020 starting at 6:00pm, the Somerville School Committee will conduct a Public Hearing on the School Department's FY2021 budget. The Public Hearing will be held on the GoToWebinar Online Meeting Platform. Please use the following web address to join: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5352296567632079115>. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Youth Virtual Town Hall: Somerville teens are invited to join Mayor Curtatone for a virtual town hall on Thursday, June 11, from 3:30-4:30pm. As part of the City of Somerville's [series of virtual town halls](#), the purpose of this event is to give our youth the chance to hear directly from City and School leaders on the issues that are important to them. There will be a short presentation followed by a question-and-answer portion. Using the [linked form](#), youth can submit questions ahead of time as well as topics that they are interested in hearing about during the presentation. High school students will receive the Zoom link from their social studies teacher or school Principal. Non-high school teens are welcome to join and should email sbernt@somervillema.gov to request the meeting link.

Today's Shout-Out: Thanks to the El Sistema Somerville Symphonic Orchestra for this wonderful rendition of Sword Dance: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qz_bqu-fOm4&feature=youtu.be

Just for Fun: Visit the Library of Congress's exhibit "[Shall Not Be Denied: Women Fight for the Vote](#)" to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, where women obtained the right to vote in the United States. 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. ***Please note that starting Monday, June 22nd and throughout the summer months, Grab-and-Go Meals will be distributed only on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9-11am at the same 4 locations.**
- **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