



Mary E. Skipper, *Superintendent*

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Dear SPS Families and Staff,

Despite the ongoing challenges, the last week has been a joyous occasion for many of our students, families, and staff. Our Somerville High School and Full Circle graduates have walked across the stage and accepted their diplomas, ready to conquer new challenges and make their marks in the world. Our eighth graders are firmly planting their feet on a new pathway as they get ready for high school, and are celebrating with Moving Up ceremonies. And students across the district are putting the final touches on a school year wrought by challenges and unknowns, having persevered with determination and grace. I am so proud of our students and staff, and the courage that they have demonstrated to get to this point.

As we head into the final week of the school year, as with everything else over the last few months, closing out the school year and bidding everyone “a great summer” will be different. One of the many things we have learned over the last few months is that the transitions are not as clear; one day blurs into the next. Over the next week, I encourage us all to remind our students of the great work they have done under very difficult circumstances, and help prepare them for the summer transition. Especially for younger students, that transition may be more difficult this year given that they have been learning from home for so long. We will continue to share summer program opportunities over the next week, and look forward to continuing our celebrations over the last official week of the 2019-2020 school year. Have a good weekend.

NEW/UPDATED INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Remote Learning Survey: We are aware that some of our families experienced difficulties completing the Family Survey on Remote Learning that was emailed yesterday. The issues were due to a large number of surveys being submitted at the same time. We apologize for the inconvenience. Survey links are included below for those who were unable to submit a survey or did not receive the Survey Monkey survey link. Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

- English: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/English_Family
- Kreyòl Ayisyen: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HC_Family
- Português: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Port_Family
- Español: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Span_Family

Reminder - 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.

Reminder - 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.

Today’s Shout-Out: Congratulations to our high school graduates and to the Class of 2020 Scholarship award winners! Thanks to the many friends, staff, alumni, and community partners who support Somerville Public Schools students through scholarship awards. Here is a look at our [Class of 2020 Scholarship recipients](#).

Just for Fun: The Somerville Public Schools Library Department presents a district-wide *Kahoot!* library trivia virtual event next Wednesday, June 17, at 11:30am. The event is geared towards 3rd-5th graders, but all are welcome! A Zoom link and details will be announced in your student's Library Google Classroom. Up to 90 participants can be accommodated on Zoom; participants are asked to arrive on time. The *Kahoot!* will be posted after as a Self-paced Challenge for anyone who cannot attend. Learn more about *Kahoot!* [here](#). Get the *Kahoot!* mobile app [here](#). Show up a little early for tech help.

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.** On Wednesday, June 17th, diapers will be distributed at each of the four school food distribution sites. Starting the following Wednesday, June 24th, diapers will be distributed only at ESCS and WSNS through the end of July, while supplies last. Many thanks to the Beautiful Stuff Project and Cradles to Crayons, as well as our many generous donors for sustaining this much-needed basic community need.
- **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