



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 15, 2020

Dear SPS Families and Staff,

As we enter the final official week of the 2019-2020 school year, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the tremendous work of our students, staff, and families over the course of the year, and in particular over the last several months. When we started the school year back in August, we did so with a great sense of hope and energy, ready for the challenges of a new school year. The last few months have challenged us all in ways that we could not have imagined. Not surprisingly, as is the Somerville way, our community came together – on behalf of our students – to address the challenges head-on and in the process, work to emerge stronger. As we prepare for the last day of school, which is this Friday, June 19th, I do so with an even stronger sense of hope knowing that we are in this journey together and that our future is in great hands. Our students have demonstrated incredible resilience and leadership, and I am so proud of the work that they have done this year.

When you have a moment, I encourage you to celebrate them and their accomplishments. Videos to the various milestone celebrations are available for viewing on the Somerville Educational Channel Youtube account. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCm3UNFw1a7-NN7yKtaCurhw>. We have one more graduation scheduled for this week. On Wednesday, our SCALE graduates will celebrate the culmination of their hard work and dedication in a Virtual Graduation ceremony. I look forward to acknowledging them and their incredible work.

NEW/UPDATED INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

June 16th School Committee virtual office hour in partnership with SEPAC: The Somerville School Committee will be wrapping up their spring virtual office hours tomorrow, Tuesday, June 16th with a joint office hour session in partnership with the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). Join School Committee representatives Carrie Normand - Ward 7 and Laura Pitone - Ward 5 and the SEPAC at 8:00pm Tuesday evening and share your thoughts and suggestions about the Somerville Public Schools. <https://k12somerville.zoom.us/j/97325385140?pwd=MjEvYW1oRjZZYk41cHR5czc5d2dMQT09>

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: A very special thanks to all our Somerville Public Schools colleagues who are retiring at the end of this year. We sincerely appreciate your many years of loyal service to our students and to our school communities. May the years ahead bring you joy and adventure. Thank you!

School/Dept.	Name	Position/Subject	Yrs. of Service
Argenziano	Paul Barringer	Teacher-Music	20
Brown/ Community Schools	Fernanda O'Brien	PT Assistant Teacher	17
Capuano	Deborah DiRusso	Paraprofessional -	18
ESCS	Gail Portine	Teacher – Sp. Ed. Bilingual RR	32
ESCS	Laura Bonnell	Assistant Principal	28

Food and Nutrition Services	Mercedes Escobar	Cook	20
Kennedy	Joan Prisby	Teacher - SMILE	34
Kennedy	Debra Hurley	Teacher - Grade 2	35
Kennedy	Catherine Hughes	Teacher - Grade 1	24
Kennedy	Robert LeGrand	Teacher - SEEK	12
Kennedy	Patricia Messina	Paraprofessional-SEEK	12
NW/FC	Wadson Michel	Teacher - Crisis Counselor	23
SHS	Joan Shea	Teacher - Special Education	30
SHS	Anthony Vecchiarello	Teacher - Metal Fabrication	31
SHS	Yuri Petriv	Teacher - CAM/Computer Repair	18
SHS	Bambi Warner	Teacher - Special Education	24
SHS	Sue Olsen	Teacher - Spanish	13
WSNS	Victoria Macrokanis	Teacher - Grade 6	35
WHCIS	Charlene O'Neill	Teacher - Grade 4	34

Just for Fun: The Somerville Public Schools Library Department presents a district-wide *Kahoot!* library trivia virtual this 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