



Mary E. Skipper, *Superintendent*

8 Bonair Street · Somerville, MA 02145-3246  
[mkipper@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:mkipper@k12.somerville.ma.us) · [www.somerville.k12.ma.us](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us)  
T 617-629-5200, x6005 · F 617-629-5611

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Dear SPS Families and Staff,

The last couple of weeks have been inspiring. With the summer break just around the corner, students and staff are wrapping up their work, celebrating their accomplishments during a very challenging year, and preparing for the year ahead. We are living through a complex time in our history, and our students are clearly leading the way. I am inspired by their passion and commitment, and am proud to celebrate them.

We will continue to send out information over the summer as plans for the upcoming school year are finalized, and as we learn of additional resources and summer programs that may be helpful to you. In the meantime, we encourage you to continue to check our various website resources for new and updated information.

## **NEW/UPDATED INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

**Work Permits for Students:** The Somerville High School (SHS) Main Office will be holding work permit office hours to give SHS and Full Circle High School students an opportunity to obtain their work permits for summer employment. The event takes place on Wednesday, June 17 and Thursday, June 18 from 10:30am-1:30pm on the SHS Concourse. Please fill out the [Youth Employment Permit Application](#) to bring to the event. Students will not be allowed in the high school and must follow social distancing protocols and wear a mask.

**Talking about Racism:** We invite you to explore this list of resources on “talking about racism” as we work to move toward a more just society. The materials listed on this web page are meant to be *a starting point* on how to discuss racism in America historically and to this day. Please check back often as more materials are shared. [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/talking-about-racism](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/talking-about-racism).

**SPS-Teen Empowerment Community Forum:** In partnership with Teen Empowerment, we will host a virtual Community Forum on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm. The purpose of the forum is to create a space for processing and healing after the killing of George Floyd and other recent events in our community, country, and world. The community forum is open to students in grades 6 – 12. The link will be shared by schools.

**\$50 SNAP Match at Union Square Farmers Market through June:** Did you know? SNAP shoppers and P-EBT recipients can now leverage a dollar-for-dollar SNAP Match up to \$50 dollars per market through June. Between now and June 27, SNAP & P-EBT customers will have significantly increased access to healthy food sourced from local food producers at the Union Square Farmers Market, thanks to the generous support of the Somerville Job Creation and Retention Trust. See the “how-to” SNAP informational videos below to find out how the match program works. [Click here](#) for more information about fresh and affordable food resources during Covid-19.

SNAP Match Video: [English](#)

SNAP Match Video: [Portuguese](#)

**Somerville Museum Invites Class of 2020 to Share Thoughts and Experiences:** Class of 2020! The Somerville Museum would like to collect your thoughts and experiences about your life during the past few months. This is a historical moment. The COVID-19 Pandemic and the killing of George Floyd by a police officer has sparked international mass protests and political upheaval. The Somerville Class of 2020 has been particularly impacted. The Somerville Museum wants to hear your voices and make sure your history is recorded. Click on the link below to learn more about how to share your experiences. The Museum will add

your responses to the Collection for the Museum to use freely at a later date. We hope to use this collection in future exhibits and as primary source material for future study.

<http://somerwillemuseum.org/classof2020historicalcollectionproject/>

**Today's Shout-Out:** Congratulations to all our rising 9<sup>th</sup> grade students and to the Brown School 5<sup>th</sup> graders moving up to middle school! Video links to the Moving On celebrations will be posted on the Somerville Educational Channel's YouTube account at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCm3UNFw1a7-NN7yKtaCurhw/videos>.

**Just for Fun:** Become a citizen scientist with one of these [75 scientific research projects](#) you can do from home, such as [categorizing wild beluga whales](#) or [tracking giraffes](#) in Kenya. For more fun and interactive activities, visit [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/justforfun](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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. Starting next Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://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](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/TalkingAboutCoronavirus).
- Basic supports for families during COVID-19: [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/relief-our-families](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/relief-our-families).

Respectfully,

Mary Skipper, Superintendent