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Summer 2020 Weekly Update

July 2, 2020

Dear Somerville Public Schools Families and Staff,

Summer programming kicks off next week! While we were not able to offer the robust menu of options that we have offered previous summers due to continuing Covid-19 health and safety concerns, we are pleased to be serving approximately 800 SPS students through a variety of targeted programs this summer. You can find a short description of each program [here](#), along with a list of third-party summer opportunities that you might consider exploring as well as a short list of programs open to all students, which includes [Community Schools Adventure Summer Program](#), [Summer Music Fest 2020](#), and [Somerville Parks and Recreation programs](#).

As I mentioned last week, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) released their initial [Return to School Guidance](#) for schools reopening this fall. Now that we have had an opportunity to review the guidance and consider its impact to our District, we are quickly moving into a more concrete planning phase. Our plan will be a collective effort, working in partnership with our various unions and other staff, students, families, community partners, and other city departments to develop the plan that best meets the needs of our students, families, and staff. At the heart of our plan will be the health and safety of our students and staff with the goal of providing students with the best possible learning experience within the constraints of the current context. Here is a short summary of our planning work to date:

- By Monday, July 6th, we will have completed our school walkthroughs to identify school-specific needs and protocols.
- We are analyzing the Remote Learning Survey responses from Staff, Students, and Families.
- Our curriculum teams have begun developing the academic plan for the fall.
- We have convened and begun meeting with an internal district operations team as well as a City/District team to assist with the operational planning of this effort and to ensure that other city departments impacted are part of the planning process and in support of our academic goals.
- Each school Principal is putting together a re-entry committee that will include student, staff, and family voice.
- We are working with The District Management Council, a local Harvard business consulting group, and partnering with Salem and Cambridge on a peer review system as part of our planning process.

We will be soliciting input either through surveys or committee work throughout this planning process, and will continue to keep you informed on a weekly basis. Thank you in advance for your continued input and feedback. Have a safe and enjoyable July 4th weekend.

NEW/UPDATED INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Reminder – Summer Programming Opportunities: A list of summer enrichment programming opportunities is available at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/summerlearning. We will continue to add information about local and other online programs as we learn about them. Please visit the site often.

This Week's Shout-Out: Congratulations to this year's Somerville Math Scholars, and a special thanks to the Somerville Mathematics Fund for their incredible support of our students! Read all about this year's award

recipients at: <https://somerwillemathematics.blogspot.com/2020/06/outstanding-students-win-somerville.html?m=1>

Just for Fun: The [YMCA has free, online kid-specific videos](#) of activities like yoga, dance, and cardio to get kids moving. For more fun and interactive activities, visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/justforfun.

PROGRAMS, RESOURCES AND LINKS

Programs and Resources

- **Breakfast and Lunch Grab-and-Go Meals:** Throughout the summer months, Grab-and-Go Meals will be distributed on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9-11 a.m. at ESCS, Healey, WSNS, and Winter Hill. No ID required.
- **Other food-related resources in the city,** visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/food-resources.
- **Distribution of Diapers:** Free diapers to families with babies or young children available for pickup on Wednesdays, 9:00-11:00a.m. at ESCS and WSNS through the end of July, while supplies last.
- **Comcast Internet Essentials:** Comcast has extended their offering of 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/>

Curriculum and Other Online Resources

- 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.
- List of resources on “talking about racism”: www.somerville.k12.ma.us/talking-about-racism

Important Covid-19 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