



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

Summer 2020 Weekly Update

July 31, 2020

Dear Somerville Public Schools Families and Staff,

Thank you for your participation in the recent School Committee meeting, virtual town halls, and surveys. We appreciate your continued feedback and input, and your thoughtful questions about a very complex process for families, students, and staff. As a reminder, we have another School Committee meeting scheduled for this Monday, August 3rd, at 7:00pm and two additional virtual town halls on Wednesday, August 5th – a multilingual town hall from 5:00-6:25 pm, and one in English from 6:30-8:00pm. We look forward to sharing additional updates in our planning process for this fall at these events and as details are finalized.

We estimate that approximately 270 people participated in Wednesday's Town Hall either through Zoom or YouTube live. Thank you. We know that this was time away from your families and home responsibilities, and we appreciate your time. If you did not have an opportunity to tune in, or would like to refresh your memory about what was discussed, you can watch a video recording of the session at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMzOm-oKNc4&feature=youtu.be>.

Over the last two weeks, we have provided details of the planning work that has taken place and is currently under way. You can find all updates on our Back to School 2020 page (www.somerville.k12.ma.us/back-school-2020). Additional efforts since last week's update include:

- We continued surveying our school buildings with ventilation experts this week and will complete those walkthroughs on Monday, to assess our ventilation/filtration systems and identify any areas of concern that need to be addressed in preparation for a return to school buildings in a phased hybrid model that includes remote and in-person components. Results of those assessments will be made public as they become available.
- We are planning for the use of tented and open outdoor spaces to support social distancing efforts when students and staff return to our school buildings in a phased hybrid model, and will be identifying locations this coming week where those outdoor spaces might be located for each school.

NEW/UPDATED INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

School Committee Meetings and Town Halls:

- School Committee Meeting: Monday, August 3, 7:00pm (www.somerville.k12.ma.us/school-committee-meetings)
- Multilingual School Planning Town Hall: Wednesday, August 5, 5:00-6:25pm (www.somervillema.gov/virtualtownhalls)
- School Planning Town Hall in English: Wednesday, August 5, 6:30-8:00pm (www.somervillema.gov/virtualtownhalls)

Back to School 2020 Planning:

- Updates on Fall 2020 Planning: www.somerville.k12.ma.us/back-school-2020
- If you have not yet completed our Family Survey on Reopening Models, we urge you to do so: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SPSFamilyReopening>

SomerCamp 2020 – FREE: Did you know that there's a free online summer camp for Somerville youth that features live, interactive programming running from now until August 21st? Just click a link and participate in a variety of classes, from boxing to parkour, filmmaking and animation, coding and 3D design, theater and crafts and much, much more brought to you by some of your favorite local providers. Access all of the classes and sign up today at SomerCamp2020.com or email hmack@somervillemedia.org for more information.

This Week's Shout-Out: Learn all about how the Musician of the Month Project supports culturally responsive teaching in [this outstanding article](#) by SPS music educator Adam McLean, recently published by the National Association for Music Education. The curriculum concept started in the SPS Music Department and has now been adopted by many music educators internationally, thanks to [this website](#) created with support from the BU Consortium. Congratulations to Adam and our music educators, and thank you for the outstanding work!

Just for Fun: Learn [how to draw Snoopy, Franklin, and Charlie Brown](#), or try these activities from the [Charles M. Shultz Museum](#). 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 are available for pickup on Wednesdays, 9:00-11:00a.m. at ESCS and WSNS through the end of August and 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