



Mary E. Skipper, *Superintendent*

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Summer 2020 Weekly Update

August 14, 2020

Dear Somerville Public Schools Families and Staff,

On Monday evening, August 17th at 7:00pm, the Somerville School Committee will be voting on our District [Reopening Plan](#) for the 2020-21 school year. Interpretation will be available in Spanish, Portuguese, and possibly Haitian Creole during the open comment period for those who may want to offer a comment in their native language to School Committee members and the public. We are working to secure a Haitian Creole interpreter for Monday night's meeting. Thank you for your continued input and feedback as we prepare for a remote start to the school year.

Late last month, Commissioner Riley announced that school districts would have 10 additional days at the start of the 2020-21 school year to prepare and provide sufficient training for educators and staff, reducing the number of instructional days from 180 to 170. Last Monday, the School Committee approved the updated [2020-2021 SPS School Year Calendar](#) which reflects those additional days at the start of the school year. **The first day of school for SPS students in grades 1-12 is now Friday, September 18. The first day of school for Pre-K and Kindergarten students is now Friday, September 25th.** Reminder that all students will be starting remote this year.

We continue to work closely with our teachers union on our remote learning schedule for the start of the school year and are also finalizing details on the outdoor enrichment/social interaction opportunities that the Somerville Parks & Recreation Department and Community Schools will be offering. We will provide additional details about both next week.

The annual re-registration process through PowerSchool will also kick off next week. Please expect an email early next week with information on how to log on to the registration system and update your child's information for the upcoming school year. We look forward to welcoming our students and staff back for a different but equally exciting school year.

NEW INFORMATION

School Committee Meeting – Vote on Reopening Plan: Monday, August 17, 7:00pm (www.somerville.k12.ma.us/school-committee-meetings) - Interpretation available in Spanish, Portuguese, and possibly Haitian Creole during the open comment period for those who may want to offer a comment in their native language. Constituents interested in commenting must sign up between 6:45 and 7:00pm, and will have up to 2 minutes to comment.

Back to School Plan: www.somerville.k12.ma.us/back-school-2020

2020-21 SPS School Year Calendar: www.somerville.k12.ma.us/district-school-year-calendar-2020-2021

HIGHLIGHTS

This Week's Shout-Out: Did you know that Somerville Wicked Local is highlighting a young Activist of the Week? Visit <https://somerville.wickedlocal.com> to learn more about how young Somerville activists are making an impact in our community. Email jtaliesin@wickedlocal.com if there's someone you would like to nominate.

Just for Fun: [KidCitizen](http://www.kidcitizen.com) is a social studies learning tool for K-5 students to work interactively with primary source photographs to explore Congress and civic engagement. For more fun and interactive activities, visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/justforfun.

ONGOING PROGRAMS, RESOURCES AND LINKS

Programs and Basic Needs Resources

- ***Breakfast and Lunch Grab-and-Go Meals:*** 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:*** www.somerville.k12.ma.us/food-resources.
- ***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