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## Summer 2020 Weekly Update

August 28, 2020

Dear Somerville Public Schools Families and Staff,

We welcomed our new educators to the Somerville Public Schools this week during our first-ever virtual New Educator Orientation. We're excited to have them join our teaching and learning community and look forward to welcoming them in person when that time comes. We are also looking forward to Monday when we welcome all of our teachers and paraprofessionals back for 12 days of professional development and preparation for the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

Over the next two weeks, you will be getting information about class lists, cohort assignments, remote learning schedules, and how to sign up for enrichment programming. Please see the New Information section below for more details.

Finally, if you have not yet had an opportunity to complete the annual re-registration process through PowerSchool, we encourage you to do that as soon as possible. All families who are currently registered in our district for the 2020-2021 school year, including newly registered Pre-K and Kindergarten students, should have received an email directly from PowerSchool with a code and instructions on how to log in and confirm or update your information. Please contact the Enrollment Office at (617) 629-5670 if you have not received that email from PowerSchool.

The start of the school year is always an exciting time for us. This year is no exception. We are anxious to welcome our educators and students back, and look forward to seeing our students' smiling faces in just a few weeks.

## NEW INFORMATION

**LMS Orientation:** Orientation for parents who signed up their students for the Full Remote Learning Model using a state-approved Learning Management System (LMS) will take place the week of September 14<sup>th</sup>. Assistant Superintendent Chad Mazza will reach out to those families with details.

**Class Lists, Remote Schedules, Cohorts:** Class lists and remote schedules will go out by the end of next week and cohort assignments will go out the following week. There is a lot to coordinate for creating cohorts. We will be working diligently to create balanced cohort groups and keep siblings together (across all schools in the case of multiple schools for the same family).

**Community Schools and Parks & Recreation Enrichment Programming:** Early next week, we will be sending out a short form asking parents to indicate their interest in the new outdoor enrichment programming that will be offered by Community Schools (Pre-K and K) and Parks & Recreation (grades 1-8). Once cohort assignments are made, we will reach out again with specific enrollment information. The following details apply to these new enrichment program offerings:

- These programs are free and will be outdoors and weather permitting
- Students will be divided into 2 Cohorts (Cohorts A and B) that align with our Phased Hybrid Model, which allows us the opportunity to serve more students. Assigning students to cohorts now will also

facilitate a smooth transition for when we are able to gradually start moving into some form of in-person instruction as part of our Hybrid Model. Students in Cohort A would be able to register for the Thursday/Friday programming and students in Cohort B would be able to register for the Monday/Tuesday programming.

- Somerville Food & Nutrition Services will provide lunch for the 12:30 program, and snacks for other programs
- Community Schools will offer a 2-hour program (12:30-2:30 p.m.) for Pre-K and K students at tented outdoor sites at all SPS elementary schools. Registration for this program will be through Community Schools.
- Parks & Recreation will offer outdoor programs as follows. Registration for Parks & Recreation programs will be through Parks & Recreation.
  - Grades 1-2: 2:30-3:45 p.m.
  - Grades 3-5: 4:00-5:15 p.m.
  - Grades 6-8: 5:30-6:45 p.m.
- Parks & Recreation programming will take place in tented areas at the following sites:
  - Dilboy – for Brown School and West Somerville Neighborhood School students
  - Lincoln Park – for Argenziano School and Kennedy School students
  - Healey – for Healey School students
  - East Somerville Community School Field – for ESCS students
  - Winter Hill Community Innovation School Field – for WHCIS students
- We are continuing to work on possible Wednesday virtual and/or in-person outdoor programming opportunities for students after school hours, and will share further details as they are finalized.

## HIGHLIGHTS

**This Week's Shout-Out:** Read all about Community Schools' Adventure Summer Program 2020 and how they kept summer fun, while addressing safety concerns: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/blog/adventure-summer-program-2020>.

**Just for Fun:** Try one of the Peabody Essex Museum's [virtual drop-in art activities](#) and [guided videos](#). For more fun and interactive activities, visit [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/justforfun](http://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](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/food-resources).
- ***Diapers – updated hours:*** Starting Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, free diapers to families with babies or young children will be available for pickup on Wednesdays, 8:30-10:00a.m. at ESCS and WSNS through the end of November 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](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.
- List of resources on “talking about racism”: [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/talking-about-racism](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/talking-about-racism)

#### Important Links & Information

- Back to School Plan: [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/back-school-2020](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/back-school-2020)
- 2020-21 School Year Calendar: [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/district-school-year-calendar-2020-2021](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/district-school-year-calendar-2020-2021)
- 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