

# CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – September 13, 2019

## News & Notes

### SHS, Cambridge College Partner on Early College Program



Twelve juniors from Somerville High School are embarking on a new opportunity targeting English learners this fall as the first SHS cohort of students to participate in the newly designed Early College program at Cambridge College. SHS, Somerville Public Schools, and Cambridge College staff have been partnering over the last several months to develop an Early College dual enrollment program that will allow students to earn college credit while they fulfill their high school graduation credit requirements. Students completed their Orientation at the College this week as they prepare for their first semester of college life starting next week. Students will each select one of four courses for this program, and will be taking the courses at the Cambridge College campus in Charlestown twice a week during their final block. They will have an opportunity to earn

3.0 credits each semester. This beyond-the-classroom learning experience is one of several initiatives currently under way as SHS eases into the implementation phase of their “Envisioning the Future of SHS” educational redesign work. SHS is coming off of an intensive two-year planning effort as part of the Barr Foundation’s “Wider Learning Ecosystem” initiative that resulted in a comprehensive plan that will be implemented over the next four years. Learn more about this work from the seven schools across New England who are reimagining where learning happens, in this Barr Foundation blog post: <https://www.barrfoundation.org/blog/words-of-advice-from-seven-schools-reimagining-where-learning-happens>. Be on the lookout over the next few weeks for more information on this Envisioning work at SHS.

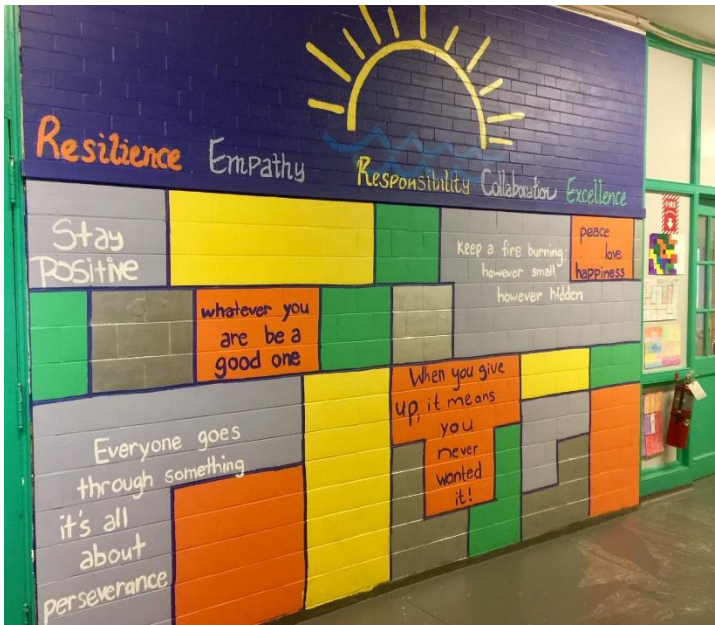
### The Calculus Project Helps Prepare Students for High-Level Math Courses

More than 80 Somerville Public Schools (SPS) students honed their math skills at The Calculus Project (TCP) this past July. Co-directed by SPS Data Coordinator Kenya Avant and Innovation Project Specialist Jason Behrens, this was the third year Somerville offered the program, which targets underrepresented student populations in the STEM fields. Students who will attend grades 7 through 10 this fall were welcomed to the three-week camp held at the East Somerville Community School. Learn more about the TCP experience for students, peer mentors, and teachers in this recent blog post: [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/blog/somerville-public-schools-celebrates-third-year-calculus-project](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/blog/somerville-public-schools-celebrates-third-year-calculus-project).



## Skills Capital Grant Award to support CTE Welding Simulation Project

Somerville High School Career and Technical Education (CTE) students will soon have an opportunity to acquire welding skills with the use of state-of-the-art virtual reality technology. The Somerville High School Welding Simulation Project was one of 45 projects awarded Skills Capital grant funds from the state to expand career education opportunities. The \$186,900 awarded to Somerville will allow SHS to purchase 10 Lincoln VRTEX Welding Simulators that will be integrated into the school's metal fabrication and welding program. The technology is designed to help students learn core welding techniques in a safe and controlled environment. Learn more about this year's Skills Capital Grant awards in this recent press release: <https://www.mass.gov/news/baker-polito-administration-awards-12-million-in-skills-capital-grants>.



## Next Wave/Full Circle Embraces New Mission, Core Values

After a busy summer preparing for a new school year and new opportunities at their school, students and staff at Next Wave / Full Circle are diving into the school year having embraced a new mission and core values driving their work. Along with piloting several new co-taught courses and counseling group frameworks, the school is continuing its planning work with the Barr Foundation and Springpoint to redesign their school model, with a focus on personalized, competency-based learning and flexible learning pathways. NWFC will continue their intense planning efforts as part of a cohort of high schools throughout New England working with Barr and Springpoint on Barr's [Engage New England: Doing High School Differently](#) initiative. Learn more about what's currently happening at Next Wave / Full Circle in their first

quarterly newsletter: [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/sites/default/files/NWFC\\_Newsletter-2019QA.pdf](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/sites/default/files/NWFC_Newsletter-2019QA.pdf). Learn more about the school at [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/nwfc](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/nwfc).

# What's Happening

## Post-High School Planning Night @ Somerville High School

Somerville High School seniors and their families are invited to the SHS Post-High School Planning Night on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-8:30pm in the SHS Auditorium. Students and families will have an opportunity to learn about post-secondary options, Naviance, and financial aid as students prepare for life after high school.

## 2019-2020 Parent-Guardian Guide

The Somerville Public Schools Parent-Guardian Guide is available on every school's website Community page (on the *Guides & Handbooks* page of the Somerville High School website). The Parent/Guardian Guide is intended to serve as a helpful resource in understanding the services, policies, and programs we have in place to support our students. The Guide is currently available in English; translated versions in our primary languages will be uploaded as completed.

## Healthy Snacks

Serving healthy snacks to children is important to providing good nutrition and supporting lifelong healthy eating habits that will lead to overall wellness. Snacks play an important role in children's diets. We encourage you to choose snacks

from all the food groups to ensure a well-rounded diet. Here are some healthy snack ideas and tips from Somerville Food & Nutrition Services: [http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/sites/default/files/Somerville\\_HealthySnacks\\_Fall2019.pdf](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/sites/default/files/Somerville_HealthySnacks_Fall2019.pdf).

## Mayor's Parks Pass Challenge

The parks pass is now year round! The Mayor's Parks Pass Challenge encourages Somerville residents of all ages to visit our city's beautiful parks. From active playgrounds to grassy lawns perfect for quiet reading, Somerville has more than 60 parks to experience—and nearly 100% of Somerville residents live within walking distance of one of those parks. You can pick up your parks pass at the Shape Up Somerville office in the City Hall Annex, download and print it from the Parks Challenge website ([www.somervillema.gov/parkspass](http://www.somervillema.gov/parkspass)), or ask your local library to print you a copy. Every time you visit a Somerville park, write the park name on the back of your pass. Be sure to include your name and contact information at the top! Once your pass is filled out completely, submit it to Shape Up Somerville via email ([sus@somervillema.gov](mailto:sus@somervillema.gov)), mail, or in-person drop-off. Your pass will be entered into a quarterly raffle for a chance to win Somerville memorabilia.

## Annual Corn Shucking Event – Save the Date!

In celebration of National Farm to School Month, Somerville Food & Nutrition Services will be hosting the district's annual Corn Shucking Day on Thursday, October 3, 7:30-8:00am. Students are invited to shuck local corn alongside school staff, community partners, and volunteers. Corn shucking will take place at all elementary schools and Capuano, and farm-fresh corn will be served with school lunch at every school in the district.

## Upcoming School & District Events:

Visit [www.somerville.k12.ma.us](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us) and click on the "calendar" link at the top of the page for a list of upcoming activities in our schools and in our District this month.

**Tuesday, September 17, 5-10pm: ESCS "Everyone is Welcome Here" t-shirt sales sponsored by ESCS PTA at E-Som Market @ LaBrasa**

**Wednesday, September 18: WSNS PTA-Sponsored Spirit Day @ the West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.)**

**Wednesday, September 18: Half-Day Wednesday for PK-8 (PK students dismissed at 11:30am; K-8 students dismissed at noon)**

**Thursday, September 19, 5:00-7:30pm: Back-to-School Night @ the East Somerville Community School (50 Cross Street) – PTA General Meeting, 5-5:30**

**Thursday, September 19, 5:00-7:30pm: Back-to-School Night @ West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.)**

**Thursday, September 19, 5:00-7:00pm: SFLC Legal Services Clinic @ the SFLC Center at the Cummings (42 Prescott St.)**

**Thursday, September 19, 6:00-8:00pm: Serve & Inspire Volunteer Orientation @ the SFLC Center at the Cummings (42 Prescott St.)**

**Thursday, September 19, 7:00-8:30pm: SHS Post-High School Planning Night @ the Somerville High School Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)**

## Upcoming School Committee Meetings:

Find the complete School Committee schedule, agendas and meeting minutes (as approved) online at [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/school-committee](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/school-committee).

**Thursday, September 19, 5:30-6:30pm: Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)**

**Monday, September 23, 6:00-7:00pm: Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Meeting at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room – City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)**

**Monday, September 23, 6:00-7:00pm: Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting at the City Council Chambers – City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)**

**Monday, September 23, 7:00-8:30pm: Regular School Committee Meeting at the City Council Chambers – City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)**

**Wednesday, September 25, 7:00-8:00pm: School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)**

## Somerville Family Learning Collaborative Workshops, Events, and Resources:

Find a complete list of SFLC events and workshops at [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/families](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/families).

The Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC) enhances the capacity of families and schools to support children's learning and well-being by collaborating with community partners and promoting welcoming, responsive schools and programs. Take a look at the work and impact of the SFLC "by the numbers" in this [2018-2019 report](#).

**SFLC Legal Services Clinic – Thursday, September 19, 5:00-7:00pm @ SFLC Center at the Cummings (42 Prescott St.)**  
Need legal consultation around immigration issues? Meet representatives from the SFLC, the City of Somerville's Health and Human Services Department and SomerViva for information and resources. Make an appointment for free legal consultation\* with representatives from Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program (HIRC) and Greater Boston Legal Service. \*For a legal consultation appointment, call 617-625-6600, x6994 or email [freyes@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:freyes@k12.somerville.ma.us).

**Serve and Inspire Volunteer Orientation – Thursday, September 19, 6:00-8:00pm @ the Cummings School Building (42 Prescott St.)** Volunteer Orientation for new and prospective volunteers wishing to serve regularly with Somerville Public Schools this school year. Contact SPS Volunteer Coordinator, Jen Capuano at [jcapuano@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:jcapuano@k12.somerville.ma.us) or call (617) 629-5475 for more information, accommodations needed to attend, and to RSVP.

## Looking Ahead:

**Wednesday, September 25, 5:00-6:30pm: WSNS School Council Meeting @ the West Somerville Neighborhood School, Room 205 (177 Powder House Blvd.)**

**Wednesday, September 25, 5:00-7:30pm: Winter Hill Community Innovation School Back-to-School Night (115 Sycamore St.)**

**Wednesday, September 25, 6:00-8:00pm: SHS School Improvement Council Meeting @ Somerville High School, Room 230 (81 Highland Ave.)**

**Thursday, September 26, 7:00-8:00am: SHS College Coffee Talk: Parents of First Gen Students @ Somerville High School College & Career Office, Room 220 (81 Highland Ave.)**

**Thursday, September 26, 3:00-4:00pm: SHS College Coffee Talk: Parents of First Gen Students @ Somerville High School College & Career Office, Room 220 (81 Highland Ave.)**

**Thursday, September 26, 5:00-7:30pm: Capuano Back-to-School Night @ the Capuano Early Childhood Center (150 Glen St.)**

**Thursday, September 26, 6:00-7:30pm: ESCS PTA Board Meeting @ East Somerville Community School (50 Cross St.)**

## Community News & Events

**Animated Tales for All.** On **Saturday, September 14, 2:00-4:00pm**, the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology presents Animated Tales for All. Watch a vibrant collection of short animations narrated in some of the 68 Indigenous languages of Mexico. Created by Mexican designer Gabriela Badillo and selected from her project, *68 Voices, 68 Hearts*, these films help foster pride, respect, and the use of Indigenous Mexican languages. The family-friendly stories have English subtitles and are based on legends and poems from native communities. The event includes a Q&A with Badillo in English and Spanish, an authentic Mexican snack, and a chance to learn phrases in one of Mexico's Indigenous languages. Family Event: \$10 members/\$15 non-members. Adult fee includes up to three children (ages 3-18) and museum admission. Visit [www.peabody.harvard.edu](http://www.peabody.harvard.edu) for event details. Advance registration required by Friday, September 13 at: <https://reservations.hmsc.harvard.edu/Info.aspx?EventID=27>.

**SMC Youth Media Open House.** The greater Somerville community is invited to learn more about Somerville Media Center's robust and popular youth media education programs during their Youth Media Open House on **Thursday, September 19, 3:00-4:30pm** at the SMC Studios (90 Union Square). There will be various hands-on media production activities happening throughout the afternoon. Light refreshments will be provided. [RSVP here](#).

**Somerville Fluff Festival.** Join the celebration of the 102<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Fluff, invented in Somerville's Union Square in 1917 by Archibald Query. The 14<sup>th</sup> annual What the Fluff Festival will feature musical performances, a cooking contest, Fluff-themed games, activities, antics and fun for every age, and Fluff treats of every sort. Festival takes place **Saturday, September 21, 3:00-7:00pm** at Somerville's Union Square. Rain date is Sunday, September 22. For more information, visit [www.flufffestival.com](http://www.flufffestival.com).

## City & District Employment Opportunities

Consider joining a winning team! Current city and district opportunities include:

- [Administrative Assistant](#), Planning and Zoning Dept., City of Somerville
- [Operations Manager](#), Water and Sewer Dept., City of Somerville
- [Life Guards/Swim Instructor](#), Parks and Recreation Dept., City of Somerville
- [SomerPromise Home Visitor](#), SomerPromise, Health and Human Services Dept., City of Somerville

Visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/jobs> for a complete listing of current open positions in the City of Somerville.

- [Special Education ASD Paraprofessional](#), Somerville High School, Somerville Public Schools
- [Afterschool Site Coordinator](#), Benjamin G. Brown School, SPS Community Schools Afterschool Program
- [Human Resources Intern](#), Human Resources Department, Somerville Public Schools
- [Substitute Teachers – School Year/Per Diem](#), District-wide, Somerville Public Schools

Visit <https://www.schoolspring.com/jobs/?employer=16902> for a complete listing of current open positions in the Somerville Public Schools.

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### Our Commitment to the Whole Child

VISION: "We believe in developing the whole child — the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical potential of all students — by providing students with the skills, opportunities, and resources that will nurture innovative ideas, foster pride in diversity, inspire students to become lifelong learners and empower them to enrich their communities."