

# CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – November 19, 2020

## News & Notes

### SHS Plans Series of College and Career Virtual Events for 11<sup>th</sup> Graders

A new series of virtual college & career planning events for 11<sup>th</sup> graders will provide students with the opportunity to connect with the Somerville High School College and Career Readiness team, and to get the information and support students need as they prepare for post-secondary life. All events are for students and parents/guardians/families. Students can plan to attend all or some of the events listed below. The November 19th date is firm. All other dates/times are subject to change (with advance notice) and topics could be added if there is a demand. SHS 11th grade students will receive Zoom link information on these events:

- **Presentation 1: College & Career Planning Overview (November 19th at 7:30pm):** Find out how college & career services will work for you and your student at SHS and learn about your options after high school. We will also discuss the PSAT/SAT plan at this meeting.
- **Presentation 2: Intro to College Basics (two options: December 16th at 12pm OR January 14th at 7:30pm):** Learn about four-year colleges and community colleges, the differences between them, the steps and timeline for applying, and how SHS will help.
- **Presentation 3: Career Exploration (February 25th at 7:30pm):** Learn how to find out what career or major might be interesting to you. This is for students who want to go to college, students who do not want to go to college, and students who are unsure. We will provide specific information about all of those options.
- **Presentation 4: College Financial Aid (March 30th at 7:30pm):** Learn the basics of how college financial aid works and the timeline for applying.
- **Presentation 5: College Admissions Panel (April 27th at 7:30pm):** Hear advice from college admissions counselors and ask them questions about the admissions process.

### Food & Nutrition Services Staff Play Crucial Role in Supporting Students

Did you know that Somerville Public Schools serves over 5000 meals per week to students? Our Food and Nutrition Services Department staff play a crucial role, providing Somerville families with food security through healthy, fresh, takeaway meals. Students and families can pick up breakfast and lunch at 8 district schools. Read more about the transition from cafeteria to socially-distanced service at the start of the pandemic in our latest district blog:

<https://somerville.k12.ma.us/blog/5000-free-meals-every-week>

Find out how to pick up free meals, Monday – Friday at the Food and Nutrition Services website (hint- includes menus!): <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/FNS>



# What's Happening

## Somerville's School Opening Advisory Group Seeks Community Member

The City of Somerville is currently seeking applicants for a community member position on the School Opening Advisory Group. The Advisory Group will make COVID-19 data-based recommendations to the Mayor and Superintendent on school closures and reopenings. The Advisory Group, which is a formal extension and expansion of ongoing efforts, will be composed of one community member and representatives from the Somerville Public Schools (SPS), Somerville School Committee, and the City's COVID-19 response team. The group plans to meet weekly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants with expertise in medicine, epidemiology, virology, infectious disease modeling, or other related fields are encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to applicants who are parents or guardians of SPS students. Applicants interested in volunteering to serve on the Advisory Group should send their resume and a statement of interest to [advisorygroup@somervillema.gov](mailto:advisorygroup@somervillema.gov) by noon on Friday, December 4.

## City of Somerville FREE Skills Training Program for Youth

Join a FREE Skills Training & Career Development Workshop for Somerville Youth ages 13 - 21! Learn how to use job search tools, network, and communicate with potential employers for a successful job search. Participants will also learn skills that make them valuable team members at their employment site and other topics requested, based on their experience levels. Application Deadline December 21, 2020.

- 6 Week Program Registration: <https://forms.gle/BdRiSBGnkAjq4Mcp9> Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 – 4:30pm. January 4, 2021- February 12, 2021.
- 12 Week Program Registration: <https://forms.gle/BdRiSBGnkAjq4Mcp9> Wednesdays, 3:30 – 4:30pm. January 4, 2021 – April 1, 2021.

## SPYC Collaborates with Childcare Providers to Offer High-Quality Preschool Experiences

Somerville Partnership for Young Children collaborates with eight childcare providers in Somerville to offer high-quality preschool experiences for children. These childcare programs are open and adhering to the Department of Early Education and Care COVID-19 Health and Safety Requirements. If you are looking for care for your preschool-aged child, please reach out to Alyssa Corrigan ([acorrigan@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:acorrigan@k12.somerville.ma.us)) for more information. You also may be eligible for tuition assistance in one of our partner programs – please fill out an application [here](#) and we will contact you if we have a spot available.

## Thanksgiving Break

The 2020 Thanksgiving break starts Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. Classes end at 11:30 on Wednesday and all schools and district offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Grab-and-Go breakfast and lunch meals will be available for pickup from 8-12 on Wednesday. Families are welcome to take as many meals as necessary for the extended weekend until we re-open on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. Have a safe and restful Thanksgiving break.

## Community News

**Community Growing Center.** Join the Community Growing Center this December for their twice-weekly Open Hours! All month long, volunteer hosts make sure the garden is open for visitors to enjoy every Tuesday, from 3-4:40pm, and Saturday, from 12-2pm. Everyone is welcome to come by the Growing Center, stroll the paths, enjoy the plants in the garden, and take a moment to enjoy this little green oasis tucked right into Union Square. Remember to bundle up to stay warm, dry, and comfortable: dress in layers (base, insulating, and outer shell), bring a thermos of something warm to sip, and keep moving out there! Due to current public health conditions, a limited number of visitors are allowed in the site at any one time. But if you come by and they're full, please just swing by again soon! To learn more about the Community Growing Center, visit [www.thegrowingcenter.org](http://www.thegrowingcenter.org).

**Groundwork Somerville.** Groundwork is celebrating 20 years of service to the Somerville community! Join them in a series of free virtual events to celebrate their work and community. To learn more about upcoming events, visit <http://www.groundworksomerville.org/help-us-celebrate-20-years-of-groundwork-somerville/>.

**SomerSocial.** Calling all young 'Villens: Winter may, in fact, be coming, and daylight hours are dwindling, but don't forget -- **SomerSocial** is here to brighten your weekday afternoons with fun, free, virtual after-school programming! Perfect your podcast pitch, join a crew for Among Us, or get crafty with local creatives. Sign up for parkour lessons, nature club, animation workshops, theater classes, and more. All sessions are live, synchronous programs for youth in grades K through 8, taught by community partners from Somerville Media Center, the Beautiful Stuff Project, Parkour Generations, Somerville Arts for Youth, Parts and Crafts, and Farrington Nature Linc. Learn more and register now at [somersocial.com](http://somersocial.com)!

**Somerville Mathematics Fund Virtual Game Jam.** The Somerville Mathematics 2020 Scrapheap Showdown has gone virtual! Students are invited to team up for a Game Jam. Compete individually or in teams of three on a different kind of challenge, one where you design a game that will be played and judged in part by the other teams. Participants will create their games between December 8-13. The winner will be announced by December 20. Register individually or as a team by Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sign up at <https://forms.gle/Y2agwREQ56Cb1MgV6>.

**Somerville Snow Shoveling Program.** The City of Somerville invites teens ages 13 and older to consider being part of the Somerville Teen Snow Shoveling Crew and earn money while helping your Somerville neighbors this winter. Participants are paid for each house upon completion. Visit: <https://forms.gle/JYC5y7uW2s7EyBSN7> to apply. Contact Jennifer Mancia at [jmancia@somervillema.gov](mailto:jmancia@somervillema.gov) or (781) 490-3878 if you have questions.

## Just for Fun

Watch the [Alvin Ailey Dance Company's virtual winter season performances](#). For more great #JustforFun activities, visit: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/justforfun>.

## City & District Employment Opportunities

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

- [Four \(4\) Contact Tracing Team Members](#), Health and Human Services Dept., City of Somerville
- [Preservation Planner](#), Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD), City of Somerville
- [Heavy Motor Equipment Operator/Public Works Laborer](#), Dept. of Public Works – Buildings and Grounds, City of Somerville
- [Special Heavy Motor Equipment Operator/Curb Setter/Public Works Laborer](#), Dept. of Public Works – Highway, City of Somerville
- [School Nurse Leader](#), Health and Human Services Dept., City of Somerville
- [Director of Racial and Social Justice](#), Mayor's Office, City of Somerville

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

- [Special Education SHIP Paraprofessional](#), Somerville High School, Somerville Public Schools
- [Speech and Language Pathologist](#), Healey School/Somerville High School, Somerville Public Schools
- [Student Insights Lead Product Engineer](#), Somerville Public Schools
- [Library Utility Aide – Part-time](#), Brown School, Somerville Public Schools
- [Special Education Homebound Tutors – Part-time](#), Somerville Public Schools
- [Temporary Paraprofessionals, through 06/2021](#) – Somerville Public Schools

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

### 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."