



# Distance Learning Guide for Families

March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Somers Central School District  
Route 202, Somers, NY, 10589

## Introduction

Dear Somers Families,

Somers Central School District is determined to provide continuity of learning and a sense of community for all Somers students during school closure. While we recognize that nothing can replace face-to-face learning experiences, our plan is to utilize our existing technological infrastructure and our amazing teachers to promote and continue learning at home. We appreciate your understanding during these extraordinary times as we continue to work to create a positive learning experience for our students. These plans may evolve as we continue to navigate these uncharted waters, and we appreciate your patience and understanding during this time. Distance learning in the Somers Central School District will begin on March 18th and will continue during each regular school day. Full guidance from the NYS governor can be found [here](#).



Contents

- Introduction ..... 2
- General Information ..... 4
  - District Communication ..... 4
  - Teacher Communication..... 4
  - Other Questions..... 4
  - Supported Technology Platforms ..... 4
  - Food Service..... 4
- Primrose Elementary and Somers Intermediate Schools..... 5
- Somers Middle and High Schools..... 6
- Support Services ..... 7
  - Special Education ..... 7
  - School Counselors..... 7
  - 504 Meetings ..... 7
  - CSE Meetings ..... 8
  - Nurses ..... 8
  - Social and Emotional Supports..... 8
- State, Local and Program Examinations ..... 8
  - NYS 3-8 Testing ..... 8
  - NYS Regents Examinations..... 8
  - Advanced Placement Exams ..... 8
  - International Bacculaureate Exams ..... 9
  - ACT Exams..... 9
  - SAT Exams ..... 9
- Athletics ..... 9
- Board of Education ..... 9
- Superintendent Communications..... 10

## General Information

### District Communication

The District will communicate with the school community through email, text message and the [District Website](#). Principals will communicate building-specific information and teachers will directly correspond with families through email, Schoology, and Infinite Campus.

### Teacher Communication

Contact teachers or administrators using our usual communication methods: [District Staff Directory](#)

### Other Questions

Families can contact schools between the hours of 8:00-12:00 daily.

Primrose School: 914-248-8888

Somers Intermediate School: 914-277-4344

Somers Middle School: 914-277-3399

Somers High School: 914-248-8585

### Supported Technology Platforms

**Technology Support:** Please email [help@somersschools.org](mailto:help@somersschools.org) or call 914-277-3998

[Supported Technology Platforms for Elementary Schools](#)

[Supported Technology Platforms for Secondary Schools](#)

### Food Service

Breakfast and lunch will be available for SCSD students who are eligible to receive free and/or reduced lunch services or who are experiencing financial hardship. Drive up service for pickup of these meals will be provided from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm Monday-Friday beginning on 3/18/20 at the Somers High School main entrance. Preparation, delivery and cleanup of these services will be completed by part-time food service personnel employed by the District.

## Primrose Elementary and Somers Intermediate Schools

**Overview:** Elementary faculty will communicate with students and families using the technological platforms that we have previously used in order to promote the academic, social, and emotional needs of our students and to continue student learning.

**How:** Building principals and teachers will email with families regularly to facilitate Distance Learning. Students will utilize familiar resources through Clever and additional resources will be provided via school websites.

**When:** Distance Learning will begin on March 18<sup>th</sup> and will continue as necessary.

**Expectations:** Students are expected to complete daily assignments. Parents or caregivers should monitor student work. Students will receive assignments in ELA, Math, other content areas, and in the special areas of Music, Art, Physical Education, and Library.

**Additional Supports:** If your child receives additional classroom services those teachers will be in contact to provide appropriate supports.

**Communication:** Teachers will be facilitating distance learning and will provide feedback should there be a need to do so. Parents or caregivers can contact teachers via email if they have questions or want to discuss their students' progress.

**Attendance:** Attendance will not be taken during distance learning days, though it is imperative that students engage with learning experiences.

**How to Support From Home:** We recommend creating a daily schedule that works for your family during school closure so that students are provided the opportunity to adjust to learning at home and are supported socially and emotionally by maintaining a sense of normalcy through routine. In addition to modeling at-home learning time around the sample schedule linked below, parents of elementary students should consider limiting student screen time, encouraging safe outdoor play, maintaining a regular sleep/wake pattern, and should be sure to supervise digital connection time with friends and classmates.

[Sample schedule for At Home Learning](#)

## Somers Middle and High Schools

**Overview:** Secondary faculty will communicate with students and families using the technological platforms that we have previously used in order to promote the academic, social, and emotional needs of our students and to continue student learning.

**How:** Faculty will communicate with students and classes using Schoology on a regular basis.

**When:** Distance Learning will begin on March 18<sup>th</sup> and will continue as necessary.

**Expectations:** Students are expected to check Schoology, engage in learning experiences, and complete assignments daily. Students will receive assignments in all classes Monday-Friday.

**Additional Supports:** If your child receives additional classroom services, those support teachers will be in contact to provide appropriate supports.

**Communication:** Teachers will be facilitating distance learning and will provide feedback should there be a need to do so. Parents or caregivers can contact teachers via email if they have questions or want to discuss their students' progress.

**Grading:** During Distance Learning teachers will keep a record of assignments that have been turned-in for the purpose of monitoring student progress. Feedback will be provided on an as needed basis and through various means in order to facilitate learning. While the work that students will be submitting to teachers will not be graded at this time, it is imperative that students meaningfully engage to minimize gaps in learning and so that they can position themselves for the greatest success when they return to school.

**Attendance:** Attendance will not be taken during distance learning days, though it is imperative that students engage with learning experiences.

**How to Support from Home:** Parents or caregivers should monitor student work on a regular basis. We recommend creating a daily schedule that works for your family during school closure so that students are provided the opportunity to adjust to learning at home and are supported socially and emotionally by maintaining a sense of normalcy through routine. In addition to modeling at-home learning time around the sample schedule linked below, parents of secondary students should consider limiting student screen time, encouraging safe outdoor

activities, maintaining a regular sleep/wake pattern, and should be sure to supervise digital connection time with friends and classmates.

[Secondary Distance Learning Schedule.docx](#)

## Support Services

During school closure, we are committed to supporting our students who receive or need additional services while our buildings are closed. Please review the various support services below and contact your child's principal should you need more information.

### Special Education

Collaboration will continue between the classroom teacher and the special education teacher to support the needs of students. Classified students will have access to all Distance Learning with supports based on the student's IEP. We continue to await guidance from NYSED and the Federal Department of Education regarding any stipulations for Special Education Services.

Support services noted on a student's IEP such as counseling, speech, and occupational therapy will also be providing distance learning activities to support student goals while the district is on an extended closure. Parents can expect a student's service provider to reach out to them as often as a service is provided on the IEP. For example, if a child receives speech services for 2x 30 minutes per week, the speech provider would provide 2 activities for a student to work on speech goals while at home.

### School Counselors

School counselors in grades 6-12 will communicate with students directly via Schoology as needed. Counselors in grades K-5 will connect to students through direct parent email communication as needed. Counselors will continue to attend to such matters as course planning, transitional planning (including grade and building transitions as well as college planning), and supporting student and families remotely as needed. Remote support may consist of written communications or telephone or videoconference support.

### 504 Meetings

Section 504 annual reviews will continue to be scheduled via telephone conference. Parents will be notified to arrange the date and time to participate in the meeting. For students scheduled for initial eligibility meetings, a rescheduled date will be communicated, and in the

event of a longer than anticipated school absence, initial meetings will be conducted through phone conference.

### **CSE Meetings**

Annual Review CSE meetings will continue to be scheduled via telephone. Parents will be notified by the CSE office to arrange the date and time to participate in the meeting.

### **Nurses**

Our school nurses will remain in contact with families regarding specific needs. Please email your school nurse should you need to pick up medications. Our nursing staff will continue to stay informed and participate in updates on the emerging developments.

### **Social and Emotional Supports**

Parents can support the social and emotional needs of students by setting up structures and routines for students to follow. It is important to be mindful of students needs and to manage sleep, nutrition, exercise, etc. routines. School psychologists, school social workers, and school counselors will be providing resources regarding positive routines for supporting students' emotional health at home.

### **State, Local and Program Examinations**

#### **NYS 3-8 Testing**

We will not be giving the 3-8 English Language Arts assessments on the scheduled dates of March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. As we move forward and new developments arise, the new testing dates will be communicated. Please note that information from the NYS Education Department is changing and we will communicate all changes to families.

#### **NYS Regents Examinations**

As of March 17, 2020, the NYS Regents examinations will be administered as scheduled. Teachers will continue to work with students to prepare for the exams through distance learning. NYS is waiving some face-to-face requirements so that all students can sit for their regularly scheduled Regents examinations.

#### **Advanced Placement Exams**

We are working closely with the College Board to determine when students will be able to sit for their Advanced Placement Examinations this year. As of March 16<sup>th</sup>, the College Board is



being flexible and allowing for deadline extensions and offering a June testing period for school districts impacted by Covid-19 school closures. Advanced Placement teachers will communicate information specific to their classes directly to students. Please feel free contact email Claire Comerford at [ccomerford@somersschools.org](mailto:ccomerford@somersschools.org) with general AP testing questions.

### International Baccalaureate Exams

We are working closely with IB to accommodate the requirements of our IB students during school closure. As of now, IB is being flexible with internal assessment requirements and classroom teachers will communicate information specific to their classes directly to students. As of this time, the IB exams scheduled for May will be administered as scheduled with a make-up opportunity in November. Students should contact their teachers directly with specific questions or email Claire Comerford at [ccomerford@somersschools.org](mailto:ccomerford@somersschools.org) with general questions.

### ACT Exams

ACT has decided to reschedule the April 4, 2020 National ACT® test date to our June 13 and July 18 test dates in response to concerns regarding the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

### SAT Exams

The College Board is canceling the May 2, 2020, SAT administration. Makeup exams for the March 14 administration (scheduled March 28) are also canceled. Registered students will receive refunds.

The College Board will provide future additional SAT testing opportunities for students as soon as feasible in place of canceled administrations. As of March 17, College Board has not yet canceled the June 6, 2020, SAT administration.

### Athletics

As of March 16, 2020, all athletic competitions and practices have been cancelled as per guidance given by the New York State Public School Athletic Association. This includes all the community and outside organizations that use the Somers facilities. Community members should refrain from using the fields and facilities until further notice.

### Board of Education

Board of Education meetings will take place virtually via the Citrix GoToWebinar platform. The first virtual Board of Education meeting will take place at 8:00 am on Thursday, March 19, 2020.

Interested participants can register and attend by clicking [this link](#). Recordings of the Board of Education meetings will be available via the District website.

## Superintendent Communications

<https://www.somersschools.org/domain/1815>