



Tusker Nation

SOMERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS
FOR SCSD FAMILIES

The Latest News from Somers Schools

Welcome to the 2019-2020 School Year!



Lots of smiles and excitement on the first day of school.

Thumbs Up on New Schedule and Lunch Hour at SHS

The new rotating block schedule is in place at Somers High School, including the implementation of the Community Lunch, a lunch period for everyone at the same time.

"It's good to have," says a junior, "Because now I can eat lunch with my friends instead of hoping to get assigned to the same lunch period."

Students have discovered new seating areas, learned how to use the app to order food in advance, and found activities and opportunities after they ate, including playing basketball, making music together, and getting extra help from teachers.



"The response has been overwhelmingly positive from the students, teachers and parent volunteers who were here every day for the first couple weeks, making sure the transition went smoothly," says Principal Mark Bayer. "The students basically have the run of the school during lunch time. They can eat pretty much wherever they want and we are so impressed with how clean they keep the school."

To hear directly from students and a teacher about the new schedule and Community Lunch, listen to Somers Schools **Tusker Talk** podcast.

Bonjour, Hola, Ciao, Grade Six!



"Hola, como estas?," asks middle school teacher Erica Pate, as students file into her Spanish classroom.

This is the first year that sixth-graders at Somers Middle School are taking World Language classes. They can choose French, Spanish, or Italian. This is also the first time in their schooling that students have the opportunity to choose a subject they want to learn. Research shows that giving students choice in their education sparks more engagement and higher-quality learning.

"I decided to take Italian because my grandma and grandpa are both from Italy," says a student in Jenna Crispo's sixth grade Italian class.

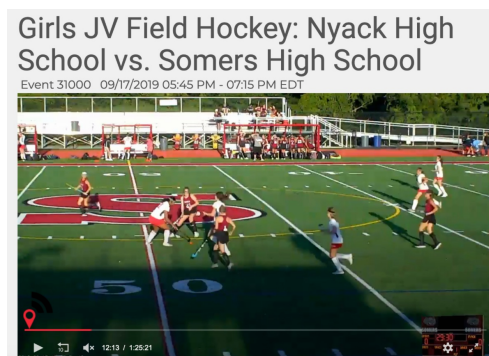
There are a number of reasons the district decided to start World Language instruction in sixth grade rather than seventh grade. As part of the district's mission to teach students to be global citizens, an extra year of a World Language will help them work towards conversational fluency.

Teaching a World Language in sixth grade is also a key component of the Middle Years Program, the middle school arm of the International Baccalaureate Program.

"This was an important step in our process to ensure that Somers Middle School receives authorization as a Middle Years school," says Julie Gherardi, Assistant Superintendent for Learning.

The middle school is in the process of implementing additional Middle Years practices. This year, all teachers are teaching one Middle Years unit, with the hope of fully transitioning by the 2021-2022 school year.

Watch High School Events Live on Your Device



Girls JV field hockey game against Nyack, streaming on LocalLive.

Can't make the varsity girls volleyball game in the Somers High School gym? Out of town for the boys junior varsity soccer game on Turf 1? All the action is now available, live on your phone, tablet or computer.

The district is using the streaming service LocalLive to show games and events at the high school on Turf 1, in the main gym, and in the auditorium. High definition cameras with microphones have been installed in each location and are controlled by a remote technician. To watch events, click [here](#) or download the LocalLive app (access code is som18). You'll find a list of all upcoming events. To watch a previously recorded game, click previous games. The link can be accessed by anyone – including family and friends who might live far away.

"We've heard from parents that they are thrilled to have this option," says Athletic Director Roman Catalino, "Especially when they can't make a game or an out-of-town family member wants to watch."

Fox Lane, Lakeland and Briarcliff High Schools are just a few of the area schools that also have the system in place, which means some of Somers High School away-games will be viewable as well. Several assemblies and after-school programs in the auditorium will also be available to watch live or on demand.

Sensing a Path to Success



Primrose students have four new ways to get their sillies out or turn their frowns upside down. The talented team at Primrose Elementary School has created four sensory paths in the hallways to help the children regulate their emotions so they can do their best learning. Specifically created to help students improve their social, emotional and physical wellness, the project was funded by the Primrose Parent Teacher Association and Special Education Parent Teacher Association. What's a sensory path? Check it out in this short [video](#).

Serving Class of 2020 Seniors



It is a great kick off to senior year and one of the students' favorite events - Senior Year Breakfast. The Somers High School Parent Teacher Student Association and the Class of 2020 Class Parent Committee hosted a Welcome to Senior Year Breakfast to many smiling seniors.



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