

Tusker Nation

SOMERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS
FOR SCSD FAMILIES

Important Updates

- August 14 - Board of Education meeting 4:00PM Somers Middle School
- August 15 - Community Informational Safety/Security Presentation 7:00PM Somers Middle School
- August 28 - Board of Education meeting Topic: Recommendations/Summary Report from Safety Security Task Force to Board of Education 7:00PM Somers Middle School
- September 5 - First Day of School
- September 20 - Board of Education meeting 7PM Somers Middle School

Back to School Open House Nights

Primrose Elementary

September 5	Kindergarten
September 17	Grade 1
September 20	Grade 2

Somers Middle School

September 6	Grade 6
September 25	Grades 7 & 8

Somers Intermediate School

September 12	Grade 3
September 13	Grade 4
September 27	Grade 5

Somers High School

September 26	Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12
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New School Year Brings New Turf, Safety Updates



New turf fields, bleachers and a scoreboard are ready for the new year at Somers High School.

Improvement projects are well underway around all Somers Schools, some obvious, others behind the scenes.

The first phase of the \$13.6 million plan approved by Somers voters in May 2016 started when schools closed in June and is moving towards completion. These projects include air conditioning the lower gym, band room and the Commons area at Somers High School, as well as the cafeteria at the Somers Middle School.

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Safety Task Force to Make Recommendations



More than 40 members of the Somers community are putting their ideas and expertise together to form the Superintendent's Safety and Security Task Force. The group, which has already met twice this summer, is charged with preparing recommendations to improve school safety in the Somers Central School District.

The task force includes officers from several different levels of law enforcement, including the Westchester County Police Department, Somers Police Department and a United States Secret Service Agent, as well as school staff, town officials, security experts, mental health professionals, lawyers, parents and Somers High School students.

"The wealth of knowledge and experience in this group is remarkable," says Superintendent Dr. Raymond Blanch. "They are clearly participating because of their commitment to the safety of the children in this community. I'm confident that the recommendations from this task force will be top notch and represent the collective thinking of our community."

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Design & Engineering Spark Summer Learning



Summer learning is anything but boring for students in Somers Extended School Year Program as they make weekly visits to Gerry Markel's Architecture and Design classroom at Putnam | Northern Westchester BOCES.

Throughout the summer, the visiting students will be immersed in a range of design projects, both the hands-on variety and those done via computer.

"Right now they are working on a replica of a bridge," said Markel, as he supervised a group of students gathered around a large table collaborating on a highly detailed, colorful structure. "After this, they will use the computer to design banners, which we will suspend from the bridge."

Katie Faivre is a special education teacher in Somers and helps facilitate the summer program. "PNW BOCES has such amazing programs, and I think it is great for our students to get a glimpse of that," she said. The students participating in the summer program range from fifth graders through high school seniors. "I love bringing them here," Faivre said. "The way the instructors interact with the kids is fantastic; this is a place where our students can feel confident and can grow."

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New School Resource Officers Named

This fall, all four Somers Central School District buildings will have School Resource Officers on site. Westchester County Police Officers Brian Pavetich and Matthew Rokicki will join current SROs Matthew Hickey and Kathleen Cristiano. The funding for the two additional SROs was approved by voters in May with the passing of the 2018-2019 school budget. Each officer will be assigned to one of the four Somers School buildings and will have his or her own patrol car on site.

These officers work closely with students, staff and administrators to keep school buildings and the overall environment safe. They make countless contributions to the school community, as law-related counselors, educators and confidantes. School Resource Officers also assist school officials in any law-related situations or enforcement as necessary. Welcome Officers Pavetich and Rokicki!



Officers Brian Pavetich (left) & Matthew Rokicki.

Somers Teachers Keep Learning



Somers teacher Daria Louch loads DNA into a gel for a lab students will conduct in a Principles of Biomedical Science class at the high school this fall.

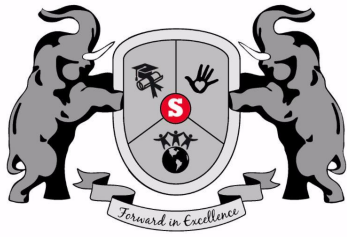
Learning doesn't stop when summer begins -- especially if you are a teacher!

"Summer gives us the opportunity to reflect on our practices, write or revise curriculum and assessments and dive more deeply into professional learning without sacrificing instructional time with our students," says Julie Gherardi, Assistant Superintendent for Learning.

With the International Baccalaureate Programme going into its second year, high school IB teachers

are attending conferences or meeting to review and revise curriculum, exchange ideas and share best practices. Towards the end of the summer, Somers Middle School will conduct the initial implementation training for the Middle Years Programme, the middle school component of the IB Programme. The application process to become an MYP school is ongoing, and this training will give a high-level overview of the MYP approach, curriculum design, and a closer look at the learner profile. Pending final authorization, the middle school expects to begin the program in the fall of 2020.

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