



Greetings Academy members,

We hope everyone has had the opportunity to celebrate and feel celebrated on Father's Day! It is the yearly reminder for us to celebrate the amazing men in our lives who have made us laugh, taught us valuable life lessons, and been there as our unwavering support. We hope that these amazing role models - whether it be our husbands, fathers, granddads, uncles, etc. - feel appreciated for the sacrifices they have made and love they have given.



We have compiled for you a quick list of SECD resources that you can use to pass the long midsummer days with your students and/or loved ones:

**SECD Resources**

1. Dr. Maurice Elias of the Social Emotional and Character Development Lab at Rutgers University and Co-Director of the Academy for SEL in Schools gave his insights on "[Lessons in Leadership](#)" with Steve Adubato. Dr. Elias shared practical tips and tools for helping kids deal with anxiety and stress, particularly during these times of uncertainty.
2. [Promoting SEL at Home](#) is a continually updating series by Aperture Education (the creators of [The DESSA SEL Assessment](#)), which provides at-home developmentally appropriate SEL resources for parents, families, and caregivers. Strategies for cultivating skills such as goal-directed behavior and personal responsibility are provided for each different level of development, from infancy through high school.
3. [The Urban Assembly](#) and Oasis Academy welcomed educators, practitioners, and parents to a [SEL Showcase](#) which highlighted lessons learned from the year of organizing an Alternative Education program around SEL skills.
4. The Urban Assembly and [TheBlackManCan, Inc](#) held the "[Building a Better Brother Virtual Summit](#)," a conference that focused on creating a safe space for young men of color to explore topics such as: mental health stigmas, positive self-identity development, overcoming imposter syndrome, and turning frustration into activism. The summit is an incredible must-see, packed with music sets by DJ Young Wavy Fox, powerful speeches made by activists and psychologists, and empowering spoken word performances. Don't miss out!
5. Lastly, [The New Jersey Association of School Psychologists \(NJASP\)](#) has begun to collect resources for educators, administrators, and school psychologists that are related to the expected return to schools and the [traditional school model](#). The collection is ever-expanding so be sure to check back!

**Reminder: SEL Virtual Learning Community**

We are in the midst of research and evaluation efforts to learn more about your experiences in the Academy. We will reach out to everyone eventually, however, we have already learned that one term is somewhat of a mystery: VPLC.

So, what is the VPLC? The VPLC is the Virtual Professional Learning Community - and guess what - you're already a part of it! For those of you in the "thick of it" (i.e. still enrolled in classes), your VPLC is expansive. You have your course cohort as a source of consultation and feedback, your instructor(s) to reach out to, and you also have the option of reaching out to our community of experts at the Academy using the email: [SELvplc@gmail.com](mailto:SELvplc@gmail.com).

For alumni, the VPLC brings continuous added value to your certificate. This, in turn, enhances your role in your school or after-school setting, including serving as a resource to other staff with regard to children's Social-Emotional and character competencies. We encourage alumni, who may or may not have contact with their cohorts or instructors to reach out to us at [SELvplc@gmail.com](mailto:SELvplc@gmail.com).

These times remind us of the importance of creating and accessing our communities (especially the virtual ones!). Don't forget you have a support system built into the Academy!

