

Jumper Connection

Connecting School and Community

www.somerset.kyschools.us

Somerset Independent Schools

October 2012

Somerset Independent
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SOMERSET INDEPENDENT WELCOMES STUDENTS TO THE 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR.....

The Somerset Independent School District welcomed students on August 8, 2012. Administrators, faculty, and staff were on hand to guide students as they transitioned to the challenges of a new school year.

Our schools have some familiar faces with some new faces in leadership positions. Mr. Wesley Cornett and Mr. Robert Naylor continue to provide leadership for Somerset High School. Mr. Calvin Rollyson and Mr. David Miller return to their leadership roles at Meece Middle School. Mr. Mike Reynolds is joined by Mr. Tim Ham as they guide Hopkins Elementary. These building leaders are implementing strategies and procedures to enrich learning opportunities for all students.

Teachers and counselors at each school are implementing new standards so that students in our district become proficient. Parents are encouraged to utilize Infinite Campus (Student Information System), our Website (www.somerset.kyschools.us), and other communication systems (Telephone, Email, etc.) to ensure that children have the support of a unified team.

Superintendent's Message:

As I write these words the cooling temperatures and changing hues of the leaves tell us that autumn will be upon us in full force very soon. Our high school and middle school students/athletes are fully engaged in the extra-curricular activities of their choice.

Another sign that the school year is well under way is that mid-term grade reports have been issued. As our state moves into full embrace of a new accountability system, I can't stress enough to parents and community that all assessment and learning experiences are geared toward making certain our students are equipped to be competitive in post-secondary and career challenges.

To partner with us in our mission, I want to encourage parents to keep an active line of communication with teachers and school administrators. Use the online resources to communicate with schools and faculty. Check school websites often for updates about school activities. Most importantly, let's all share the high expectations (and work needed to meet those expectations) that will establish the benchmarks of a successful community.



Mr. Ham,
Asst.
Principal
at HES

Boyd L. Randolph, Superintendent

"Tradition and Beyond!"

The Mission of Somerset Independent Schools is to provide our students with the highest educational learning experience by creating innovative opportunities, effective communication, and leaders who inspire Everyday, Every way, No Exceptions!

College & Career Ready.....

Students across Kentucky are all striving to attain the status of being “College & Career Ready.” To reach this goal students must meet a variety of benchmarks that include:

College Readiness-ACT Score of 18-English, 19-Math, 20-Reading **or** show proficiency on COMPASS –74(English/Writing), 36(Math), 85(Reading) **or** Score 22(Math) on KYOTE

Career Readiness-ASVAB Score-50 **or** Workkeys Certificate-Silver/Gold AND KOSSA(Kentucky Occupational Skill Standards Assessment) **or** Industry Certificate(Based on Industry Standards)

College & Career Readiness-ACT or COMPASS or KYOTE AND KOSSA or Industry Certificate.

This new Kentucky measure emphasizes the need for students to demonstrate their preparedness for the future. Somerset Independent provides many opportunities for students to successfully meet the College & Career Readiness Benchmarks. Somerset High School offers Career & Technical Education Programs for Marketing, Finance, and Human Services. Students that enroll in a 3rd course within a specific career major must take the Kentucky Occupational Skill Standards Assessment (KOSSA) and by passing will be one step closer to providing evidence of being Career Ready. Transition courses in Math and English along with ACT Tutoring provide extra opportunities for students to become better prepared for the Academic Benchmarks.

Students are administered these assessments as Juniors and/or Seniors. Students are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to attempt mastery multiple times as appropriate when needed. The goal is for all students to be College & Career Ready which will provide the foundation for a successful future.

Parents may contact the guidance offices at each school for more information concerning the progress of an individual student and the opportunities available to assist students as they strive to meet the benchmarks.

JUMPER SPIRIT THRIVES!

Instructional Support Network- It's All About Students!

Leaders within Somerset Independent Schools are participating in the Support Networks that are being continued across the state. These networks provide updated information concerning the new Common Core Standards and are an opportunity to access ideas for more effective implementation.

Principals, teacher leaders, and district personnel gather information and then share this information with colleagues. This allows for a streamlined approach as we provide opportunities for students to reach proficiency.

Students reap the benefits of this via the targeted standards that are emphasized in our classrooms. “Proficiency checks” allow teachers to maximize instructional opportunities that are based on student needs concerning a particular standard.

Parents can access this information

to provide assistance at home in the areas of need. This extends the learning foundation for students and ensures that everyone is better informed.

Somerset Independent is putting students first by using resources available to target the needs of students. By putting students first we are definitely living our motto of “Tradition and Beyond...”



Ms. Penley,
SHS
Teacher,
Facilitates
Student
Learning.....

21st Century Program Still Going Strong!

Students continue to participate in a variety of enrichment courses via the 21st Century Program. This afterschool program provides opportunities for students in the areas of aviation, microbiology, broadcasting and several other unique subjects.

The students investigate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Areas and gain knowledge that is reflected in classroom performance. Teachers and Field Experts facilitate these learning opportunities.



Parent's Guide to Assessments

During the school year your child will take several kinds of assessments that will serve different purposes with the main goal of providing assistance for improving your child's learning. Implementation of standards combined with valid assessments provide the foundation for success with all students.

School Level Assessments

Each month students take one or more **Proficiency Measures** (or Proficiency Checks) that are like quizzes. The questions on these assessments are a mix of teacher created and the State provided questions from Pearson (elementary and middle) or Quality Core (high school) item banks. Teachers use a program called CIITS (Continuous Instructional Improvement Technology System) to collect data on student achievement

for questions that are directly tied to the standards being taught in the classroom. Depending on the class and grade of the students, children may take this assessment paper and pencil or directly on the computer. Soon, there also will be the ability to take the test with "clickers", small hand held devices that allow a student to choose their answer to a question which is then sent to a device connected to the teacher's computer.

Another assessment that your child will take during the school year that provides us with data is the **Discovery Education Benchmark Assessment**. (Your student may call it "Think Link" tests.) All students, at both Hopkins Elementary and Meece Middle, take a reading and math

assessment four times per year, in addition, 4th and 7th graders will also take a science assessment three times. At Meece, 5th and 8th graders take a social studies test three times. Grades K-2 take this assessment on paper while 3rd through 8th grade take their assessments online in the computer lab. Using the computer technology allows teachers and administrators to quickly get information about the achievement level of each student and create lessons for remediation or enrichment. The questions on all the Discovery Education Benchmark Assessments are tied to the standards that are aligned to each grade for each subject tested. At the high school, students will take benchmark tests in courses that align with the state End of Course testing.

(Continued on Page 4.....)

Fitness Matters...

Meece Middle School students are implementing an individual wellness plan within the Practical Living/ Career Studies Program. Students will be required to develop a personal wellness plan in their P.E. class which will last for four weeks and be complete by the end of the first nine weeks. Students will continue to work and implement two more fitness plans throughout the school year using a variety of activities which can be performed at little or no cost.

Their wellness plan will include exercises such as crunches, push-ups, pull ups, running, biking, etc. Many of these exercises can be performed in the evening while watching television or afterschool for 30-45 minutes. The main goal of the MMS wellness plan is to increase the overall fitness level of our students and promote the importance of living a healthy lifestyle.

Meece Middle School believes that it is important for kids to learn the benefits of living an active and healthy lifestyle.

Students that provide proof of implementation of their plan will be eligible for prizes at the end of each nine weeks. Meece Middle School is inspiring our students to become strong both mentally and physically.



Mr. Jody Meece facilitates activities for students at Meece Middle School.

Hopkins Elementary School students are participating in the Mileage Club. This encourages walking and participants receive rewards/recognition at various levels.

Ms. Kelly Waddle, coordinates this program for Hopkins. Emphasizing physical activity at the early grades promotes lifelong habits for individuals.

Somerset students participate in many activities that strengthen the mind and body. By combining curriculum with activities, students are able to see the benefits of developing nutritious eating habits and exercise.

The ultimate goal is to develop healthy, happy students that become healthy, happy adults. This ensures that our community reaps the benefits of both as students and adults contribute to our social and economic development.

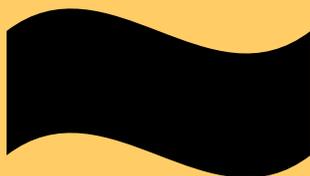
Somerset Independent cares about the "whole" child and strives to perfect opportunities for all!



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HOMESPUN

On April 16, 1888 the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky approved legislation creating a system of public graded schools in the City of Somerset, Kentucky. A petition to create an Independent School System had been approved by Somerset voters and introduced in the legislature by Senator G.W. Shadoan. Five trustees were elected on the first Saturday in June, 1888.

Parent's Guide to Assessments (Continued from Pg. 3.)

The classes include: Biology, English I, English II, Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II. Also, new for the 2012-2013 school year, are College Readiness Benchmark Assessments given to 9th, 10th and 11th grades. These assessments will help teachers see the skills that students have mastered and what skills still need to be covered before a student takes the state required ACT during the spring of the 11th grade year.

State Required Assessments

The new state assessment system is called **KPREP** (Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress). This series of tests replaces the old "CATS" and "KCCT" tests. KPREP tests are given from third grade through high school. For grades 3-8, the assessments are given in the last 14 days of the school year. At the high school, students take an End of Course exam for Biology, English II, US History, or Algebra II when they receive credit for the class, no matter the grade level the student is enrolled. At SHS the End of Course exams are currently set for the end of April but, that testing window is subject to change due to weather or other school closing.

Each fall, students in 8th grade take the **EXPLORE**, and 10th graders take the **PLAN**. These assessments are tests similar to the ACT college entrance exam, but written at a different level. The **ACT** is given to all 11th graders in March; this assessment is part of the school's assessment score and is paid for by the state. All three of these assessments count as part of a student's College Readiness. Seniors who did not make the state benchmark in English, math or reading sections of the ACT are given the opportunity to take the **COMPASS**

or **KYOTE** online to show what they have learned in their senior college transition course. These tests are given before the end of each school semester.

Other indicators for College/Career readiness include student scores above the state benchmark on **KOSSA (February)**, **ASVAB (November) and/or Work Keys (April)**. The KOSSA (Kentucky Occupational Skill Standards Assessment) is taken by students who are enrolled in their 3rd Career/Tech class at the high school. The ASVAB is given to all seniors and the Work Keys is offered to seniors who are enrolled at the Area Tech Center or have taken the KOSSA. Students that are English Language Learners will take a yearly **ACCESS** test of English Language Skills during January or early February.

Other Assessments

Students enrolled in Advanced Placement classes at the high school will take the **AP Exam** for each class in May. High school students also have the option to take the **PSAT**, an assessment that could help students gain scholarship opportunities. For either of these assessments, students need to contact their guidance counselor.



Dates to Remember

October 5
End of 1st 9 weeks
October 8-12
No School – Fall Break
October 19
Report Cards Delivered

November 5
No School Students
Parent/Teacher Conferences 4-7pm
November 6
No School- Presidential Election
November 14
Mid-Term for 2nd 9 weeks
November 21-23
No School - Thanksgiving
November 27
ASVAB – ALL 12th grade

December 19
End of 2nd 9 weeks
December 20-Jan. 1
No School – Christmas Break

January 2
Return to School
Jan. 2 – Feb. 8
ACCESS – ELL students
January 8
Report Cards Delivered
January 21
No School – ML King Jr.

February
KOSSA
February 5
Mid Term 3rd 9 weeks
February 18
No School Students
Parent/Teacher Conferences 4-7pm

March 5
ACT – ALL 11th grade
March 8
End of 3rd 9 weeks
March 15
Report Cards Delivered

April 1-5
No School – Spring Break
April 17
Mid Term 4th 9 weeks
April 22-25
High School End of Course
April 30-May 17
KPREP Assessments

May 6-17
AP Exams
May 17
Last Day of School
(Subject to Change)