

Jumper Connection

Connecting School and Community

www.somerset.kyschools.us

Somerset Independent Schools

October 2013

Somerset Independent
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Superintendent's Message

The second year of the new accountability model which is used to measure relative success of Kentucky public schools, indicates that the schools of the Somerset Independent District are achieving at high levels, demonstrating growth, and have improved in overall scores.

Kentucky High Schools are evaluated using five criterion: 1) a calculated index of Student **Achievement**, 2) the percentage of **Gap** (At-Risk) students scoring Proficient or Distinguished on the achievement assessment, 3) a **Growth** calculation, which is a percentage of students making typical or higher growth than their peers, 4) the percentage of graduating students who are either **College or Career Ready** (as measured by a variety of combinations of up to seven different measures), 5) the "cohort" **Graduation Rate**, which compares the number of graduates in a class to the total number of students that entered school as ninth graders. Middle schools are evaluated on four criterion: Student **Achievement**, performance of **Gap** (At-Risk) students, **Growth** calculation and, **College and Career Readiness** of 8th grade students. Elementary schools are measured only on Student **Achievement**, performance of **Gap** (At-Risk) students, and a **Growth** calculation.

Somerset High School achieved a **Distinguished** rating among state high schools. This is an improvement from the previous year's Proficient

rating. The school's greatest gain on the accountability index was in the measure of **College and Career Readiness**, improving 25% in this measure overall.

Meece Middle School enjoyed a slight increase over last year's accountability score to maintain its **Proficient** rating. Significant factors were improvements in sixth grade math and eighth grade reading scores, and an increase in the percentage of students meeting the American College Testing system's benchmark levels on the EXPLORE test in three of four tested content areas.

Hopkins Elementary School is identified as a "**Progressing**" school due primarily to improvements in individual student growth scores. Improvements in fourth grade math and science achievement scores also contributed to Hopkins earning the "Progressing" label. Since Hopkins Elementary only contains students through grade four, its scores do not reflect fifth grade on-demand writing and social studies scores. Those content areas are assessed and reported with Meece Middle School's scores.

While our scores indicate growth and achievement, there are several opportunities for growth and improvement. According to District Assessment Coordinator, Cindy Ham, "We are pleased with the growth for the past two years. However, even more significant achievement is possible. We are constantly reviewing/analyzing academic achievement measures and the findings are used to provide students with the most competitive academic advantage."

SOMERSET STUDENTS SHOW IMPROVEMENT ON STATE ACCOUNTABILITY TESTS

SOMERSET HIGH SCHOOL
MEECE MIDDLE SCHOOL
HOPKINS ELEMENTARY

DISTINGUISHED
PROFICIENT
PROGRESSING

According to Ms. Cindy Ham, Instructional Supervisor, the district continues to monitor student progress and to make adjustments as needed for academic improvement. Teachers are using proficiency checks throughout the year to ensure that students are on track to graduate **College & Career Ready!**

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. Opportunities for other programs are also available at the Area Technology Center(ATC). 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!

BYOD: It Is All About Student Achievement

Somerset Independent is implementing a BYOD(Bring Your Own Device Initiative) during the 2013-14 School Year. The intent of this initiative is to expand the instructional opportunities for students.

Somerset High School students will have the first opportunity to take advantage of the anywhere, anytime model. Students will be able to register up to two personal devices for utilization on the district wireless network. This expands the opportunities for students to complete research via the internet at anytime throughout the day. Students will also be able to access any web-based curriculum supported by their device.

The BYOD Initiative provides the same filtering and monitoring that is in place for district owned devices. Parents must provide permission for their child to gain access to the wireless network. (08.2323 AP.11)

This initiative supports SB230 and CIPA. Students must comply with the Acceptable Use Policy. 08.2323/08.2323 AP 1) while using a personal device on the wireless network. Responsible use should result in more efficient access for students wishing to expand instructional resources.

Parents may refer to the website for more information and/or contact Ms. Yvonneda B. Gosser, Coordinator of Technology & Information for more information concerning BYOD.

PUBLIC HEARING: The district will hold a Public Hearing concerning Internet Safety Practices on October 17, 5:30 p.m.-6 p.m., 305 College Street, Board Office.



Striving to Meet the Needs of ALL Students.....

Somerset Independent Schools recently welcomed Ms. Carol Cravens to the Leadership Team of Somerset Independent. She is the new Director of Special Education (DOSE).

As the DOSE, Ms. Cravens goal is to ensure that students with special needs are identified appropriately and that they receive services necessary for success.

Ms. Deborah Pieroni recently joined the district as an employee within the Migrant Program. Ms. Pieroni will work closely with Mr. Cloyd Bumgardner to ensure that migrant students in our district are provided much needed services.

Hopkins Elementary Gets a New Look...

Parents and students at Hopkins Elementary were welcomed to a renovated facility this year. Mr. Reynolds, Principal is pleased with the "look", but is most impressed with the impact it has on student learning.

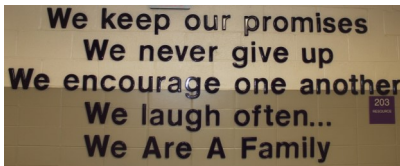
Students have access to more technology than ever before! The renovated rooms have audio enhancement, Smart Boards, and a new wireless system. Teachers have enhanced opportunities for reaching students in this new age of technology.

According to Mr. Reynolds, "Teachers and students are proud of their new surroundings and a renewed energy for learning can be felt throughout the building."

The next phase of renovation has already started with the demolition of the 1971 wing. The rebuild is sched-

uled to begin in the near future and will house state of the art classrooms for students at Hopkins. The new classrooms will integrate seamlessly with the current building and once again provide new opportunities with enhanced learning resources.

Hopkins Elementary is proof that Somerset Independent stays true to "Tradition and Beyond!"



The new Word Wall is an example of how we feel about our students at HES.....Go Jumpers!

Important Dates

October:

End of 1st Term, 4
Fall Break-7-11
Progress/KPREP Assessment Reports, 18
No School, 28 (Teachers Report for PD)

November:

No School, 27-29 (Thanksgiving)

December:

End of 2nd Term, 19
No School, 20-31

January:

No School, 1 (New Year's Day)
No School, 20 (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

February:

No School, 17 (*Possible Make-Up Day)

March:

End of 3rd Term, 7
No School, 14 (*Possible Make-up Day)

April:

Spring Break, 7-11

May:

Last Day of School, 16 (Pending Adjustment for inclement weather, etc.)
*Parents of 11-12th Graders should watch for information concerning E-Transcripts!

Family Resource Youth Service Center

Ms. Tamsen Ryan and Ms. Christina Brinson recently joined the Somerset Independent School District. Ms. Ryan and Ms. Brinson have many exciting things planned for our schools as they work via our FRYSC.

Hopkins Elementary and Meece Middle School will benefit from the leadership of Ms. Brinson while Somerset High School will be under the guidance of Ms. Ryan.

Students throughout our district have a variety of opportunities for support services due to the operation of the FRYSC. The FRYSC is a great source of information for accessing community programs which provide assistance with basic needs in times of crisis. The FRYSC can make referrals for counseling and/or substance abuse treatment services. They provide services to meet the daily needs of students by offering school supplies, clothing and nurse referrals through collaboration with teachers, the guidance counselor,

and principals. This team concept makes meeting the needs of students a priority! The FRYSC assists the schools via a variety of programs throughout the school year. They include: Red Ribbon Week, Veteran's Day, Reality Town, Grandparent's Support Group, Readifest, SKIPS, "Backpack" Initiative, Freshman Orientation, Big Smiles Dental Program, Baby Think It Over, and College & Career Fairs. All of these programs are structured to provide support for students.

Ms. Brinson and Ms. Ryan are always ready to support our students. This team effort is another example of "Tradition and Beyond....."



21st Century Program

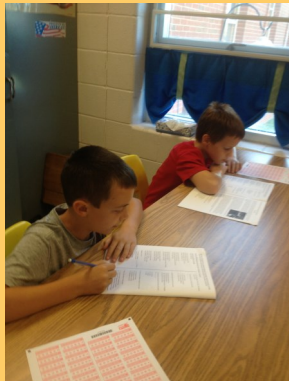
The Somerset Independent 21st Century Program for 2013-14 is currently underway. This program is open to students in grades 5-12.

The 21st Century Program is held at Somerset High School on a daily basis from 3:15-5:15 p.m. Students have opportunities to enrich academics while participating in a variety of activities which include: art, technology integration, and sports.

This program focuses on providing students with experiences related to math, science, and technology. The activity leaders are teachers, community leaders, and specialists in program areas.

For more information concerning the 21st Century Program contact: Cloyd J. Bumgardner, 606.679.4451.





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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.

Somerset Independent Schools Assessment Calendar 2013-14

Assessment in **Bold** are calculated in an area of state accountability, Discovery Education Benchmark Tests are given to satisfy requirements for formative assessment of Unbridled Learning (Senate Bill 1 2009.) In addition, each month Proficiency Measure data from teacher assessments will be shared with the Somerset Board of Education.

Date(s)	Assessment	Target Population	Notes
Sept. 17-28	PLAN	10th grade	Tues. September 24
Sept. 17-28	EXPLORE	8th grade	Wed. September 25
Sept. 11	Discovery Education College Readiness Benchmark Assessment	11 th grade	Taken in English III- to prepare for ACT
Sept. 9-13	Discovery Education Benchmark Assessment - EOC	9 th -11 th grades	English I, English II Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II Biology- to prepare for EOC
Sept. 23-27	Discovery Education Benchmark Assessment	K-8 th grades	Reading and Math 4 th & 7 th grades Science 5 th & 8 th grades Social Studies
Nov. 4-Dec. 13	Alternate Assessment	3rd-12th	Students who do not complete KPREP
Nov. 13	Discovery Education College Readiness Benchmark Assessment	11 th grade	Taken in English III- to prepare for ACT
Nov. 11-14	Discovery Education Benchmark Assessment - EOC	9 th -11 th grades	English I, English II Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II Biology- to prepare for EOC
Nov. 20	ASVAB	12th grade	Career Readiness
Dec. 2-6	Discovery Education Benchmark Assessment	K-4 th grades	Reading and Math 4 th grade Science
Dec. 2-6	Practice KPREP Assessment in CIITS	5 th - 8 th grades	Reading and Math
Dec. 3-14	COMPASS/KYOTE – college placement	12th grade	English/Reading/Math Transition
Jan. 1-Feb. 14 2014	ACCESS	K-12 grades	All ESL/ELL students take this assessment
February 3-7	Discovery Education Benchmark Assessment	5 th - 8 th grades	Reading and Math 7 th grade Science 5 th and 8 th grades Social Studies
February 12	Discovery Education College Readiness Benchmark Assessment	11 th grade	Taken in English III- to prepare for ACT
February 10-14	Discovery Education Benchmark Assessment-EOC	9 th -11 th grades	English I, English II Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II Biology- to prepare for EOC
March 3-7	Discovery Education Benchmark Assessment	K-4 th grades	Reading and Math 4 th grade Science
Mar. 4, 2014	ACT	11th grade	College Readiness
Mar. 4-18, 2014	ACT for Accommodations	11th grade	College Readiness
Mar. 18, 2014	ACT Make-Up	11th grade	College Readiness
Feb. 1 – Mar. 30	WORK KEYS	12th grade	Career Readiness
Feb. 1-Mar. 31	KOSSA	11th-12th/online	Career/Tech. Classes
April 14-18	COMPASS/KYOTE – college placement	12th grade	English/Reading/Math Transition Class
April 14-May 23	Alternate Assessment	3rd-12th grades	Students who do not complete KPREP
April 21-24, 2014*	End Of Course	High School	Algebra I, Biology, English II, & US History
April 29-May 16, 2014*	KPREP Assessment	3rd-8th grades	Reading, Math (all) Science (4th and 7th) Social Studies (5th and 8th) Writing (4th, 5th, 6th, and 8th)
May 5-15	Advanced Placement Test	High School	AP Classes

*Dates for EOC and KPREP may change if school is closed for weather, illness, etc.