



Jumper Connection

Connecting School and Community

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Somerset Independent Schools

October 2014

Superintendent's Message

Challenges, Partnerships, and the Good of the Community....

Another school year is underway and it seems that no matter how much some things change, there are certain things that are always consistent. We have many new faces, both kids and teachers. We've made changes and improvements in many of our facilities. Technology changes can now impact our ability to introduce a body of knowledge to the students and the techniques and strategies used for learning.

One of the things we can count on to NOT change is there will always be *challenges*. We can rely that there will always be challenges associated with learning. We seem to always have the challenge of finding enough time to allow our students to master the vast and growing array of instructional topics needed to be successful. Teachers and administrators face the challenges of logistics when making resource and planning choices. This list of challenges can seem indefinite. A framework that is constantly fluid and changing in so many ways doesn't allow us to always predict what challenges we will face.

Oftentimes one of the greatest assets to meet challenges is found within our community partners. The spirit of cooperation we experience with our community partners allows us to plan and address many of the challenges we, as educators face each day. Those partners range across our local business community, civic and government agencies, and volunteer support system (both individual and community support). The assistance provided by our partners can run the spectrum from instructional supplementation to removing social and economic barriers. The simplest way to illustrate the relationship we have with our partners is: "If it's good for our kids, then it's good for our community".

Thanks to all our partners. Your efforts can make our job much more "doable" and directly impact our students.

Keep doing good things for kids.

Boyd L. Randolph, Superintendent

SOMERSET STUDENTS ARE ALWAYS STRIVING FOR SUCCESS!

According to Ms. Cindy Ham, Instructional Supervisor/District Assessment Coordinator, the district continues to monitor student progress and to make adjustments as needed for academic improvement. The District utilizes the assessment results to implement changes which will benefit students.

School and District Assessment Results are scheduled for release from the State on October 3, 2014. The individual student results should be released shortly thereafter. We look forward to sharing these critical components with parents and the community!

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!

Somerset Independent
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College & Career Ready.....Programs for Students

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. The Kentucky Occupational Skills Standards Assessment (KOSSA) plays a major role in this goal for students.

Students at Somerset High School have the opportunity to participate in programs such as Marketing, Business Management, and Consumer and Family Management. The skills learned via a sequence of courses is assessed when the students becomes preparatory in a specific program area. Preparatory status is attained once a student has enrolled in the third credit within a program area. All preparatory seniors are required to test in the area where they are preparatory.

Successfully passing the KOSSA begins the process of a student being identified as “Career Ready” where they attain credentials that are beneficial as they pursue immediate employment or continue their education beyond high school. Somerset High is allowing students an opportunity to experience “real-life” activities while attaining knowledge that will provide a sound foundation for the future.

Ms. Courtney Ikerd, Ms. Debbie Harris, Ms. Linda Henderlight and Mr. Steve Wallace provide the leadership and guidance for students within the classroom. They are also instrumental as students develop skills while participating in Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), and Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). These organizations allow students to compete and network with others throughout the state and nation.

Somerset High School also partners with the Area Technical Center to offer additional programs which allow students to explore a variety of career fields. This partnership when combined with the “in-house” programs ensures that students at Somerset High School can graduate “College & Career Ready.”

JUMPER SPIRIT THRIVES!

Somerset High School & Meece Middle School Expand and Enrich Curriculum

Meece Middle School has expanded the fifth grade curriculum to include band for students interested in learning how to play a musical instrument. Thirty-three fifth graders are currently enrolled in band class this school year.

They have the opportunity to work with the new band director, Ms. Megan Lenox. Ms. Lenox said she is excited to be working with fifth graders this year. She said they have already learned how to sit with the correct posture, use proper breathing techniques, how to assemble their instruments. Ms. Lenox is also planning a band concert for later in the year.

Meece Middle continues to enhance opportunities for students via a variety of instructional programs. The addition of band to the curriculum is just one example of how Somerset Independent continues to strive to meet the needs of all students!

Somerset High School has expanded the curriculum to include Project Lead the Way (PLTW)-Engineering. This addition allows students to develop science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills. It is about learning real skills, solving real problems, and making real discoveries about the world.

Fifty seven students are currently enrolled in PLTW. These students can look forward to team building activities and challenges that require innovative problem solving.

Ms. Gwynne Baker is the classroom facilitator/teacher for this course. Ms. Baker received extensive training over the summer and specialized equipment and software are in place to ensure that students gain maximum benefit from this learning experience. Somerset High continues to develop and implement student-driven learning opportunities.

GO JUMPERS!

It Is All About Students!

Somerset High School-Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Class



Meece Middle School Band Students



Hopkins Celebrates Grandparents

Each year the President is requested to issue a proclamation to: designate the first Sunday in September after Labor Day as National Grandparents Day; and to call on people, groups and organizations to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Many schools and students take part in story-telling activities that relate to their grandparents, as well as art or poster competitions where children often use a story about their grandparents in their artwork.

At Hopkins Elementary School grandparents are invited to have lunch with their grandchildren.

The luncheon took place the week of October 15-19, 2014. There was a huge turnout for this popular event.



Above: Emery Kate was happy to have her grandfathers at lunch.

Below: Brooke and Memphis enjoyed eating with their grandmother.



Construction Update

Hopkins Elementary continues to undergo renovations. Teachers and students returned to a building that contained a “new look,” but the transformation isn’t complete.

An entire wing is now under construction and will house classrooms and resource rooms which will expand opportunities for students. Once complete students, teachers, and parents will be welcomed into an inviting atmosphere with additional technology resources.

Mr. Reynolds, principal, appreciates the patience and understanding that has been shown throughout this process. He is confident that once complete everyone will be proud of the results and student learning will definitely be impacted.

Go JUMPERS!

Family Resource Youth Service Center

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

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 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.....”

School Age Child Care: Once again this program will offer a camp for Somerset Independent students over Fall Break. The program runs from October 6-10, 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Structured activities are planned and are sure to intrigue students. To register a student for this program, please contact Ms. Vicky Jones, Program Director @ 606.679.8689

21st Century Program

The Somerset Independent 21st Century Program for 2014-15 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.

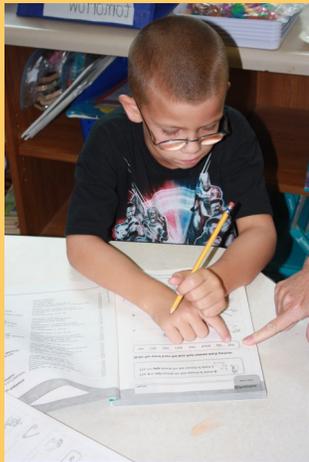
This program focuses on providing students with experiences related to math, science, and technology. The activity leaders are teachers, community leaders, and specialists in program areas.

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

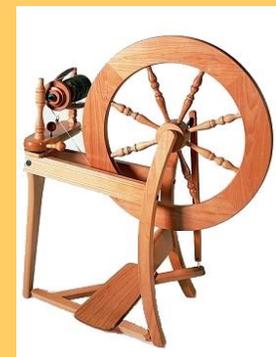


Somerset Independent Calendar 2014-2015

This calendar outlines important dates for students. It contains **state assessment**, local assessment and other dates which impact instruction (i.e. No School, Grade Reporting). This is NOT an all inclusive calendar, but should assist with ensuring students are always prepared. Attendance is **EXTREMELY** important for all students and Somerset Independent is always ready and willing to provide tools which can positively affect the educational experiences in our district.



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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.

October 3	End of First 9 Weeks	All
October 6-10	No School – Fall Break	All
October 17	Report Cards Sent Home	All
October 20	No School – PD Day	All
November 4	No School – Election Day	All
November 3-7	Discovery Education Assessment for College Readiness	9 th -11 th grades
November 18	2 nd Mid Term Reports Sent Home	All
November 26-28	No School –Thanksgiving Break (26th =PD Day)	All
December 3	ASVAB – Career Readiness Test	12th grade
December 8-16	Discovery Education Assessment – Reading/English, Math, Science and Social Studies	K-11 th
December 19	End of Second 9 Weeks	All
December 22-31	No School - Break	All
January 1-2	No School - Break	All
January 5-February 13	ACCESS Test	English Language Learners
January 9	Report Cards Sent Home	All
January 19	No School – Martin Luther King Jr.	All
February 6	3 rd Mid Term Reports Sent Home	All
February 9	Parent Teacher Conference – Hopkins	K-4th
February 10	Parent Teacher Conference - Meece	5 th -8 th
February 12	Parent Teacher Conference -SHS	9 th – 12 th
February 13	No School – Break ** Can be used as a make-up day if needed	All
February 16	No School – PD Day ** Can be used as a make-up day if needed	All
February 2-March 31	KOSSA – Kentucky Occupational Skill Standards Assessment for Career Readiness	11th and 12th grade
February 16-27	Work Keys – Career Readiness Test	12th grade
March 3	ACT	11th grade
March 9	End of 3 rd 9 Weeks	All
March 16-25	Discovery Education Assessment– Reading/English, Math, Science and Social Studies	K-11 th
March 18	Report Cards Sent Home	All
March 20	No School – PD Day **Can be used as a make-up day if needed	All
April 6-10	No School – Spring Break	All
April 21	4 th Mid Term Reports Sent Home	All
April 20-23*	Stanford 10 Assessment	K-2nd grade
April 27-30*	End of Course Exams	Algebra II, Biology, English 10 and US History
April 30-May 15*	KPREP Assessment	3rd-8th grades
May 11- May 20	Accelerated Middle School Tests for Math/Science	4 th – 7 th grades
May 5-14	Advanced Placement Tests	10 th -12 th grades
May 19	No School – Election Day	All
May 20	Last Day for Students*	All

*Dates may change if school is closed for weather, sickness, etc.