



Somerdale Public School District

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Superintendent/Principal

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Mr. William Thompson
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August 7, 2023

Cavaliers,

The return to school is upon us. I am excited for what the 2023-2024 School Year has in store for us all as a learning community! Please see below for updates, happenings, reminders, and expectations to help prepare for the return to school.

- Our Maintenance Team has been working diligently to beautify The Park and prepare the building for the return of our students on September 6, 2023.
- The Technology Team is working on several infrastructure upgrades and has been working tirelessly to prepare student devices in time for the first day of school. Below is the district's Acceptable Use Policy as well as the Device Agreement Form that is to be reviewed as part of the annual registration process.

[23-24 Device Agreement Form](#)

[Acceptable Use Policy](#)

- Somerdale Park School will be instituting a new dress code which includes edits that were made due to issues experienced with the dress code during the previous two school years. Parents and guardians should review the dress code with their child(ren) prior to the start of school. Students will be expected to be in compliance with the dress code. Students wearing clothes that do not comply with the dress code will be sent to the front office and a parent will be contacted to bring a change of clothes to the school. Students will remain in the front office or an alternative setting until a change of clothes is brought that will enable the student to return to class in compliance with the dress code. The hope is that we can all work together to allow a non-uniform policy to guide student dress at Somerdale Park School in upcoming years. However, if unsuccessful, reverting back to school uniforms is an option that will be strongly considered. Your involvement, understanding, input, and support are continuously appreciated.

[23-24 SPS Student Dress Code](#)

Changes to note:

- *Students in Grades 6-8 may NOT wear Spandex, Leggings, and/or Yoga type tops or bottoms as an outer layer under any condition. Any such material is to be worn as an undergarment only with the appropriate top/bottom covering and may not be seen through to the skin. Students in Grades K-5 may wear cotton style pants.*
- *Students in Grades 6-8 must have the appropriate gym uniform on for physical education class. Students may NOT wear the gym uniform to school; therefore, are **required to change** into the gym uniform before participating in physical education class. **Clothes deemed part of the gym uniform and appropriate for physical education class will be available for purchase through the school store only.** Spandex, Leggings, and/or Yoga type tops or bottoms may be worn as an underlayer/undergarment only. Pupils who do not have the appropriate Somerdale Park School gym uniform will be marked unprepared and points deducted from their grade.*
- Students participating in Fall Sports must have supplied a completed physical to school nurse, Mrs. Dow by 8/15/23.

- **Want to see your schedule!?** The Annual Registration Process must be completed through OnCourse Connect. Once complete, parents and students will be able to view their child(ren) teacher and schedule. Establishing an OnCourse Connect Account will also enable parents to monitor grades and attendance. Please make sure all contact information and medical information is up to date. Parents needing help with establishing a new account or having trouble logging into an existing account can contact the front office for assistance.
- Families interested in receiving free meals **MUST** reapply to determine eligibility. Applications can be found on the Somerdale Park School Website or by using the link below:

[Free Lunch Application](#)

- Somerdale Park School will be offering its After School Program again this school year. **BEFORE CARE WILL NOT BE OFFERED.** The Aftercare Parent/Student Handbook and Aftercare Registration Portal are available on the Somerdale Park School Website. The Registration Portal will go live on Wednesday, August 9. A link to both the handbook and registration portal can be found below:

[23-24 After School Program Handbook](#)

[After School Program Registration Portal](#)

- Cell Phones/ipads/Smartwatches, etc. - We understand the need for students to have the aforementioned technology to go to and from school, but unnecessary use during the school day is unnecessarily disruptive to the educational process. Students in Grades PK-5 bringing a device to school are expected to keep the device in their bookbag at all times. Students in Grades 6-8 bringing a device to school are expected to keep the device in their locker at all times. Students observed on cell phones, non-district ipads, smartwatches, and similar devices will have the item(s) confiscated and submitted to school administration which will follow the steps in the school's code of conduct. Please know, this may include a mandatory parent pickup from the front office. Disciplinary consequences could ensue. The school cannot guarantee the safety of personal items brought to school; therefore, students unable to adhere to these expectations should consider leaving the device at home. Should students need to make phone calls during the school day, they may use a phone that is available in the building. Should parents need to contact students in the building, please contact the main office at 856-783-6261.
- The next "5 Minutes with Ford" will air on Thursday, August 10th! Please be sure to tune in as I plan to introduce our new Vice Principal, Mr. Kretschy!
- Please review the updated [2023-2024 Parent/Student Handbook](#) prior to the start of school.

I look forward to the opportunity to further positive working relationships with students, families, and the Somerdale School Community. It is essential we work together cooperatively in order to provide our students with the best educational experience possible!

Enjoy what remains and we'll see you soon,



Mr. Robert Ford
Superintendent/Principal