Good Evening Somerset Families,

We are excited to welcome our Somerset students back into the building on Monday, August 30th. Our number one priority is ensuring student safety and emotional well-being. We know our students are going to thrive at Somerset with the right foundation for safety, structure, and academic support.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, I wanted to share some of the measures that MCPS and Somerset ES has put into place.

**MCPS Measures:**
- HVAC filters have been replaced and upgraded to improve air filtration and increase fresh air ventilation in buildings.
- Air cleaners have been installed in classrooms, offices, health rooms, cafeteria, and gym.
- The HVAC system has an extended run time that will allow the air in buildings to be "flushed" before and after the facility is occupied.

**Somerset ES Grade Level Lunch Plan:**

All grade levels, with the exception of Kindergarten, will be eating lunch outside.

**Kindergarten Only:** *As a team, we decided the Kindergarteners will begin the school year eating in the APR. Given the small size of the incoming Kindergarten class, we are able to keep them safely distanced, and we have two air purifying systems that can be used in that space. There are many new routines and procedures that Kindergarten students need to learn, and we want to be able to support them indoors initially. We have 54 Kindergarten students. Cafeteria tables seat up to 16 students. There are 12 tables in the cafeteria. Therefore, we will be able to seat 5 students per table. Students will sit facing the same direction (on only one side of the table); not face-to-face. No student will be seated directly across from another student. Doors that lead outside will remain open for additional ventilation.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Grade-Level</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00-1:25</td>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Eat in cafeteria, initially, with assigned seating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:05-12:30</td>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>Eat outside – south steps (near APR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:35-12:00</td>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>Eat outside – south steps (near APR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00-1:25</td>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>Eat outside – south steps (near APR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:05-12:30</td>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>Eat outside – front of building sidewalk under the overhang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30-12:55</td>
<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>Eat outside – south steps (near APR)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The bus loop will be closed daily for lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1:25 p.m. If you need to pick up or drop off your child during this time frame, you will need to park on the street and walk to the building.

Students will be using the south steps, lawn area, or sidewalks under the overhangs to eat. Students may bring a towel or small sitting square to place on the ground to sit on. This is optional and we recommend that they bring it in on Monday and bring in back home on Friday to be washed for the upcoming week.

In the event of rain, students eating on the south steps will eat in the back of the building under the overhang.

Certainly, as the weather begins to change and the hope of vaccinations for children become more available, we will explore other options for eating lunch, and possibly return students to eating in the APR. We will continue to monitor and reevaluate on a regular basis and make any necessary changes.

Additional information regarding Somerset Safety precautions is shared in this presentation here.

MCPS’ Reopening Plan is linked here.

Sincerely,

Maureen Turner
Acting Principal
Somerset ES