



Somerset Academy SoMi

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Parent & Student Handbook 2019 - 2020

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Charter School Information

Charter schools are non-profit, self-managed, entities that enroll Miami-Dade County public school students. They must be approved and monitored by the local school board, yet they are run independently. Charter schools are funded by state and local monies and are open to any student residing in the Miami-Dade County School District who would otherwise qualify to attend a regular elementary or middle school in Miami-Dade County.

Mission Statement

Is to provide a loving, caring, and supportive educational environment, where the whole child is developed and a philosophy of respect and high expectations is instilled for all students, parents, teachers, and staff.

Our Vision

At Somerset we will strive to create a thirst for knowledge in all disciplines of the curriculum and enrich every student with a sense of purpose, a belief in their own efficacy, and a commitment to the common good.

School Philosophy

Our school is a place where children will enjoy learning, teachers will enjoy teaching, and parents will be expected to be a key part of the educational process.

Our Beliefs:

- Student learning is the primary focus of our school.
- Students learn in a variety of ways and should be given the opportunity to learn with different strategies and techniques.
- Administrators, teachers, staff, parents, and community members agree to hold high goals and standards to achieve success.
- Parents and teachers are partners in the education process.
- Our school community is committed to continuous improvement to enable our students to become lifelong learners.

School Curriculum

Somerset integrates the Competency Based Curriculum developed by Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the curriculum reflects the standards and objectives stated in the Florida Sunshine State Standards. It encompasses the core subject areas of Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. In addition, we offer classes in Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, Art, Music and Physical Education.

***** School Hours *****

Kindergarten	8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
1st – 5th	8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
6th – 8th	8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Students will be dismissed at 12:00 p.m. once a month.

Arrival Procedures

- Under no circumstances will parents be allowed to park or leave their vehicles unattended in the drop off/pick up areas.
- Please be advised: Somerset Academy is NOT responsible for students who arrive more than thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of school, except for those who are enrolled in and pay fees to the before care program.
- Traffic patterns for arrival (as described in the Parent Handbook) must be strictly followed.

Dismissal Procedures

- Please be familiar with your child’s dismissal time. Students will remain with a faculty member for ten minutes after dismissal. Students not picked up within those ten minutes may be enrolled in the aftercare program and may be subject to after-care fees up to and including a charge of \$1.00 per minute.
- Please be aware that all charges must be resolved in full by the last day of school.
- Traffic patterns for dismissal (as described in the Parent Handbook) must be strictly followed. Non-adherence to approved traffic patterns will be documented.
- Vehicles will only be allowed to enter the school driveway 10 minutes prior to their child’s scheduled dismissal time.
- Parents are discouraged from picking up students enrolled in the after care program during regular dismissal times.

**Students will not be released 30 minutes prior to dismissal.
NO EXCEPTIONS!!**

Rainy Day Procedures

Please be patient and follow drop-off/pick-up procedures to ensure your child’s safety. The use of the telephone will not be necessary.

Attendance Policy

We expect our students to demonstrate excellent attendance. Please make every effort to have your child attend school on time.

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Tardies

Arrival time for students is thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of school. Students must be in their seats at the commencement of homeroom in the morning. Any student arriving after the commencement of homeroom will receive a tardy pass.

All tardies will be considered unexcused. An excused tardy will only be given if the child has a doctor's note. Please note that parents will NOT be allowed to walk their children to class or speak to the teachers after school starts. If your child arrives after the commencement of homeroom, please do not send them to class. Please send them to the front office to receive a tardy pass.

Excused Absences

Parents are to contact the office if their child is going to be absent. On the day he or she returns to school, parents/guardians must send a handwritten note explaining the reason for their child's absence, or a note from your child's physician. Notes submitted more than 72 hours after your child's return to school will not be accepted, and the absence(s) will be deemed unexcused.

Unexcused Absences

For every three unexcused absences, the student will receive a referral.

Make-up work and homework must be completed within 24 hours (per missed day) after returning to school. All assignments must be made-up or the student will be issued an incomplete. Incomplete assignments may affect the student's final grade. It is the parent's responsibility to contact the teacher regarding any missed assignments. If a student anticipates being absent for more than two consecutive days, it is the parent's responsibility to contact the school and pick-up any class work/homework from the teacher.

Early Dismissal

Students will be dismissed at 12:00 p.m. once a month. Parents must arrange for transportation.

Students who are dismissed early (on a regular school day) must be signed out by a parent or guardian in the main office. Students will not be released to persons whose names do not appear on the emergency contact card kept on file in the main office. A

photo ID must be shown in order to release a student from the premises. In case of an emergency, if a person not listed on the emergency contact card must pick up a student, the parent must fax a signed statement with a copy of their driver's license allowing that person to pick up their child on that specific day. It is the parent's responsibility to come to the main office and add that person to the emergency contact card for subsequent days. Students will not be released to persons whose names do not appear on the emergency contact card kept on file in the main office.

For a student to be dismissed early, parents must report to the front office. Students who wish to be dismissed (on a regular school day) are required to provide proof of a medical/dental appointment within 72 hours of such appointment. Notes submitted more than 72 hours after an early dismissal will not be accepted, and the early dismissal will be deemed unexcused. **Students will not be dismissed 30 minutes prior to dismissal time without previous written notice. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Transportation

Transportation must be provided or arranged by the parent or guardian. Transportation shall be provided in accordance with applicable law. Parents are encouraged, if possible, to transport their child to school. The school believes that the time a parent can spend daily transporting the student to school is a valuable opportunity for the parent and student to strengthen their bond and share information about the day's activities and school events.

Middle School Attendance Policy

There is probably no factor more important to successful school progress than regular school attendance. Students who are absent excessively from the instructional program will fall behind in academic achievement. Excessive school absenteeism can result in course failure.

The attendance policy is established by the School Board. Highlights of the attendance rules are as follows:

1. A secondary student accumulating ten or more unexcused class absences in an annual course or five or more unexcused absences in a semester course will be subject to the withholding of final credit, pending a student/parent-requested administrative screening and/or review of all absences by the attendance review committee.
2. An attendance review committee is established in each school. The committee consists of three or more school personnel who have the responsibility to review student attendance petitions during the last week of the course(s) and recommend the:
 - Issuing of final grades;

- Temporary withholding of final grades pending makeup assignments; or
- Permanent withholding of final grades and credit.

3. The following are considered excused absences:

- Student illness
- Medical appointment
- Death in immediate family
- Observance of a religious holiday or service when it is mandated for all members of a faith that such a holiday or service be observed
- School sponsored event or activity previously approved
- Other individual student absences or tardies beyond the control of the parent or the student as approved by the principal or designee

4. All other absences not listed above in item 3 are considered unexcused.

5. The student is expected to:

- Take advantage of his/her educational opportunity by attending all classes punctually on a daily basis.
- Provide the school with a written explanation for any absence/tardiness.
- Request the make-up assignment for all excused absences/tardiness from his/her teachers upon his/her return to school or class. It should be noted that all class work, due to the nature of instruction, is not readily subject to make-up work.
- Complete the make-up assignments for classes missed within a reasonable amount of time. Failure to make up all assignments will result in lower assessment of the student's academic and/or effort grade.
 - Submit a completed "*Petition to Appeal Withholding of Final Passing Grades*" to the individual responsible for the screening process:
 1. Provide written documentation for all absences to the attendance review committee.
 2. Appear before the committee at the scheduled time with a parent or guardian.

6. The parent is expected to:

- Report and explain an absence to the school.
- Be responsible for his/her child's school attendance as required by law. On the day he or she returns to school, parents/guardians must send a handwritten note explaining the reason for your child's absence, or a note from your child's physician. Notes submitted more than 48 hours after your child's return to school will not be accepted, and the absence(s) will be deemed unexcused.
- Request the make-up assignment
- Be aware that tardiness places his/her child's learning in jeopardy and interrupts the learning of other students.

- Stress the importance of regular and punctual school attendance with his/her child.
- Personally contact the school after his/her child's fifth (5th) aggregate absence.
- Assist his/her child with the completion of the "*Petition to Appeal Withholding of Final Grades*"
- Appear before the attendance review committee at the scheduled time to provide information relating to his/her child's absences.

**Excerpt from School Board Rule 6Gx13-5A-1.04*

Before and After Care

Somerset has established before and after school care services to be available on campus. It is the parents'/guardians' responsibility to contract and pay for such services. Please contact the school office for detailed information on how to register for the before and after school care program at our school.

Morning Care	7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.
After Care	2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Volunteer Requirements, Options, and Guidelines

Parental/Guardian involvement is a critical component of your child's educational success. Somerset Academy prides itself on the success of our students and therefore requires that parents/guardians become active stakeholders in their child's future. All Somerset Academy parents/guardians are asked to complete thirty (30) volunteer hours, or the equivalent thereof, per child per academic year. Parental involvement enhances learning when a school encourages parents to stimulate their child's intellectual development. Parental investment in a student's education is crucial to a student's success, as well as to the advancement of the School's mission, vision, and purpose.

Due to mandates from Miami-Dade County Public Schools, all parents wishing to volunteer must participate in the *School Volunteer Registration Program* and must be cleared through Miami-Dade County Public Schools before permission to volunteer is granted. This mandate includes clearance for volunteers in school events such as book fairs, fundraising activities, etc. Parents must also be cleared to chaperone fieldtrips.

It is the responsibility of the parent to communicate with their child's teacher(s) to complete the hours. Notices of completed hours will be sent along with quarterly report cards to assist parents in tracking their volunteer hours. In addition, a reminder will be sent during the fourth quarter of the school year to ensure that the volunteer requirement is fulfilled.

All parent/guardian volunteer hours must be completed prior to the last day of school. Failure to complete the thirty (30) hours, may result in suspension of co-curricular activity privileges.

Parents may complete hours by any of the following:

- Assist the teacher
- Be a guest speaker
- Be a room parent
- Chaperone field trips
- Tutor students
- Organize special events
- Tell/read stories
- Make educational games
- Donate classroom supplies (No cash, checks, gift cards accepted)

Any parent/guardian who would like to volunteer in the classroom must inform the classroom teacher **prior** to volunteering. Consent from the administration must be confirmed before parents will be allowed to enter classrooms. In addition, parents/visitors must sign-in at the main office and obtain a visitor's pass. In order to ensure the safety of all of our students, **NO PARENTS/VISITORS WILL BE ALLOWED BEYOND THE MAIN OFFICE WITHOUT A VISITOR'S PASS. NO EXCEPTIONS. ONLY 5 PARENT VOLUNTEERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO CHAPERONE FIELD TRIPS AND/OR CLASSROOM PARTIES.**

Dress Code/Uniforms

A higher standard of dress encourages greater respect for individual students and others and results in a higher standard of behavior. Our dress code guidelines indicate appropriate school dress for normal school days. Somerset reserves the right to interpret these guidelines and/or make changes during the school year. Students are expected to follow these guidelines with support from their parents/guardians. Uniforms must be worn everyday (refer to Schools uniform policy). Students who arrive to school without proper uniform may be sent home, and a warning documenting violation of this policy will be issued. After three (3) violations of this policy, the student will be issued a referral form that will be placed in the student's permanent record.

Our uniform policy is as follows:

Elementary School

• Girls (K-5th grade):

White short/long sleeve Peter Pan blouse with school logo embroidered
Navy and white rugby polo

Navy /khaki plaid skort, navy bermuda shorts with logo on pocket or navy pants with logo on pocket (NO SKIRTS)

• **Boys (K-5th grade):**

White with navy trim polo shirt with school logo embroidered

Red with white trim polo shirt with school logo embroidered

Navy and white rugby polo

Navy pants with logo on pocket

Navy shorts with logo on pocket

Middle School

• **Girls (6th- 8th grade):**

White short/long sleeve stretch blouse with school logo embroidered

White, navy, or red, LONG sleeve polo shirt with school logo embroidered (NEW)

Navy and white rugby polo

Khaki bermuda shorts or pants with logo on pocket (NO SKIRTS)

• **Boys (6th- 8th grade):**

White short/long sleeve oxford shirt with school logo embroidered

White, navy, or red, LONG sleeve polo shirt with school logo embroidered (NEW)

Navy and white rugby polo

Khaki bermuda shorts or pants with logo on pocket

- **School mascot T-shirts will be available for sale after the first month of school and they may be worn ONLY on Fridays with the uniform bottoms or with jeans on paid *Jean Days*.**

Shoes: Must be black, dark brown closed toe shoes, white or navy sneakers; shoes must have laces or Velcro. No Skate Sneakers (Heelys), or slip-on sneakers will be permitted (Toms). No sandals, “ballerinas,” open toe, or platform shoes will be permitted.

Belts: Dark brown or black belt.

Hair: Hair must be neat, clean and away from the face. No hats may be worn. Boys’ haircuts must be above the collar and above the ears. They may not color their hair in any way. No writing on hair will be allowed. Boys’ haircuts will be monitored.

Jewelry: Girls with pierced ears may wear modest simple earrings. More than one set of earrings on girls, large hoops, long dangling earrings, large

necklaces with charms, wristbands, earrings on boys or visible piercing of other body parts are unacceptable and will not be permitted.

Make-up: Make-up, tattoos, colored nail polish/acrylic nails, or glitter will not be permitted (at any age).

Cold Weather Days

A crew-neck cardigan and v-neck sweater in navy with embroidered school logo are available at the uniform company. No other sweaters or jackets may be worn! Please write student's name on all clothing tags.

Dress Guidelines for all Students

Pants cannot be rolled up at the waist to adjust the length. Pants MAY NOT be worn below the hips. All shirt tops must be tucked in. All tops must have the school logo on them.

Students should have enough uniform tops and bottoms that laundry issues should not interfere with the uniform policy. ANY STUDENT NOT WEARING A COMPLETE SCHOOL UNIFORM, OR IN VIOLATION OF ONE OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED INFRACTIONS, WILL BE ISSUED A WARNING OR UNIFORM VIOLATION FORM AND PARENTS WILL BE CONTACTED TO BRING THE OFFICIAL UNIFORM. After 3 uniform violations, a referral will be issued.

Please speak with your child/children regarding the importance of wearing a school uniform to avoid serious consequences. We appreciate your anticipated cooperation with our uniform policy and thank you for your assistance in helping your child/children comply with our rules.

Uniforms must be worn on the **first day of school.**

Unauthorized Items Policy:

Please note that students are not allowed to bring any toys, electronic devices, pets, or animals to school. Cell phones may not be turned on inside of the School building at any time. Cell phones may not be visible at any time during the School day, may not be displayed during School, and must be left in the Students bag. The School will confiscate any unauthorized items a student may bring to school. Confiscated items will only be returned to parents after 3:00 pm the following day, at which time a parent/student conference may be required. Notwithstanding the aforementioned, the school may keep any such unauthorized items until the end of the school year. After three (3) violations of this policy, the student will be issued a referral form that will be placed in the student's permanent record. While the School will take every measure to protect such items, **the School shall not be responsible for loss or damage to any unauthorized items which**

have been confiscated. Any items not claimed by the last day of school shall be disposed of without further liability to the School.

Withdrawals/Transfers:

Please notify the school office of your child's withdrawal or transfer at least one day in advance. In order to process a withdrawal from the school, the parent/guardian must come into the school office and complete the necessary paperwork to process a transfer. A transfer involves notification of a change in school and the return of textbooks, library books, and payment of any/all monies owed to the school.

Contact Information Update

It is critical that the school office be notified of any change of address and/or telephone number **immediately**.

Visitors

FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL OF OUR STUDENTS, **ALL VISITORS** must report to the main office to obtain a visitor's pass. Only persons with pertinent business are permitted on school grounds. Children and family members, who are not currently enrolled at Somerset, will not be permitted on school grounds during school hours. Instructional time is precious and must not be interrupted by parent visits. Please schedule appointments with your child's teacher to avoid unnecessary interruptions.

Substitute Teachers

A substitute teacher has the same authority as a regular classroom teacher. We expect that all students demonstrate respect and cooperate fully with our substitute teachers.

Textbooks

Students will be issued books at the beginning of each school year. Students must immediately inform teachers about any lost or damaged books so that they can be replaced. Parents will be responsible for the cost of the replacement book. The same rule applies for lost library books.

Grading and Reporting of Student Progress

Instructional staff uses evaluative devices and techniques as needed to report individual achievement in relation to school goals, acceptance norms, and student potential. Student grades, unsatisfactory work notices, parent reports on state assessment, and/or standardized testing, parent conferences, and adult/student conferences should serve as the primary means of communicating student progress and achievement of the standards for promotion.

A student's academic grade reflects the teacher's most objective assessment of the student's academic achievement. Students have the right to receive a conduct and an effort grade consistent with their overall behavior and effort. Specific guidelines for grading student performance and for reporting student progress are provided below and detailed in the *Student Progression Plan*. To view the plan, go to <http://ehandbooks.dadeschools.net/policies/93/index.asp>

Academic Grades: Academic grades are to reflect the student's academic progress. The grade must provide for both students and parents a clear indication of each student's academic performance as compared with norms that would be appropriate for the grade or subject. The academic grades of "A," "B," "C," "D," or "F," are not related to the student's effort and conduct grades. The letter grade of "I" will be reserved for secondary use only.

Grades in all subjects are to be based on the student's degree of mastery of the instructional objectives and competencies for the subject. The determination of the specific grade a student receives must be based on a teacher's careful consideration of all aspects of each student's performance during a grading period.

K GRADES	NUMERICAL VALUE	VERBAL INTERPRETATION	GRADE POINT VALUE
E	90-100%	Outstanding progress	4
G	80-89%	Above average progress	3
S	70-79%	Average Progress	2
M	60-69%	Lowest acceptable progress	1
U	0-59%	Failure	0

1 st – 8 th GRADES	NUMERICAL VALUE	VERBAL INTERPRETATION	GRADE POINT VALUE
A	90-100%	Outstanding progress	4
B	80-89%	Above average progress	3
C	70-79%	Average Progress	2
D	60-69%	Lowest acceptable progress	1
F	0-59%	Failure	0

A= 3.50 or above B= 2.50 – 3.49 C= 1.50 – 2.49 D=1.00 – 1.49

Please be advised that it will be mandatory for every 3rd - 8th grade student that receives a Level 1 or 2 on the FCAT to attend FCAT tutoring at the school.

Effort Grades: Effort grades are utilized to convey both to students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) the teacher’s evaluation of a student’s effort as related to the instructional program. These grades are independent of academic and conduct grades. In assigning an effort grade, the teacher must consider the student’s potential, study habits, and attitude. Kindergarten students do not receive effort grades. Three numerical grades are used to reflect effort in grades 1-8:

- An effort grade of “**1**” indicates outstanding effort on the part of the student. The student will, when necessary, complete a task again in order to improve the results. The student consistently attends to assigned tasks until completed and generally exerts maximum effort on all tasks. The student consistently works to the best of his/her ability.
- An effort grade of “**2**” indicates satisfactory effort on the part of the student. All work is approached with an appropriate degree of seriousness. The student usually finishes assignments on time and usually stays on task. The student usually works at a level commensurate with his/her ability.

→ An effort grade of “3” reflects insufficient effort on the part of the student. Little attention is paid to completing assignments well and/or on time or to completing them in a manner commensurate with the student’s ability.

Conduct Grades: The school will follow Miami-Dade County Public School’s *Code of Student Conduct* <http://ehandbooks.dadeschools.net/policies/90/index.htm>. The following rules, regulations and due process procedures are designed to protect all members of the educational community in the exercise of their rights and responsibilities. These rules apply to any student:

1. who is on the school property
2. who is in attendance at school or any school-sponsored activity
3. whose conduct at any time or in any place has a direct and immediate effect on maintaining order and discipline in the school

Acts of disorderly conduct may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Classroom tardiness
- Dishonesty
- Acting in a manner that interferes with the education process
- Abusive language between or among students
- Failure to complete assignments or carry out instructions

Possible Sanctions:

- Verbal and Written Reprimand/ Referral/ Student Case Management Form (SCAM)
- Contact with parent
- Loss of privileges
- Detention/Work duty on campus
- In-school/Outdoor suspension

Code of Excellence

We believe that a safe and orderly school is of primary importance. When children behave in a respectful, responsible, and safe manner, they learn more and develop into responsible children whose “character counts”.

The Somerset Code of Excellence is a school wide plan, which clearly outlines student expectations. Proper behavior is recognized and consequences are given for breaking our code.

Each parent must take an active role in supporting this plan. We want our children to learn and to be responsible citizens. It is in the children’s best interest that parents and staff work together to ensure a happy, safe, and productive learning experience.

Glossary:

Lunch Detention: eating alone

Administrative Detention: being detained in the school office (time to be determined by the administrator)

Teacher Detention: being detained by the teacher (time to be determined by the teacher)

Out of School Suspension (OSS): to take away the privilege of attending school for a certain number of days, outside of school.

In School Suspension (ISS): to take away the privilege of attending class (Student remains in school and may get credit for work completed during ISS.)

Severe Clause: extremely disruptive behavior results in immediate removal from class to the principal's office

Referral: written warning given to students who have violated the code of conduct or school rule. Students who receive three referrals may be suspended for three days and will meet with the administration.

** Students may be issued referrals for tardies, absences, and/or severe disruptive behavior. Referrals remain in a student's permanent record.*

Consequences: a result of one's actions

Discipline: a set of rules that develops self-control and orderliness in students by providing logical consequences for both appropriate and inappropriate behavior; the goal being a safe and orderly environment for all students.

Disrespect: to be rude or discourteous to another person

Respect: to be courteous to those around you, to show consideration

Somerset Code of Excellence

- Be honest
- Be kind
- Be respectful
- Be patient
- Be proud
- Be courteous
- Mistakes are okay, as long as you learn from them.

Students who break the code of conduct will receive the following consequences:

Classroom Consequences:

- 1st consequence: Verbal Warning
- 2nd consequence: Time out/ Loss of privilege
- 3rd consequence: Parent contacted/ Referral note sent home

Administrative Consequences:

- 4th consequence: Student is sent to the principal, parent is called, and Administrative Detention is given.
- 5th consequence: In School Suspension (ISS)/ Referral sent home.

Severe Clause: Fighting, Profanity, Disrespect, Sexually explicit behavior, Destruction of property may result in issuing a referral and an administrative review for possible immediate suspension from school (OSS). Parent will be called to pick up student from school.

Somerset students are expected to show respect for themselves, for other students, and for their teachers. Students are expected to behave in ways that are acceptable to classmates and conducive to learning. Misbehavior on the part of students can be generally corrected when home and school work together.

Teachers and students must foster a mutual respect for one another. Teachers will never use corporal punishment or offensive language toward a student. According to the Code of Student Conduct, methods of positive reinforcement/rewards and/or loss of privileges are utilized. Administration will make the final decision on disciplinary actions.

REPORTING STUDENT PROGRESS K-8

Progress Reports: Individual Progress Reports are issued mid-quarter. Please study your child's progress with him/her. Please feel free to consult your child's teacher regarding his/her school progress. Report cards are issued the same days as identified in the Miami-Dade County School Calendar.

Progress Report and Report Card Distribution Schedules:

Grading Period	Progress Reports	Report Cards (approximate)
1st Grading Period	September 17, 2019	November 5, 2019
2nd Grading Period	December 3, 2019	January 28, 2020
3rd Grading Period	February 18, 2020	April 7, 2020

4th Grading Period	April 28, 2020	June 15, 2020
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Home Learning Assignments

Home Learning Assignments are a very important part of learning since they reinforce concepts that have been learned. Somerset policy is to assign homework EVERY night. This keeps the academic flow and a means of involving parents aligned with our curriculum goals.

To improve the effects of Home Learning Assignments:

- Provide your child with a quiet place which is conducive to studying and to learning.
- Show an interest in your child's home learning assignments by providing assistance and reviewing completed work.
- Do not complete the home learning assignments for your child. If your child is having difficulty, try to help them with their assignment and notify the teacher.
- Read with or to your children daily.

Student responsibilities for completing home learning activities:

1. Students are responsible for recording and completing all Home Learning Assignments independently. Parents may provide assistance, but students must complete the work on their own.
2. Home Learning Assignments should be done in a quiet place with good lighting and minimal disturbances.
3. If there is a problem in understanding how to complete Home Learning Assignments, students are to do the very best job possible. If a student does not understand the assignment(s), they are encouraged to bring it in the next day and ask the teacher for assistance. In this case, the homework should be completed that evening along with the regular Home Learning Assignments.
4. A daily calendar can be used to keep track of home learning assignments for each night.
5. If a student is having difficulty in managing their time for homework, ask the teacher for assistance with homework time management.

Classroom Placement

Our administrative staff reviews each student's scores and performance evaluations in order to provide students with the best possible learning environment. We also consider a student's individual personality, development, and character in our final decisions. **We are not in any way obligated to honor any special requests for classroom placements. In addition, we reserve the right to change student classroom assignments as we see fit.** Somerset may consist of multi-age education. Be aware that students will be placed in a multi-age (mixed grade) classroom as determined by the administration of the school.

Parent to School Communication

A prime factor in our operation is the importance we place upon communication between home and school. The lines of communication must be kept open at all times so that we may be properly tuned into your child's needs.

Please notify us immediately if:

1. Your child has developed a communicable disease.
2. You will be out of town
3. Your telephone number (home or work) has changed.
4. You wish to change or add to the emergency contact numbers we are to use.
5. **IF THERE IS ANY CHANGE IN TRANSPORTATION.** We will not allow a child to deviate from their regular departure routine without written or verbal verification. If there is a change in the person who is to pick up your child we require the name of that person in writing.

Parent to Teacher Communication

Conferences with individual teachers must be arranged by contacting the teacher.

Please make appointments for conferences before or after school hours. Teachers may also be available during their breaks; however you must make an appointment during this time.

PLEASE DO NOT ENGAGE IN PARENT CONFERENCES DURING ARRIVAL/
DISMISSAL OF STUDENTS, IN THE HALLWAYS OR DURING CLASSROOM
TIME.

Always attempt to resolve issues/conflicts with the teacher before coming to administration. Most issues can be resolved when you have open and honest communication with your child's teacher. Order of contact to resolve an issue is:

Teacher → Assistant Principal → Principal

Authorization for Medication

Miami-Dade County School Board policy “prohibits school personnel from administering any prescribed medication without parental consent and a medication authorization form must be signed by the child’s physician and/or parent(s).”

In order for medication to be administered to your child, we must have an *Authorization for Medication Form*. This form is available in the office and must be kept on record. These forms must be completed by a pediatrician or a family doctor. Medication must be in its original container labeled with the following information: the child’s name, dosage, name of the drug, physician’s name, and the name and phone number of the pharmacy that filled the prescription. **Rigid guidelines are followed in administering medication.**

Accidents/Injuries

Parents will be notified immediately in case of illness or an accident. In the event that a parent cannot be located, the person(s) named on the emergency contact cards will be contacted. **It is your responsibility to make sure that these numbers are current and accurate.** Please notify the office immediately of any accident or injury which occurred during arrival or departure from school.

Children who are ill should remain at home to minimize the risk of passing the illness onto others. Please notify us of any contagious illness your child has so we may alert other parents. In addition, please notify the school of any chronic condition your child may have.

Field Trips

All trips planned by the school are for specific educational purposes. Participation in field trips requires the student to present a field trip form signed by the parent/guardian to his or her teacher in advance. Students going on a field trip must assume the responsibility for any necessary fee. Please keep in mind that once the field trip has been paid, the school will not issue a refund. If a hardship exists where a student cannot afford the cost of the field trip, please notify the teacher. Parent chaperones must not bring siblings along, as they are not covered by insurance. All parents attending field trips must be cleared through the Volunteer Safety Program. **ONLY 5 CHAPERONES PER FIELD TRIP.**

Students will not be released to **anyone** during a field trip for **any reason**. Authorized persons who wish to have a student released early must report to the main office to sign out the child and wait for the child to return with their class from the field trip.

Outstanding Fees

Please be aware that all outstanding fees must be resolved in full by the last day of school. Fees may include but shall not be limited to: lost books, library fees, lunch accounts, before/after care fees, and any and all fees which may accrue in the normal course. Financial obligation notices will be sent as reminders throughout the school year.

Internet and Media Use Policy

No recording, either photographic or audio/visual in nature may be made on school property without the express authorization of the administration. No document or media existing now or in the future and which impacts the School and/or disrupts the learning environment, relating to the School, its staff or students, including but not limited to photographs, letters, yearbooks, and other material may be published in any public forum or media without the express authorization of the administration. Furthermore, the unauthorized use of the Somerset Academy School name and/or any of its logos is expressly prohibited. For purposes of this section, the term “public forum or media includes but shall not be limited to publicly accessible websites and web forums, newspapers, print and other media sources.

Access and use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and its use must support the educational objectives of the school. Students must always get permission from their teachers prior to using the Internet. In addition, the school prohibits the transmission of materials such as copyright material, threatening or obscene material or material protected by trade secret, which violate local, state, and federal law or regulation, as well as the use of the Internet for product advertisement, commercial activities, political campaigning or solicitation.

Lost and Found

A lost and found area will be designated in the lunch pavilion. To minimize the quantity of lost and found articles, we ask that you please write your child’s name on everything he/she brings to school.

Use of Student Photographs or Videotape

Photographs or video of classroom activities will be taken throughout the year and may be published on our web site, public newspapers, and in any advertising the school may have.

Please note that your child’s full name may be posted on such mediums when he/she is recognized for accomplishments or participation in events. If you object to this use, please contact the main office upon registration.

Academic Recovery

If the School identifies your student as requiring additional instruction and/or remediation including but not limited to: mandatory tutoring, summer school, etc., attendance at and successful completion shall be required.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Please note: all students enrolled in Somerset Academy are students of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, subject to applicable policies.

SOMERSET academy south miami

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM TO YOUR CHILD'S HOMEROOM TEACHER:

I/ We the undersigned parent/guardian of _____ [Student Name], have read the Somerset Parent/Student Handbook, including uniform policy and the M-DCPS Student Code of Conduct and hereby agree to abide by the policies and procedures of Somerset Academy.

As a parent I understand the importance of the M-DCPS Code of Student Conduct, which can be accessed at: <http://www.dadeschools.net/handbook/Code/index.htm> and is available in the school's main office. The Code of Student Conduct was reviewed and referenced by me at the time of registration, along with the Parent/Student Handbook, and I agree to abide by all of its contents.

We understand the policies set forth in this Somerset Academy Parent Contract and will abide by them.

Name of Student: _____

Teacher: _____ Grade: _____

(Signature of Parent/ Guardian)

(Date)

(Signature of Student)

(Date)