

March 22, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we welcome the freshness and renewal of spring, we also prepare for the arrival and implementation of the Spring 2017 MCAS. All third grade students are preparing for the English/Language Arts and Mathematics components of the assessment for this spring. MCAS 2.0 will include legacy MCAS questions (former MCAS type questions), PARCC-like items and *next generation* test items. Grade three students will take the paper-based version of the test this year. It is anticipated that in the spring of 2019, we will be moving to electronic testing for grade three.

This year there are three literacy test sessions for third grade students that are approximately 60 and 45 minutes in length and two mathematics test sessions in May. Children are allotted the time they need to complete the test as the test sessions are not timed. A practice test is scheduled for Monday, April 3rd. The formal MCAS testing sessions are scheduled to begin the following day. Students will be administered one section of the test on each of these days beginning at 8:30.

The MCAS dates have changed for grade three in order to honor those families who celebrate Passover. As result, the final dates for this season's testing window are:

MCAS 2.0 Assessment Schedule is as follows:

- ★ English/Language Arts - Tuesday, April 4th, Wednesday, April 5th and Friday, April 7th
- ★ Mathematics - Wednesday, May 17th and Thursday, May 18th

State assessment tests are administered under conditions that are difficult to recreate for children who are absent or tardy; therefore student attendance during the testing days is extremely important. Please make every effort to ensure your child is present and on time. If you know of student absences, please inform your child's teacher immediately or please contact Mrs. Elaine LeBlanc in the 1-3 Office.

It is essential that all third graders arrive to school promptly. It is also recommended that your child come to school well rested and having eaten a nutritious breakfast. Break time will be made available after testing. Please provide your child with a healthy snack.

On behalf of myself and the third grade teachers, we thank you for your support and your patience as the state transitions to MCAS 2.0. Please know I can be reached at

978.465-4431 or kristinadavis@newburyport.k12.ma.us for questions or concerns.

Kindly,

Kristina Davis
Principal