



# STAFFORD TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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*"BUILDING A BETTER WORLD ONE STUDENT AT A TIME!"*

September 29, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Stafford Township School District uses a number of assessments to measure student achievement and to assist us in designing instruction that meets the needs of all students. These include state standardized tests (e.g. PARCC and NJ ASK) and other assessments (e.g. DRA, Inview). In 2001, under the federal *No Child Left Behind Act*, every state was required to test students in mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA) in grades 3 to 8 and grade 11. That mandate is still in effect under the *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015*.

We administer testing at various times, with the majority of standardized testing taking place during state-prescribed windows in the spring.

## **PARCC (State Assessment)**

New Jersey will again be administering the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) in mathematics and English language arts. The PARCC assessments were created to measure student's ability to apply their knowledge of concepts rather than memorizing facts. The PARCC assessments require students to solve problems using mathematical reasoning and to be able to model mathematical principles. In English Language Arts (ELA), students will be required to closely read multiple passages and to write essay responses in literary analysis, research tasks and narrative tasks.

For more information on PARCC testing, visit <http://www.parcconline.org/resources/parent-resources>. If you would like to have your student see Mathematics and Language Arts practice tests visit: <http://www.parcconline.org/assessments/practice-tests>.

Students will be allowed to utilize the Accessibility Features available to them during testing. Additionally, there will be presentation, response or timing/scheduling accommodations for students with disabilities and English language learners. These are identified through a personal needs profile. For students with IEP's, it would be the child's case manager and for 504 students, this could be the building principal. For more information on the PARCC Accessibility Features and Accommodations, visit <http://www.parcconline.org/assessments/accessibility>.

PARCC testing will be taking place at three primary test locations. There will also be a number of small group test sites to accommodate our testing needs. All students will be using a chrome book to take the PARCC test. A schedule for testing is provided with this letter.

## **NJ ASK SCIENCE (State Assessment)**

New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge - Science (NJASK Science) measures 4th grade students' ability to recall information and to solve problems by applying science concepts. The Science test assesses knowledge and application skills in three clusters: Life Science, Earth Science, and Physical Science. The assessment is administered via paper and pencil. For more information visit <http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/njask/>

### **ALTERNATIVE PROFICENCY ASSESSMENT in SCIENCE (APA)-(State Assessment)**

Alternate Proficiency Assessment in Science (APA) is a portfolio assessment designed to measure progress toward achieving New Jersey's state educational standards for those students with the most significant intellectual disabilities who are unable to participate in the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJASK) Science. For more information visit:

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/apa/>

### **DYNAMIC LEARNING MAPS (DLM) (State Assessment)**

Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) is the alternate assessment for students with the most significant intellectual disabilities in English Language Arts and Mathematics. The district administers the DLM in the spring to all students in Grades 3 - 11 who are eligible for the assessment as determined by their IEP team. The assessment is administered via a computer and is administered over the course of several days in the spring. For more information visit:

[http://www.dynamiclearningmaps.org/sites/default/files/documents/dlm\\_parent\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.dynamiclearningmaps.org/sites/default/files/documents/dlm_parent_brochure.pdf)

### **INVIEW ASSESSMENT (District Assessment)**

The InView Assessment for Grades 2 measures the skills and abilities most directly related to academic success. It provides the school district with:

- An accurate and reliable measure of inductive and deductive reasoning processes—abilities crucial for academic success
- A valuable measure of quantitative reasoning, not reliant on math questions and free of gender bias
- Insightful information about student skills that are valid predictors of student academic success
- The ability to identify students for placement in the most appropriate learning programs

The District administers the InView Assessment to all students in Grades 2 on April 18, 2017 and April 19, 2017. The assessment is administered with paper and pencil in a classroom setting and takes approximately 150 minutes to administer. For more information visit:

<http://www.ctb.com/ctb.com/control/ctbProductViewAction?productFamilyId=449&productId=875&p=products>

### **Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA2)-(District Assessment)**

The DRA2 is a benchmark assessment that is a formative reading assessment in which teachers are able to systemically observe, record, and evaluate changes in student reading performance. The DRA2 provides teachers with information that helps them determine a student's independent reading level and to focus on specific goals that the student needs to learn next. The assessment is administered one-on-one. Time varies by student. The district will administer the DRA in Fall and Spring.

Should you have any questions in regards to these assessments, feel free to contact your child's principal or myself.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Bush

Director

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## SCHEDULE OF STATE ASSESSMENTS

### Stafford Intermediate School:

For students taking the following:	Administration Dates	Testing Times	Unit Testing Time	Requirement for graduation	Results Available
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics	March 28, 2017 March 29, 2017 March 30, 2017	8:15 am- 10:00 am	Unit 1: 80 minutes Unit 2: 80 minutes Unit 3: 80 minutes	N/A	September 2017
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics	March 28, 2017 March 29, 2017 March 30, 2017 March 31, 2017	10:15 am- 12:00 pm	Unit 1: 60 minutes Unit 2: 60 minutes Unit 3: 60 minutes Unit 4: 60 minutes	N/A	September 2017
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts	April 3, 2017 April 4, 2017 April 5, 2017	8:10 am- 10:00 am	Unit 1: 110 minutes Unit 2: 110 minutes Unit 3: 90 minutes	N/A	September 2017
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts	April 3, 2017 April 4, 2017 April 5, 2017	10:15 am- 12:00 pm	Unit 1: 90 minutes Unit 2: 90 minutes Unit 3: 90 minutes	N/A	September 2017

### McKinley Avenue School:

For students taking the following:	Administration Dates	Testing Times	Unit Testing Time	Requirement for graduation	Results Available
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics	April 19, 2017 April 20, 2017 April 21, 2017 April 24, 2017	8:15 am- 10:00 am	Unit 1: 60 minutes Unit 2: 60 minutes Unit 3: 60 minutes Unit 4: 60 minutes	N/A	September 2017
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Mathematics	April 19, 2017 April 20, 2017 April 21, 2017 April 24, 2017	10:15 am- 12:00 pm	Unit 1: 60 minutes Unit 2: 60 minutes Unit 3: 60 minutes Unit 4: 60 minutes	N/A	September 2017
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts	April 25, 2017 April 26, 2017 April 27, 2017	8:15 am- 10:00 am	Unit 1: 90 minutes Unit 2: 75 minutes Unit 3: 90 minutes	N/A	September 2017
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade English Language Arts	April 25, 2017 April 26, 2017 April 27, 2017	10:15 am- 12:00 pm	Unit 1: 90 minutes Unit 2: 90 minutes Unit 3: 90 minutes	N/A	September 2017
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade NJ ASK-SCIENCE	May 31, 2017			N/A	September 2017

Make-up testing for the PARCC will be on-going. The window to complete tests is May 19, 2017. The make-up day for 4<sup>th</sup> grade NJ ASK Science is June 7, 2017.

### Alternative Assessments:

For students taking the following:	Administration Dates	Testing Times	Assessment Type	Requirement for graduation	Results Available
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Alternate Proficiency Assessment in Science (APA)	September 1, 2016 to November 11, 2016  December 5, 2016 to February 10, 2017	First Collection Period  Second Collection Period	Portfolio Collection *activities vary by student needs	N/A	September 2017
Grades 3-6 Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)	April 3, 2017 to May 19, 2017	*Varies by student needs	Computer Based Assessment	N/A	September 2017