

MADISON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mark Schwarz, *Superintendent*



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Dear Families,

I hope this email finds you well and enjoying the turn of weather as we move into Spring. Along with the chirping of birds, the smell of freshly cut grass, and the yawning bloom of flowers, the Spring months also bring a number of state assessments that are administered each year. This letter serves to outline the testing that will occur and how you and your child can participate in it in a productive manner. Each school will also be sending specific information regarding the testing logistics for the affected grades.

State testing is politically controversial and reasonable arguments regarding its value can be made by adherents on both sides of the issue. While changes may be made in the future, school districts must operate under the current regulations, which require us to administer certain assessments and which tie high school graduation to detailed assessment proficiency metrics. The tests at issue include the PARCC assessment in Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA), which is administered to students in grades 3-11, and the new State Learning Assessment in Science, which is being field tested this year in grades 5, 8, and 11 to assess the revised state science standards. Specific information regarding each assessment and the district's planned administration dates can be found on the following page.

Please know that the district's position is that students who are eligible for testing should participate and work to the best of their ability to reach proficiency. This approach ensures that the data we receive will provide meaningful feedback that can be harnessed in our continued mission to improve our programs.

The long-term health of the school community can be supported through this approach in a number of ways. Consider the following possible scenarios:

- You have a child in 8th grade and a child in 4th grade. If the results from the 8th grade PARCC assessment indicate that the district has particular performance issues, those curricular or instructional needs can be addressed so that your child in 4th grade will have an improved educational experience upon entering 8th grade.
- District performance reports may indicate that students in certain demographic groups are performing significantly below their peers. The results from these assessments help us to identify areas in which structural improvements may be needed to support all learners.
- A number of school ranking platforms use state assessment data to calculate scores for schools or districts. High levels of participation and dedicated performance will ensure that the reported data accurately reflects the performance of students in our district.

We appreciate your willingness to participate in this process with us and I look forward to the ongoing dialogue regarding assessment. Madison Public Schools has had many years of high participation rates, which is a testament to the dedication and thoughtfulness of our community about this issue. If you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Ross, Esq.
Director of Curriculum and Instruction



Assessment Information for Spring 2018

Assessments Detail

	PARCC	NJSLS-SCIENCE	AP	DLM
Who takes?	Grade 3–8 and HS	Grades 5, 8, 11	HS students enrolled in AP courses	Students with significant intellectual disabilities
Subject(s)	Math and ELA	Science	All	Math and ELA: 3-8, 11 Science: 5, 8, 11
Window	Computer: 4/16-5/25 Paper: 4/16-4/27	Computer: 5/7-6/8 Paper: 5/14-5/25	5/7-5/18	4/9-5/25
District Testing Dates	Grades 3-5: 5/2-5/11 Grades 6-8: 5/11-5/25 Grades 9-11: 4/25-5/25	All: 5/29-5/31	5/7-5/18	Concurrent with PARCC testing
Key				(Same as PARCC)

Assessments Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
April 23	24	25	26	27
		HS: ELA Unit 1	HS: ELA Unit 2	HS: ELA Unit 3
April 30	May 1	2	3	4
HS: ELA Makeups	HS: ELA Makeups	3-5: ELA Unit 1 HS: ELA Makeups	3-5: ELA Unit 2 HS: ELA Makeups	3-5: ELA Unit 3 HS: ELA Makeups
7	8	9	10	11
3-5: Math Unit 1	3-5: Math Unit 2	3-5: Math Unit 3	3-5: Math Unit 4	3-5: Makeups 6-8: ELA Unit 1
HS: AP Testing	HS: AP Testing	HS: AP Testing	HS: AP Testing	HS: AP Testing
14	15	16	17	18
6-8: ELA Unit 2	6-8: ELA Unit 3 HS: Math Unit 1	6-8: Math Unit 1 HS: Math Unit 2	6-8: Math Unit 2 HS: Math Unit 3	6-8: Math Unit 3
HS: AP Testing	HS: AP Testing	HS: AP Testing	HS: AP Testing	HS: AP Testing
21	22	23	24	25
6-8: Makeups HS: Math Makeups	6-8: Makeups HS: Math Makeups	6-8: Makeups HS: Math Makeups	6-8: Makeups HS: Math Makeups	6-8: Makeups HS: Math Makeups
28	29	30	31	June 1
	All: Science Testing	All: Science Testing	All: Science Testing	