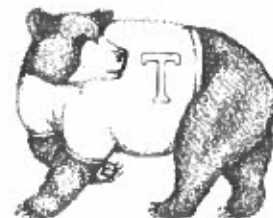


THOMASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Educate ~ Challenge ~ Inspire



March 3, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Your children—and all Thomaston students—deserve an education that prepares them to thrive in and beyond the classroom. Connecticut holds schools accountable for delivering on this promise in two ways: (1) by defining challenging content that students must learn; and (2) annually testing to see if students learn that content.

To see how well elementary and middle school students are learning, Connecticut uses the following tests:

- Grades 3 through 8—ELA and Mathematics: Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA)
- Grades 5 and 8—Science: Next Generation Science Standards Assessment (NGSS) – **New!**
 - This test replaces the now-outdated Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT). The NGSS Assessment has been developed in alignment with the Next Generation Science Standards, adopted within Connecticut in 2015.

Think of assessments like academic checkups. They help teachers and parents see where students are compared with where they need to be. The results can reveal areas where students excel and where they need help. As a district, we analyze assessment results to make important, data-driven improvements to our curriculum and instruction that help us to ensure all students are receiving an education that best prepares them for success both now and in the future.

This year, all required state tests will be taken on computers. Computer testing enables assessment of more complex skills in less time. It also provides more supports for students with disabilities. Please note, all computerized tests are technically untimed. Students are provided as much time over as many days as needed to finish each test.

Our schedule for testing this year is as follows:

| | Grade 3 | Grade 4 | Grade 5 | Grade 6 | Grade 7 | Grade 8 |
|---------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| SBA ELA | May 3-4 | May 1-2 | May 1-2 | May 1-2 | May 10 | May 10 |
| SBA Math | May 9-11 | May 8-10 | May 8-10 | May 8-10 | May 15-16 | May 15-16 |
| NGSS Science | | | April 4 | | | March 27 |

On days of scheduled testing, it is particularly important that all students come to school prepared to perform their best. Students should arrive to school on time and well rested; a good night's sleep is always essential for school success, but it is even more important during assessments. Please also be sure your child eats a nutritious breakfast on these days as no snacks will be served prior to test administration. If your child is tardy to school or is ill and needs to stay home on a testing date, please be aware that he/she may have to take the test(s) missed during a scheduled makeup session.

For more information and resources related to district assessments, you may also visit our website at www.thomastonschools.org (under "Board of Ed" and "Curriculum" tabs) or the Connecticut State Department of Education webpage at <http://www.sde.ct.gov>. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Eric Martin

Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Thomaston Public Schools

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