

MESABI EAST SCHOOLS

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Monday, September 15, 2014

Parents:

This letter serves to summarize the testing requirements on the students of Mesabi East for the upcoming year. In addition to taking the MCA's, Mesabi East students have been selected to participate in NAEP testing. Please also note the new requirements for grade 8, 10, and 11 students that are a result of state and federal legislation.

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA's) are very important to gauge the progress of students and of the school, and are used to determine whether a school has made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

This year, all MCA Reading, Mathematics and Science tests will be online, taken on a computer in one of the computer labs.

The MCA-III Mathematics tests for grades 3-8 are structured in 4 segments. With the exception of Segment 3, which is much shorter (and does not allow a calculator), the segments are each expected to take approximately 30-40 minutes but students are not timed, and can take as much time as they need per question, and per segment. Segments need not be completed in one sitting.

The MCA-III Reading tests for grades 3-8 and 10 are segmented into reading passages of various lengths, with a varying number of questions per passage. The MCA-III Science tests for grades 5, 8, and 10 are structured similarly to the reading test, having scientific *scenarios*, with each scenario having a varying number of questions.

Students are given only one opportunity to take the MCA-III Mathematics, Reading, and Science tests for state reporting purposes. The OLPA (Optional Local-Purpose Assessment) is available up to two times for Mathematics and once for Reading. The OLPA is an optional test, similar to the MCA, and is not used for reporting purposes. Students' OLPA scores are available to teachers for evaluation and instructional purposes, but are not reported to the state. Our district has elected to have all students in grades 3-8 take advantage of one OLPA Reading opportunity and one OLPA Math opportunity.

This year's **4th-grade students** will also be participating in NAEP testing. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas.

Beginning this year, there are some new graduation requirements for Minnesota high school students. Starting this fall, all students in the 8th grade will be required to take the EXPLORE

test, and all 10th grade students will be required to take the PLAN test. All juniors will be required to take the ACT Plus Writing test on April 28 (regardless of whether they have taken it already - or plan to take it - on a Saturday administration date). All three of these tests include mathematics, English, science, and reading, and can aid in career and college preparation. The EXPLORE and PLAN assessments can function as a predictive model for performance on the ACT. Predicting performance on the ACT at grades 8 and 10 is a requirement of 2013 legislation.

Also beginning this year, and based on results of the PLAN test in 10th grade and/or prior MCA results, select 10th-grade students will be asked to participate in the ACT Compass assessment before taking the ACT Plus Writing in their junior year. ACT's Compass is a graduation assessment required by MDE of selected students, based on past performance measures in grade 10, who need additional assessment to determine areas of need for post-secondary success.

Please find enclosed with this letter the schedule of all testing dates.

Some things you can do to help your child to prepare for testing:

- have them get a good night's sleep
- have them eat a good breakfast
- be supportive - encourage them to do their best

For more information on required state testing, please see the **Parents** section of the Minnesota Department of Education website:

- testing requirements:
- <http://www.education.state.mn.us/MDE/JustParent/TestReq/index.html>
- career and college planning:
- <http://www.education.state.mn.us/mde/justparent/collprep/index.html>

For more information on NAEP, please see <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/>

For access to MCA Item Sampler questions, practice materials, and other student and parent resources, as well as *individualized lessons for your child based on their past MCA scores* using the **Pearson Learning Locator**, please see <http://www.pearsonaccess.com/> You will receive a separate notification from us with information regarding your child's Learning Locator if you have not already.

You can stay informed of all assessment information related to our district and find a variety of other online resources at our **Mesabi East Assessment & Data website** at www.isd2711assessment.weebly.com.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the following at 229-3321:

<i>Kim Yuretich - Math Teacher, School Assessment Coordinator</i>	<i>ext. 276</i>
<i>Erik Erie - High School Principal, District Assessment Coordinator</i>	<i>ext. 212</i>
<i>Amy Maki - Elementary Principal</i>	<i>ext. 208</i>
<i>Dave Janssen - Counselor</i>	<i>ext. 211</i>

Required Tests and Testing Dates

**makeup sessions for any students absent for any part of an MCA or OLPA test will be scheduled within a day or two after each test session concludes.*

Grade	Test	Date(s)
3	OLPA Reading OLPA Mathematics MCA-III Reading MCA-III Mathematics	Jan. 6-9, 2015 Jan. 20-23, 2015 March 23-26, 2015 April 20-23, 2015
4	OLPA Reading OLPA Mathematics NAEP MCA-III Reading MCA-III Mathematics	Jan. 6-9, 2015 Jan. 20-23, 2015 January 27 March 23-26, 2015 April 20-23, 2015
5	OLPA Reading OLPA Mathematics MCA-III Reading MCA-III Mathematics MCA-III Science	Jan. 12-15, 2015 Jan. 26-29, 2015 March 9-12, 2015 April 7-10, 2015 May 11-12, 2015
6	OLPA Reading OLPA Mathematics MCA-III Reading MCA-III Mathematics	Jan. 12-15, 2015 Jan. 26-29, 2015 March 9-12, 2015 April 7-10, 2015
7	OLPA Reading OLPA Mathematics MCA-III Reading MCA-III Mathematics	Feb. 2-5, 2015 Feb. 9-12, 2015 March 16-19, 2015 April 13-15, 2015
8	ACT EXPLORE OLPA Reading OLPA Mathematics MCA-III Reading MCA-III Mathematics MCA-III Science	November 12 Feb. 2-5, 2015 Feb. 9-12, 2015 March 16-19, 2015 April 13-15, 2015 May 11-13, 2015
10	ACT PLAN MCA-III Reading MCA-III Science ACT Compass (*select students)	November 12 April 28-30 May 11-14, 2015 Dates TBD
11	ASVAB ACT Plus Writing MCA-III Mathematics	November 12 April 28 (make-up May 12) May 5-7, 2015