

# MESABI EAST SCHOOLS

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Aurora, MN 55705

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Principal Amy Maki - Ext. 208  
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Monday, February 23, 2015

Parents:

This letter serves to summarize the testing requirements on the students of Mesabi East for the remainder of the 2014-2015 schoolyear.

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).

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 students can take as much time as they need per question, and per segment.

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, and these tests have all been completed.

Beginning this year, there are some new requirements for Minnesota high school students. 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). This test includes segments on mathematics, English, science, reading, and writing, and can aid in career and college preparation. **It is very important that all juniors are present on April 28 and are well-prepared for the ACT. Please make sure to schedule appointments on a different day whenever possible.**

Please find enclosed with this letter the schedule of the remaining testing dates for this schoolyear.

**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 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 your child's teacher with information regarding your child's updated Learning Locator after each OLPA and MCA test.

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](http://www.isd2711assessment.weebly.com).

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

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

## Required Tests and Testing Dates - remainder of this year

*\*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.*

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Test</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
<b>3</b>	<i>MCA-III Reading MCA-III Mathematics</i>	<i>March 23-26, 2015 April 20-23, 2015</i>
<b>4</b>	<i>MCA-III Reading MCA-III Mathematics</i>	<i>March 23-26, 2015 April 20-23, 2015</i>
<b>5</b>	<i>MCA-III Reading MCA-III Mathematics MCA-III Science</i>	<i>March 9-12, 2015 April 7-10, 2015 May 11-12, 2015</i>
<b>6</b>	<i>MCA-III Reading MCA-III Mathematics</i>	<i>March 9-12, 2015 April 7-10, 2015</i>
<b>7</b>	<i>MCA-III Reading MCA-III Mathematics</i>	<i>March 16-19, 2015 April 13-15, 2015</i>
<b>8</b>	<i>MCA-III Reading MCA-III Mathematics MCA-III Science</i>	<i>March 16-19, 2015 April 13-15, 2015 May 11-13, 2015</i>
<b>10</b>	<i>MCA-III Reading MCA-III Science ACT Compass (*select students)</i>	<i>April 28-30 May 11-14, 2015 Dates TBD</i>
<b>11</b>	<i>ACT Plus Writing MCA-III Mathematics</i>	<i>April 28 (make-up May 12) May 5-7, 2015</i>