

Chesterfield Township School District

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From the Main Office

October 1, 2021

Re: Start Strong Fall 2021 Assessments

Dear Parents and Guardians of 4th, 5th, and 6th Grades,

The Start Strong assessments are being administered in fall 2021 in place of the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) that were originally scheduled for spring 2021. The Start Strong assessments provide schools and districts with the opportunity to assess students' unique needs at the beginning of the school year.

The Start Strong assessments:

- Are based on a subset of prioritized prior-year academic standards.
- Must be taken by students in English Language Arts (ELA) grades 4-10; Mathematics grades 4-8; Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II courses; and Science grades 6,9, and 12*.
- Use the same online systems, PearsonAccess (PAN) and TestNav, as the NJSLA.
- Are limited to a testing time of 60 minutes per content area.
- Will provide same-day results.
- Are available in English and Spanish, plus a full array of accommodated versions.

*Students who are newly arrived English Language Learners (ELLs), and who enrolled in United States schools after June 1 of the prior school year, may be exempted from taking the Start Strong in ELA, but must still test in math and science.

Students with the most significant intellectual disabilities who will take the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) assessments according to their Individualized Education Program (IEP) are also exempt from taking the Start Strong.

Chesterfield Elementary School strives to build a premier institution of learning where students are challenged to their fullest potential in a safe and caring environment.

Below is the tentative schedule for Start Strong:

Wednesday, October 13th (ELA): 4th Grade 1:00pm, 5th Grade 9:30am, 6th Grade 9:15am
Thursday, October 14th (Math): 4th Grade 1:00pm, 5th Grade 9:30am, 6th Grade 9:15am
Friday, October 15th (Science): 6th Grade Only 9:15am

Each test will be 60 minutes per content area.

Students that arrive late to school during the above administration dates may not enter the classroom until the session has been completed. These students will be scheduled to complete a make-up assessment later in the assessment cycle. We are asking for your help in making sure that your children arrive at school promptly during this time period.

As recommended for past assessments, the following general suggestions may assist your child:

- *Students should attempt to have a good night sleep on administration nights and have a healthy/nutritious breakfast. This will help to reduce any anxiety, increase energy and the ability to concentrate.*
- *Encourage your child to do his/her best without over-emphasizing the importance of the test. Try not to be over anxious yourself. Children pick up on adult anxiety.*
- *Be positive about this experience.*

Any students that are absent during the administration of this assessment will need to complete a make-up assessment. These will be scheduled during October 18th-20th.

Another note that I want to bring to your attention involves cell phones. Obviously, the use of any type of personal electronic device (in particular cell phones or smart watches) is strictly restricted. This is a secure assessment and it has been recommended by the NJ Dept. of Education that school districts make sure parents and students all understand what is involved with this assessment. All students prior to testing will “sign off” that they are not in possession of these devices at the testing site. Test administrators will secure any student electronic devices, leave them in a non-testing location and then return them to students after testing has been completed.

If you have any questions regarding the above information or any other related item, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher, any member of the administrative team, or myself.

Sincerely,

Joseph H. Slavin III
Interim Principal