

Chesterfield Township School District

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Office of the Principal

April 10, 2019

Re: New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) administration dates & 5th Grade Science assessment

Good Afternoon 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th Grade Parents and Guardians,

As you may be aware, the state of New Jersey is no longer requiring public schools to use the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers(PARCC). We have used this assessment for the past several years. The new assessment New Jersey public schools will be using in replacement of PARCC is called the *New Jersey Student Learning Assessment(NJSLA)*. It is also an online assessment.

However, several items with NJSLA are different than with PARCC. Some of the items are:

**ELA has been reduced from 3 units to 2 units.*

**Both in ELA and Math, testing times are the same as with PARCC or have been reduced.*

Regarding Chesterfield School, there are also several other changes to note from previous years. First, because the school purchased additional chrome devices last year, we will be able to test two grade levels at the same time this year. This will assist us in reducing the entire testing window for the school. Also, due to the reduction of testing units/times, we will no longer need to change student lunch schedules. The exception to this will be for some students that have extended time due to a modification with an IEP or 504 plan.

The testing window for this assessment for elementary students in public schools in New Jersey begins in the middle of April and runs to the end of May. Below is the tentative scheduled administration dates for each of our grade levels:

5th & 6th Grade Students: April 30, May 1, 2, 3, & 6, 2019

3rd & 4th Grade Students: May 8, 9, 10, 13, & 14, 2019

Make up testing will begin on May 15, 2019 and continue until completed

5th Grade Science assessment: May 28, 29, 30, & 31.

Make up testing for this assessment will begin on June 3, 2019

We will begin administration promptly at 9:00 AM on the scheduled dates. The length of the administration time will vary from grade level to grade level and from day to day. However, we estimate that we will be completed by 10:45 to 11:00 AM each day.

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 to 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 & 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. Although at times challenging, NJSLA can be a positive, educational experience. Frame your conversation with your children as a moment in which 'they will shine.'*

Any students that are absent during the administration of this assessment will need to complete a make-up assessment. These will be scheduled during any non-assessment days within the testing window starting after May 6, 2019.

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.

Finally, last year our 5th grade students also took a Science assessment. They will again be taking this assessment this year. Although independent from NJSLA, this assessment has similar features. The exact test dates for 5th grade will depend on when we complete NJSLA make up testing. Tentatively, this has been scheduled to begin on May 28, 2019.

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

Enjoy your week the start of warm weather.

Sincerely,

Michael Mazzoni
District Test Coordinator