

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Beginning the third week of March, New Hampshire students in grades 3 through 8 and grade 11 will be assessed in the areas of English/Language Arts and Math. These Smarter Balanced assessments are new to all of us this year and represent a departure from traditional standardized paper and pencil tests. They will go beyond multiple choice questions to include extended response and performance tasks that will allow students to demonstrate critical thinking and problem solving skills to respond to complex, real world problems.

We expect that these assessments will be a bigger challenge for our students since they are required to be taken on the computer.

In preparation, we ask that you work with us to ensure that your children are ready to give their best effort. It would be most helpful if:

- they get a good night's sleep and have a good breakfast
- they are on time to school
- you encourage them not to stress over the assessments but just do their best
- you understand that since we plan to test in the mornings at the Middle/High school, some periods in the day may have to rotate to accommodate this
- you are aware that the Elementary School will be testing in the mornings and afternoons
- you do not schedule appointments for your child on testing days

More information will follow with actual testing dates. Please visit our web site under the Curriculum and Assessment area to find two important links, one for the Common Core and another for the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC).

In the meantime, thank you for your continued cooperation and support. Remember this is new to all of us and it will be a learning experience for staff as well as students.

Respectfully,

Patricia Bassett, Interim Superintendent, Director of Student Services