



March 18, 2019

Dear Families,

Beginning next Monday, students in grades 3-5 will be taking the MEA (Maine Educational Assessment) in math, reading, and writing. In addition, later in the spring fifth grade students will take the science portion of this test. We are required to give the MEA in order to operate as a public school in the state of Maine. For the first time, we will be using the computer-based version of this test. Students who have accommodations for testing written into their IEPs or 504 plans will receive these accommodations for the MEA.

We have created a schedule that spaces testing sessions out so students can get a break in between the sessions and focus on their regular classroom program. All sessions begin at 9 AM and are completed by lunchtime. **Please be sure students arrive on time for school on these days.**

Below is the schedule for testing:

5th grade: Mon. 3/25 Reading; Thurs. 3/28 Math; Wed. 4/3 Writing

4th grade: Wed. 3/27 Reading; Tues. 4/2 Math; Mon. 4/8 Writing

3rd grade: Tues. 3/26 Reading; Mon. 4/1 Math; Thurs. 4/4 Writing

We stand firm in our belief that no single test can provide a complete picture of a student. Our approach is to look at children holistically, with tests being one part of the whole portfolio of a student's work. The MEA serves as one data point, along with other standardized assessments (such as the NWEA, which is a nationally-normed test), classroom and curriculum-based assessments, student work, approach to learning, etc. All of these combined help to give us a fuller picture of our students.

You can help your student be successful on the MEA tests by encouraging a good night's sleep the night before and a hearty breakfast in the morning. Also feel free to send extra healthy snacks; the testing sessions call on a great deal of concentration by students.

If you have general questions about the MEA, please feel free to reach out to me. If you have particular questions regarding your child and the test, be in touch with your child's classroom teacher.

Sincerely,

Joanna Frankel, Coordinator of Teaching & Learning and Jacinda Cotton-Castro, Executive Director