



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Starting in March, Illinois schools will once again administer the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). These online assessments are fully aligned to the new Illinois Learning Standards in English language arts (ELA) and math which are designed to make sure each student is not only prepared for the next grade level, but also on track for postsecondary success.

The PARCC system places a greater emphasis on academic rigor, critical thinking, problem solving and college and career readiness for all students. 3 – 8 grade students will take the PARCC in both ELA and math. Students in grades 5, 8 and HS Biology will also be given the Illinois Science Assessment during March and April through an online assessment.

The PARCC was developed to be an online system, offering more accommodations and support for test takers. This year in our District, all students in grades 3 – 8 will take the online version. The PARCC assessment will take place during a thirty school day testing window.

The testing window for students in grades 3 – 8 will start in March 2018 and conclude at the end of April 2018.

High School students will take the SAT assessment as 11<sup>th</sup> graders. The testing date for the SAT is Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> with the make-up date scheduled for Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>.

You can help your child do his or her best on the test by:

- 1.) making sure, if possible, that your child attends school on the days of testing;
- 2.) making sure your child gets a good night's sleep the night before testing;
- 3.) providing breakfast on the mornings of testing;
- 4.) reminding your child to ask the teacher questions if he or she does not understand the test directions;
- 5.) letting your child know that you have confidence in his or her ability to do his or her best; and
- 6.) advising your child not to worry about the test—just do the best he or she can.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mr. James J. Greenwald', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr. James J. Greenwald Ed.S.  
Superintendent