



2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Maine Educational Assessments (MEA) includes required assessments in Mathematics, English Language Arts (ELA)/Literacy, and Science. For the 2019-20 administration, Maine will continue to utilize the eMPowerME for grades 3-8 and the SAT assessment for third-year high school students in Mathematics and ELA/Literacy. Students in grades 5, 8 and third year of high school will participate in the Science assessment. Students in grades 3-8 and third year of high school with significant cognitive disabilities will continue to participate in the Multi State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) to assess Mathematics and ELA/Literacy and a new Science Alternate Assessment (SAA) which will align to the Next Generation Standards. Maine will begin this transition to the SAA through a paper-based field test in the spring of 2020.

In the coming months, Maine will administer the eMPowerME, SAT, Science, MSAA and SAA assessments. The testing windows for the assessments are as follows:

Testing Window	Assessment	Intended for:
March 16 - April 10	eMPowerME Mathematics & ELA/Literacy	Grades 3 - 8
March 16 - May 1	MSAA Alternate Mathematics & ELA/Literacy	Grades 3 -8, third-year high school
March 30 - April 10	Science	Third-year high school
April 6 - May 22	Alternate Science Assessment (SAA)	Grades 5, 8, third-year high school
April 14	SAT Mathematics & ELA/Literacy (School day administration)	Third-year high school
April 27 - May 8	Science	Grades 5, 8
April 28	SAT Mathematics & ELA Literacy (make up)	Third-year high school

These assessments provide a snapshot of the standards that guide classroom instruction and provide valuable information about student learning. We are committed to providing accurate information to parents and families in our community about the value of student participation in statewide assessments.

As a parent, you may use the information from the assessments to help support your student at home and guide a discussion with your student's teacher to identify what, if any, additional support may be necessary in school. Teachers use this information, in combination with other forms of local data, to guide their instruction and provide more personalized activities and learning opportunities for students. While no single assessment can give a complete picture of achievement, when combined with other measures, it can provide important information about student progress.

Both the Maine Department of Education and our district are working to limit the amount of assessment at the state and district level to ensure that assessments provide meaningful information for teachers, students and families. When a student does not participate in the state assessment, valuable information is lost. We are committed to student achievement, and the MEA raises the bar for our students to ensure they are on the path to success. We are confident that with the quality instruction delivered by our dedicated educators, and your support, our students can meet and exceed these expectations. We encourage you to



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reach out to Lois Bowden or Meaghan Murphy with any questions you may have about the MEA or your student's progress.

Thank you,

Lois Bowden, Principal

Meaghan Murphy, Assistant Principal