



HADDONFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

One Lincoln Avenue
Haddonfield, New Jersey 08033-1892

Mrs. Sandra Horwitz, School Safety Coordinator and Standardized Testing Coordinator
shorwitz@haddonfield.k12.nj.us
(856) 429-4130 Ext. 6207/ Fax (856) 354-2179

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

As in previous years, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has directed New Jersey public school districts to schedule all students in Grades 3-10 to take an annual standardized assessment. This school year, the State of New Jersey is continuing their administration of the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) in the subject areas of English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics (M). Additionally, as last year, NJSLA Science (S) will be administered to grades 5, 8, and 11. These standardized assessments are aligned with our state's Common Core State Standards, and will measure your child's proficiency in the state standards by asking them to demonstrate and apply their knowledge and skills. As in previous years, students will take the assessment on an online platform called TestNav. At this point in time, we are uncertain as to the future of standardized testing in New Jersey, but as your child progresses through school, there will be some measurement of critical skills from year to year to inform parents and teachers of student learning and achievement. The NJSLA provides teachers and parents with an "academic checkup" about each child's current progress.

The NJSLA measures growth data for the current school year, and this data guides our instructional practice. Individual student results are analyzed to provide teachers with instructional guidance based on your child's academic strengths and weaknesses. Your child's current teacher needs this comprehensive information to reflect upon his or her practice and understand the instructional strengths and weakness of your child. Your child's teacher, next year, needs this data to design and differentiate instruction, accordingly. Due to the importance of this assessment, participation is mandatory. Make-up test sessions are planned in advance for students who are unavoidably absent on testing days.

Please make every effort to have your child in school during your school's testing period so that he or she participates in this testing. Make-up testing will occur prior to May 29, 2020. Over the course of the school year, your child will be participating in practice sessions on how to use the testing platform and how to answer the types of questions that will be on the assessment. We are confident that the testing process will be a smooth and comfortable experience. Please let me know if your child experiences otherwise.

Students in Grade 5 will participate in the Science portion of the assessment this spring, as well. The testing format for Science is the same as ELA and Math, so students will be acclimated with the test platform. As with the NJSLA for ELA and Math, this test will inform us on Science achievement and guide our practice in this area. More information will follow, as we get closer to the test dates.

The results of the assessments will be made available to parents in September. A hard copy report will be mailed to you with instructions on how to obtain guidelines to interpret the results.

If you should have any questions or concerns about the upcoming assessments, please do not hesitate to contact me at: 856-429- 4130 ext. 6207 or at shorwitz@haddonfield.k12.nj.us Thank you.