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Dear Parents,

As you are aware, the PARCC (Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Career) assessment will be administered to students in grades three through eleven this Spring. Students will be tested in English Language Arts and Mathematics during the months of March and late April into May. We are currently in the process of finalizing the schedule for the Intermediate, Middle and High Schools.

Our district will administer the computer-based PARCC test. Because the test is computer-based and new to students, a short amount of time will be provided for students to become familiar with the types of navigation tools on the test in the coming months.

PARCC tests will more closely assess student mastery of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in Language Arts and Math. Additional information can be found at the following website:

<http://parcconline.org/for-parents>

Please see the attached Frequently Asked Questions document for more information. If you have additional questions as to how this might impact your child's education, please feel free to contact me, the building principal, or your child's teacher. Thank you.

Linda Gringeri
Linda Gringeri

Director of Curriculum & Instruction

PARCC FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is PARCC?

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a computer-based assessment of Mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy Skills that measure whether students are on track to be successful in college and careers and if students are meeting the common core state standards. The PARCC assessments replace the NJ ASK (grades 3-8) and the HSPA in grade 11.

Will the PARCC assessment be used for academic placement for the 2015-16 school year?

No. Multiple measures are used to provide the data needed to appropriately place students.

When will the PARCC be administered?

The PARCC assessment is composed of two parts, the Performance-Based Assessment (PBA) and the End-of-Year (EOY) assessment. Beginning March 2, 2015, the PBA portion will be administered to all students in grades three through eleven. On this test, students will need to analyze literature, complete a narrative writing task, solve mathematical problems, express mathematical reasoning and apply concepts to solve model real-world problems. Many of these questions will require longer, written responses. Beginning April 20, 2015, the EOY will be administered to these same students. This portion will involve shorter responses and more multiple choice type questions. Specific dates are being arranged during the 20 day period.

What is the difference between the Performance-Based Assessment and the End-of-Year component?

The PBA administration occurs after approximately 75% of instructional time is complete. The English Language Arts PBA will focus on writing effectively when analyzing text. The Mathematics PBA will focus on applying skills and concepts and understanding multistep problems that require abstract reasoning, precision, perseverance and strategic use of tools.

The EOY administration occurs after approximately 90% of instructional time is complete. For the EOY, students will demonstrate their acquired skills and knowledge by answering selected-response questions.

How is Delran preparing our students academically?

All curricula are aligned to the Common Core State Standards and the instructional sequence has been reorganized to address the most crucial PARCC content before testing begins in March. PARCC testing mirrors the kind of high quality work students are already doing in our classrooms every day.

Are there sample PARCC assessments available?

There are PARCC tutorials that demonstrate how to navigate the test.

<http://parcc.pearson.com/tutorial/>

There are also sample practice tests.

<http://parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests/>

Will the Performance-Based Assessment (PBA) and the End-of-Year (EOY) Assessment be scored separately?

No. Students will receive a single score report that brings together the student's performance on both assessments. Students will receive a proficiency level.

Is a student who does not pass the PARCC Assessment required to retake the assessment?

No. A student will not retake an assessment or retake the course based on their PARCC scores.

When will the 2015 PARCC scores be available to districts?

Student score reports will be available in the fall of 2015.

Are accommodations available for students with disabilities or protected under Section 504 of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act?

Yes. The PARCC Accessibility and Accommodations Manual (website is below) provides guidance to districts and decision making teams to ensure that the PARCC assessments provide valid results for all participating students.

<http://www.parconline.org/parcc-accessibility-features-and-accommodations-manual>