



Hopatcong Borough Schools
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March 1, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This spring, students in grades 3-11 will once again partake in the administration of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). Our district has demonstrated notable growth over the last two years on this assessment with regard to both participation rates and student achievement. This is largely due to a number of factors: revamping the curricula to support the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (formerly Common Core), increasing students' familiarity with the technological components of the assessment, the availability of extra academic support programs, as well as support from Hopatcong families.

The district's administrative team has worked hard to create efficient testing schedules to minimize the disruption to the regular school day. Schools will individually select the most appropriate dates to administer the assessment during the period of late March through early May. Due to the accrual of additional Chromebooks, more students are able to be tested simultaneously, decreasing the total number of testing days in some cases. To learn more about this assessment, our district website has a variety of PARCC-related resources and links which you may find helpful.

Although your child's attendance at the PARCC administration sessions is of utmost importance for state reporting purposes, the information families and districts are able to obtain from these assessments is truly invaluable. Results contain individualized and categorical student data that analyze student growth and provide feedback about the quality of our curricula which reference Common Core standards. At this time, PARCC data is NOT used for student course level placement but successful completion of PARCC is required by the State of New Jersey in order to issue a high school diploma. Students in the classes of 2017, 2018 and 2019 MUST demonstrate proficiency on both Mathematics and English Language Arts PARCC exams and approved alternate assessments in order to be eligible to graduate high school. Going forward, the class of 2020 will need to

demonstrate proficiency on specific PARCC assessments and will *not* be able to provide satisfactory results on alternative assessments as a substitution.

It is imperative that parents do their due diligence in reviewing all of this information prior to considering exercising their right of refusal with regard to their child's participation in the upcoming PARCC administration. After much consideration, parents may refuse their child's participation by contacting the district Director of Guidance, Mrs. Jaime Walker, in writing by March 15th. As always, feel free to reach out to me, Mrs. Walker, or other district administrators with any questions or concerns. Additional building-based information containing specific testing information and schedules will be disseminated to parents in the near future.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Regards,

Cynthia Randina

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Superintendent of Schools