

HACKETTSTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL

WILLIAM THOMPSON
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Dear Parents,

Like last year, students across the State of New Jersey will once again be taking the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments to gauge students' acquisition of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS). The PARCC assessments will once again be administered via computers instead of traditional standardized assessments that were given with paper and pencil.

Students in grades 7th & 8th will take the PARCC assessments April 10th – April 12th and May 1st – May 3rd (6 days of testing). The assessments include English Language Arts and Mathematics. Students in grades 5th & 6th will take the PARCC assessments from May 5th – May 12th, and their assessments also include English Language Arts and Mathematics. Make-ups will be completed within the above testing times when possible, and also from May 15th – May 17th. Please note, students will be taking the above PARCC assessments in lieu of NJ ASK assessments this school year. The only exception is 8th grade Science, which our 8th graders will take on May 31st.

With regards to these assessments, HMS believes the best preparation is quality, daily instruction. Our educators will continue to design engaging learning experiences aimed at assisting students in acquiring the knowledge and skills outlined in the NJSLS, which will enable them to demonstrate their understanding on PARCC. In addition to the primary focus mentioned above, HMS will “expose” students to the PARCC platform, so they are familiar with the test’s format and its technology.

I encourage you to try a PARCC practice test yourself, so you are familiar with the assessments your child will be taking. You can access the practice tests by visiting <http://parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests/>, and by clicking on the test of your choice.

As we administer these assessments, I believe HMS will continue to be a place where educators are deeply committed to the process of learning, not testing, and students continue to try their very best. In helping students do their best, please remember the age old advice of eating a healthy breakfast and getting a good night’s sleep. As always, I thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

William Thompson
Principal



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