

EAST ORANGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
DIONNE WARWICK INSTITUTE
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March 1, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you may well know, the time is rapidly approaching to administer the PARCC Assessments to our students. PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) is a test that public school students in New Jersey, grades 3-11, will take in the Spring of 2016. It replaces the Literacy and Math portions of NJASK and HSPA standardized tests that were administered in previous years. Grade 4 students will still take the paper based NJASK for science. Students will be tested in English/Language Arts and Mathematics using computers instead of the traditional paper and pencil.

PARCC is supported by the US Department of Education and is comprised of assessments to measure student achievement and preparedness for college and careers. It will help parents and teachers to determine whether or not students have achieved grade level standards. The PARCC assessments are aligned to the Common Core State Standards and were created to measure students' ability to apply their knowledge of concepts.

This year, in 2015-16, PARCC will combine the performance-based assessment (PBA) and the end of year (EOY) assessment into one testing period, not two like last year. At Dionne Warwick Institute, the testing schedule is as follows:

Third Grade Students – April 4-19, 2016
Spring Break is April 11-15, 2016
Fourth Grade Students – April 20-28, 2016
Fifth Grade Students – May 2-10, 2016
Fourth Grade Students – May 25, 2016

The English Language Arts test at each grade level will include 4-5 texts, both literary and informational. A number of short-answer comprehension and vocabulary questions will also be associated with each text. The English Language Arts at each grade level will include three tasks, a literary analysis, a research simulation, and a narrative task. For each task, students will be asked to read or view one or more texts, answer several short comprehension and vocabulary questions, and write an essay that requires them to draw evidence from the text(s). The Mathematics test at each grade level will include both short- and extended-response questions focused on applying skills and concepts to solve problems that require demonstration of the mathematical practices with a focus on modeling, reasoning and precision. The test will also have a number of short-answer questions focused on conceptual understanding, procedural skills, and application.

Please take a moment to review the various parent resources and sample tests available on the PARCC website at www.parcconline.org. You will learn about the types of questions that will be asked or your child on the computer-based test. This will also allow you to assist your child in preparation for the test. **A PARCC informational meeting will be held here at Dionne Warwick Institute on March 10, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the Media Center.** The meeting will focus on understanding the PARCC 2015 score report, as well as, preparing for the 2016 assessment.

Please help us make the test administration a success by ensuring that your child is punctual, well rested, has had a nutritious breakfast and is ready to demonstrate all that they have been working so hard to achieve. As a reminder, the breakfast program begins at 7:30 a.m. daily. Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Ms. Mary Inglis, Test Coordinator, at 973-266-5930 ext. 59103. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Flore-Nadeige B. Lovett, Principal