



ATHLOS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Minnesota Charter School District 4011

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January 11, 2016

Dear Athlos Leadership Academy Parents/Guardians,

Beginning March 6th, our 3rd through 8th grade students are scheduled to take the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs). The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) and alternate assessment, Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS), are the statewide tests that help districts measure student progress toward Minnesota's academic standards and meet the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Third through eighth graders take assessments in reading and math. Fifth and eighth grade students take science MCAs as well. Most students take the MCA, but students who receive special education services and meet eligibility criteria may take the MTAS. All third grade through eighth grade students are required to take the MCA or MTAS.

As a public charter school, we are required to align our curriculum and instruction with Minnesota State Standards. MCA assessments are then used to measure student progress in relation to the standards students have been instructed in throughout the year.

MCA assessments will be taken on computers. Classroom teachers will be supporting students by teaching them how to navigate the online MCA assessments by ensuring opportunities to take MCA Item Samplers online in advance of testing. The online samplers contain an accessibility panel that all students should become accustomed to in order to most accurately demonstrate their progress on MCAs.

Students and families are welcome to use the Items Samplers at home, as well, to support students in familiarizing themselves with the test features. Item Samplers are not practice tests and cannot be used to predict how well students will perform on the actual assessments, but are very useful tools in familiarizing students with the format and features of the tests. You may access Item Samplers by entering the link below into your web browser and then clicking on the Student Resources tab and then Item Samplers. An interactive student tutorial is also available to support students in preparing to navigate the online format.

<http://minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com/>

Additional parent information is forthcoming, including specific testing dates for your student's homeroom. Any changes thereafter will be communicated through the school's website and classroom teachers.

Respectfully,

Julie Brown
Dean of Academics