



SPARTANS

ATHLOS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Minnesota Charter School District 4011

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February 3, 2017

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. Teachers will be supporting students by teaching them how to navigate the online MCA assessments by ensuring opportunities to review the MCA tutorials online in advance of testing. In addition, students will review MCA Item Samplers in technology class this month. 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 and tutorials by entering the link below into your web browser and then clicking on the Student Resources tab.

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

Students will be taking MCAs during the following weeks:

Week of March 6, 2017- 6th Grade Reading

Week of March 13, 2017- 5th Grade Reading & 8th Grade Reading

Week of March 20, 2017- 4th Grade Reading & 7th Grade Reading

Week of March 27, 2017- No School

Week of April 3, 2017- 3rd Grade Reading & 8th Grade Science

Week of April 10, 2017- 4th Grade Math & 8th Grade Math

Week of April 17, 2017- 3rd Grade Math & 7th Grade Math

Week of April 24, 2017- 5th Grade Math & 6th Grade Math (Carries over through May 1st)

Week of May 1, 2017- 5th Grade Science

Week of May 8, 2017- Make-Up Tests

**If your student is taking the MTAS assessment or is scheduled for a small group assessment due to an IEP or 504 accommodation, your student's case manager or a social worker will be in contact with you closer to March regarding specific small group testing dates and times.

Respectfully,

Julie Brown
Dean of Academics