



NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL  
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**Katherine Ross**, *Interim Principal*  
**Peter Lurgio**, *Assistant Principal*  
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March 6, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian of North Middle School Students:

Beginning on Thursday, April 2, your son/daughter will be taking this year's MCAS tests. The MCAS tests are an important part of your child's education. They are one of many tools used to assess your child's academic growth as well as measuring our school's progress in attaining the state's curriculum frameworks.

Since the beginning of the year, our staff has worked with our students to prepare for these tests. Specifically, we have focused on assisting your child to answer open response questions by analyzing the question to determine what it is asking, developing an outline, and using writing prompts to more effectively answer the question.

In addition to preparing your child for the tests, we will provide him/her with the proper environment and resources to complete the test. But we also need your help. Please spend some time with your son/daughter to reinforce the importance of this test. Not only will your child receive a score on the test, his/her score will be compared to other students in his/her grade at North Middle School, as well as throughout the state.

There are other things you can do to prepare your child for the MCAS. First of all, make sure she/he has a good dinner the night before and gets a solid night's sleep in order to be to school on time. Stress the importance of getting to bed early and being rested for these important tests. In the morning, provide him/her with a nutritious breakfast. If it is difficult to provide breakfast at home, your child can have a full breakfast at school. When your child gets off the bus at 7:45 a.m., he/she can report directly to the cafeteria where breakfast is only \$1.00. For students who receive free lunch, breakfast is also free of charge.

Please encourage your child to be relaxed and positive about the test. At the end of school on the testing days, take some time to talk with your child about how the day went. Shortly, students will receive and sign the "Student Responsibilities during MCAS Testing" statement in homerooms. In the statement, the student promises to the following: that they have not seen the test booklet before testing, all the work will be their own and will not copy anyone or let anyone answer questions for them, they will not use a cell phone or other electronic device during testing, and they will not discuss or share information about the questions until MCAS ends in our school. If they have any questions about these statements, they can talk to their teacher, counselor, or principal.

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The following is the testing schedule North Middle School will follow this year.

**April 2015 English Language Arts (ELA/Reading Comprehension) MCAS Tests**

<b>Thursday, April 2</b>	<b>Tuesday, April 7</b>	<b>Wednesday, April 8</b>
Grade 7 only ELA Long Composition <i>(Make-up is Wed., April 8)</i>	Grades 6, 7, 8 ELA Reading Comprehension Session #1	Grades 6, 7, 8 ELA Reading Comprehension Session #2

**May 2015 Mathematics & Science MCAS Tests**

<b>Tuesday, May 5</b>	<b>Wednesday, May 6</b>	<b>Tuesday, May 12</b>	<b>Wednesday, May 13</b>
Grades 6, 7, 8 Mathematics Session #1	Grades 6, 7, 8 Mathematics Session #2	Grade 8 Science and Technology/Engineering Session #1	Grade 8 Science and Technology/Engineering Session #2

These tests will be administered within the first three or four periods each day. Please help us by ensuring that your son/daughter arrives to school on time for 8:00 a.m. homeroom and ready for the test. Illnesses happen, and any student that misses a portion of the tests will begin making them up beginning on Thursday, April 9 (ELA), Friday, May 8 (Math), and Thursday, May 14 (Science).

The MCAS is an important educational tool to measure what your child is learning. With the school, students, and families working together, your child and our school will perform well in this assessment process.

If you have specific questions about the MCAS or the procedures we have in place, feel free to contact your son/daughter's Guidance Counselor at 572-6441.

Sincerely,

*Katie Ross*

Katie Ross  
Interim Principal