

March 9, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you your student will take the Florida State Assessments (FSA) in the coming weeks.

9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Grades

ELA Writing: April 5<sup>th</sup> – April 30<sup>th</sup>

ELA Reading/Algebra I, Geometry, U.S. History, and Biology May 3<sup>rd</sup> through June 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Per the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), no remote administrations are available for any statewide summative assessments.**

Throughout the school year, your student has been instructed on the skills and content assessed on the FSA assessment. As part of the preparation for these assessments, your student will be given an opportunity to participate in a scripted practice test to become familiar with the computer-based testing platform (if applicable), item types, and response formats seen on the assessments. If you or your student would also like to review practice tests at home, practice tests and answer keys are available at available at <http://www.FSAssessments.org/students-and-families/practice-tests/paper-based-practice-test-materials/>.

We recommend you sit with your student to review a practice test to become familiar with the structure of the questions and with the test navigation. You may also find additional information regarding the assessments on the 2020-2021 Florida Statewide Grade-Level Assessments Fact Sheet at <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/5663/urlt/Grade-LevelFS2021.pdf>.

The FSA is a state assessment that provides a single snapshot of your student's knowledge of the content tested. Teachers use FSA data as well as many other indicators of your student's learning to inform their instruction of your student.

The Florida Department of Education has asked that we share their testing policies with you. These policies are on the back of this document. Classroom teachers will also review these policies with your student.

If you have any questions about testing administration or testing dates, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our leadership team. Thank you for supporting your student and encouraging your student to do their best during Spring 2021 assessments.

Sincerely,

Joe Torregrasso Ed.D.

Please review the following policies with your student before testing:

- **Electronic Devices**—Students are not permitted to have any electronic devices, including, but not limited to, cell phones, smartphones, and smartwatches, at any time during testing **or** during breaks (e.g., restroom), **even if the devices are turned off or students do not use them**. If your student is found with an electronic device, his or her test will be invalidated.
- **Calculators**—For the Algebra 1 EOC and Geometry EOC, calculators are not permitted during session 1. If students have handheld calculators during Session 1, their tests will be invalidated. For the Biology EOC, a handheld four-function calculator may be used only if the school provides all students with a handheld four-function calculator.
- **Testing Rules Acknowledgment**—All tests include a Testing Rules Acknowledgment printed in the student’s test and answer book that reads, “I understand the testing rules that were just read to me. If I do not follow these rules, my test score may be invalidated.” Prior to testing, test administrators read the rules to students, and students acknowledge that they understand the testing rules by signing below the statement in their test and answer book.
- **Discussing Test Content after Testing**—The last portion of the testing rules read to students before they sign below the Testing Rules Acknowledgment states, “Because the content in all statewide assessments is secure, you may not discuss or reveal details about the test content (including test items, passages and prompts) after the test. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, or posting to social media sites.” Please make sure your student understands this policy prior testing and remind them that “discussing” test content includes any kind of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, posting to social media, or sharing online. **While students may not share information about secure test content after testing, this policy is not intended to prevent students from discussing their testing experiences with their parents/families.**
- **Working Independently**—Students are responsible for doing their own work during the test and for protecting their answers from being seen by others. If students are caught cheating during testing, their tests will be invalidated. In addition, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) employs Caveon Test Security to analyze student test results to detect unusually similar answer patterns. Student tests within a school that are found to have extremely similar answer patterns will be invalidated.
- **Leaving Campus**—If your student leaves campus before completing a test session (e.g., for lunch, an appointment, illness), he or she **will not** be allowed to return to that test session. If your student does not feel well on the day of testing, it may be best for him or her to wait and be tested on a make-up day. Please remember not to schedule appointments on testing days.
- **Testing Accommodations**—If your student has an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a Section 504 plan, or is an English Language Learner (ELL), please contact the school to discuss the testing accommodations that will be provided for your student.