



HIGHLAND HIGHLIGHTS

Montgomery County
Public Schools

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TESTING SEASON IS UPON US!

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a group of states that have come together to develop high-quality student assessments linked to more rigorous English language arts (ELA) literacy and math standards.

This spring, students in Grades 3-8 will take PARCC assessments in English/language arts and math. The testing window begins on May 1st. The following website provides additional information for parents about the PARCC assessments: www.PARCConline.org

MAP testing—(Measures of Academic Progress)

MAP assessments are computer adaptive achievement tests in Mathematics and Reading. The computer adjusts the difficulty of the questions so that each student takes a unique test. MAP-P Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP®) supports efforts to maximize kindergarten – grade 2 student learning with MAP for Primary Grades. Like MAP, MAP-P creates a personalized assessment experience by adapting to each student’s learning level. You’ll have crucial early childhood assessment data—and essential information about what each student knows and is ready to learn. MAP-R test is given to students in Grades 3-5 and measures reading progress. MAP-M is given to students in Grades 3-5 to measure progress in mathematics.

Maryland is implementing the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) English language development standards and assessment. The previous state assessment for ESOL students primarily measured English language proficiency in English/Language Arts. With the implementation of WIDA, ESOL students will be expected to develop English proficiency in the core academic areas.

RUDE VS. MEAN VS. BULLYING: DEFINING THE DIFFERENCES

Please see the link below for an interesting article on the differences between rude, mean, and bullying behavior. Rude behavior is defined as “inadvertently saying or doing something that hurts someone else. Mean behavior is defined as purposely saying or doing something to hurt someone once (or maybe twice). Bullying means intentionally aggressive behavior, repeated over time, that involves an imbalance of power. It is important to distinguish between rude, mean and bullying so that teachers, school administrators, police, youth workers, parents and kids all know what to pay attention to and when to intervene. As we have heard too often in the news, a child’s future may depend on a non-jaded adult’s ability to discern between rudeness at the bus stop and life-altering bullying.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/signer-whitson/bullying_b_2188819.html

IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

We love having visitors and volunteers in our school. For security reasons, and as a professional courtesy, we ask that you not go to your child’s classroom without an appointment, either before school starts, after school, or anytime during school hours. Visitors and volunteers should enter and exit the building through the main entrance and sign-in at the office. Parents are not permitted to go to classrooms to pick-up or drop-off students without approval from a member of our office staff. Please come to the office; we will be glad to help you or call your child’s room to have them released.

THE NEW YEAR

The New Year is a good time to replenish any depleted school supplies that your child may need – a time to get a fresh start. Please make sure your child has enough pencils, paper, crayons, and other materials recommended for your child’s particular grade level. The New Year is also a time many people make resolutions. We still see several children arriving to school each day after the 9:00 a.m. bell. In fact, on some days, 40 or more students arrive tardy! Please ensure that your child attends school regularly and on time. This resolution is sure to bring more opportunities for success to each child. In addition, please make sure your child does not arrive to school before 8:35 a.m. Students will be asked to wait outside until 8:35 a.m.

OUTDOOR RECESS

As you are aware, temperatures are dropping and it is getting colder and colder with each passing week. Generally, students will go outside for recess when it is approximately 32 degrees or warmer. There are many benefits to children playing outside, even in the winter. It helps build up their immune system, it provides exercise, it stimulates the imagination, it promotes problem solving skills, and it provides vitamin D. Please help us by making sure that your children are coming to school with appropriate winter clothing, hats and gloves, as they will be going outside for recess on most days.



IMPORTANT DATES

1/9/18—PTA Meeting @9:00 a.m.

1/10/18-Grade 5 Magnet School testing for Eastern and Takoma Park MS

1/15/18— **No School** -Martin Luther King, Jr. Day!

1/23/18—Workshop— How to Navigate the School System

1/25/18—Early Release Day— students dismissed at 12:55 p.m.—2nd marking period ends!

1/26/18—**No school for students**—professional day for teachers

Thanks to all of our parents:

On behalf of the entire staff of Highland E.S. we thank all the parents who donated food/drinks, paper products, and their time for our staff luncheon on December 21st. This was truly a special treat that was enjoyed and appreciated by all staff. We feel very fortunate to work with such a supportive parent community. Thank you!!!



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