Getting Set for Statewide Testing

We are working to get our 3rd- to 5th-graders prepared for the Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA) this spring. This is our District’s second year of using this annual state-mandated assessment, which measures how well students are meeting College and Career Readiness Standards in math, reading and writing. The online assessments help us view student growth and determine which students may need more support or more challenge. To read more about these assessments, please visit http://www.seattleschools.org/students/academics/assessments. At this site, you can take a practice test, view videos about the assessment, or link to other test-related websites.

Your child may spend a small portion of his or her time at school using the “Typing Agent” keyboarding instruction program. Many teachers have their students use this program once a week, and it may be useful for your child to practice keyboarding at home, too. Since the SBA is all online, keyboarding skills may ease the test-taking experience. You may want to ask your child’s teacher about how to access Typing Agent from home.

Scheduling

Our school’s testing schedule is below. We are ready to accommodate students with special needs. Some classes have fewer testing blocks, but will have longer test sessions. Testing time varies from about 2.5 to 4 hours per subject, and most students will test for about an hour per session.

On assessment days, please do your best to avoid taking vacations. You don’t need to prepare in any other way at home, but you and your child are welcome to walk through the practice tests linked from our assessment web page.

Test Schedule:

3rd Grade (Note: All HCC classes will test with their afternoon groups.)
Gomez: May 10-13; May 23-26
Class: April 19-22; May 10-13
Jensen: April 26-29; May 3-6
Kingsbury: April 26-29; May 24-27

4th Grade
Alison Miller/Kohls: May 3-6; May 17-20
MacDonald: May 17-18; May 24-25
Will Miller: May 17-18; May 24-25
Serpe: May 17-18; May 24-25

5th Grade (These classes also take a science assessment annually.)
Egelhoff: April 20; May 17-20; May 23; May 25-27
Kierstead: April 21; May 19-20; May 26-27
Paul: April 21; May 19-20; May 26-27
Von Beck: April 20; May 19-20; May 26-27
The “Champion Marshmallows” will advance to the next round in the 2016 Global Reading Challenge after defeating several other TM teams of 4th- and 5th-graders yesterday. Feven Aregawi, Gwyneth Hawkins, Isabel Oakes (Captain), Natalie Blanchfield, Oliver Mazner, Sabrina Yassin, Virginia Buckley and Torin Hough (Assistant Captain) flawlessly answered all of the questions, which were drawn from 10 books read by public school students throughout Seattle. The Marshalls will advance to the regional final at the Central Library March 11.

Thurgood Marshall last won the citywide competition in 2011.

You Might Be Interested:

Prodigy Northwest is holding its “Celebration of Talent 2016” gifted-student education conference in Spokane on March 19. This conference is for educators, parents and families (children must be over age 4). Visit www.prodigynw.org for full information.

The Seattle District “Summer Staircase” program will run June 27 to Aug. 5, 2016. This program is for students who are at or below grade level standards. Applications will be available in late spring.

At www.facebook.com/meanymiddleschool, you can follow planning for the future Meany Middle School (opening in 2017 to relieve crowding at Washington Middle School). The next step is hiring the “planning principal” this spring.
Family Games and Fun!  
(and Appetizer Potluck)  

Yes, it’s the return of the always-popular  

Game Night  

Thursday, March 3  
in the Thurgood Marshall Cafeteria  

5:30-6 pm: Bring a non-messy appetizer to share  
(Suggestions: Pita & dip; veggie or fruit trays; hard cheeses)  
6-7:30 pm: Discover all sorts of new games  
(Volunteers will help everyone learn how to play!)  

Questions? Contact parent Coordinator Sara Dickerman: Saradickerman@hotmail.com.