

Dear NBCA Families,

The past 13 months have been unlike any we have experienced in education. Instruction has been entirely unconventional, and as we near the end of the 2020-2021 school year, we are proactively planning and communicating the details regarding the state-required benchmark testing. This year, as in years past, tests will be given to all students to determine where they are in their grade-level so teachers and staff can develop customized learning plans for each student. Think of this test as an assessment of instruction instead of an assessment of the student.

As a school district, and in accordance with Michigan legislation, NBCA, administers the NWEA benchmark assessment (fall, winter, and spring) in grades TK-8, which provides parents and educators with the knowledge of where children are academically, and helps target areas that need attention and intervention, as well as areas that are considered a strength.

This spring, we are planning and scheduling the M-STEP for grades 3-8, and the PSAT for grade 8 students. There are some unknowns that will have to be addressed and issues that will have to be resolved and considered as we work through this process, but we are moving forward as planned for all students. The PSAT 8 can only be given to 8th graders in-person, as there is not a virtual option. Students will complete the PSAT in-person only on Tuesday, April 13th at school.

All students will be taking the NWEA MAP assessment and M-STEP assessment in-person. This means that any students who have chosen to be virtual students at NBCA will need to come into the school in order to take the NWEA MAP, M-Step or PSAT assessment. Parents will be notified the days and times of the assessments and will need to make arrangements to transport students to and from school.

Planning ahead: Classroom teachers will share specific testing dates/times for both In-Person and Virtual students. All students will be tested in the building. Virtual students will be scheduled to come into the building and test on Fridays during the testing window dates.

- **M-STEP 3rd grade** (ELA and Math) (testing window April 26th - June 4th)
- **M-STEP 4th grade** (ELA and Math) (testing window April 26th - June 4th)
- **M-STEP 5th grade** (ELA, Math, Science Part 1 and 2, Social Studies) (testing window April 12th - May 21st)
- **M-STEP 6th and 7th grade** (ELA and Math) (testing window April 26th - June 4th) - specific dates to come from the classroom teacher

- **M-STEP 8th grade** (Science and Social Studies) (testing window April 12th - May 21st) - specific dates to come from the classroom teacher
- **8th grade PSAT:** Tuesday, April 13th from 8:30 - 2:00 (in-person and virtual students must take the PSAT in the building)

If your child(ren) is/are tested in the spring, score reports will be sent home when available. Please contact your child's principal should you have questions. We thank you for your continued partnership during this year, and we remain grateful to serve your children.

Thank you,
Terry Larkin, Principal