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St. Mary's County Public Schools

Central Administration

Office of the Superintendent
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Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

Mr. J. Scott Smith
Superintendent

Dear Parents/Guardians:

During the spring of the 2014-2015 school year, students in grades 3-8, as well as secondary school students in Algebra I, Geometry, and English 10 took the new Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments developed and delivered by Pearson. Results from these assessments will be released by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) later this fall and will be made available to parents in individual student score reports. Scores from the 2014-2015 school year will establish a baseline for future growth and are considered "no-fault," meaning they will not be used for instructional decision making about individual students.

The new PARCC assessments measure the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards (MCCRS) in different ways than were assessed through previous measures. One major difference is that all assessments were delivered online and administered over several weeks. Further, the new standards and the test items asked more rigorous questions requiring students to read, write, reflect, and analyze. As last year was the first time students encountered the new online items, we expect that performance levels to reflect this first-time experience. To help you understand student score reports and these new assessments, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has posted a number of resources online. You can access these resources at:

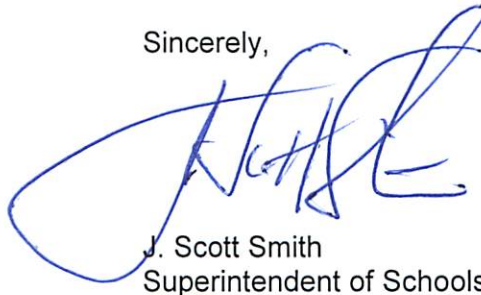
<http://marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/programs/parcc/index.html>

In addition, St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS) has created a webpage with these resources, and others, to keep you informed about the Maryland standards and the PARCC assessments:

<http://www.smcps.org/tlpd/mccrs-resources>

If you have additional questions, please visit the MSDE website referenced above for contact information regarding these state assessments.

Sincerely,



J. Scott Smith
Superintendent of Schools