



Dear Parents and Guardians:

This is the second year Maryland is administering the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment. The PARCC assessment will be given to students in grades 3-8 for the content areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics. Students in grades 9-12 will take a PARCC assessment if they are enrolled in English 10, Algebra I, or Algebra II. Please note that participation in the English 10 and Algebra I assessments is a requirement for a Maryland high school diploma.

The 2016 PARCC assessment has a simpler format to improve the testing process, while still providing reliable information about student achievement. The new format consists of the assessments being 90 minutes shorter than last year, there is only one testing window, and students will take fewer test sessions.

The testing window for the spring 2016 administration of the PARCC assessment begins on April 11 and continues through May 24, 2016. The total number of days students are engaged in the PARCC assessments will vary by school and grade level. Individual school sites will post their PARCC administration dates on their webpage. PARCC resources can be found on the SMCPS website: <http://www.smcps.org/tlpd/mccrs-resources>. PARCC sample test items can be found on the website: <http://parcc.pearson.com/sample-items/>.

Your child's results from last year's PARCC assessment, as well as other state and national assessments, are available on the Home Access Center under the Grades link. I encourage you to visit the Home Access Center regularly as it provides the most up to date information on student assessments, attendance, assignments, grades, registration, and scheduling.

If you have any questions regarding the assessments your child will be taking, please contact your child's school.

Sincerely,

J. Scott Smith
Superintendent of Schools