

Dear Parents,

As the school year comes to a close, it's time to remind you about the participation of students in the New Hampshire Statewide Assessment System.

**NECAP Assessment:** Students in grades 4, 8 and grade 11 will participate in the NECAP-Science assessment. The NECAP Science Assessment will be conducted in three sessions from May 5 to May 22, 2014.

**NH-ALPs:** Also, each year, following IEP team meetings with parents, a small group of eligible students were identified to participate in the NH Alternate Learning Progressions assessment (NH-ALPS). The NH-ALPs portfolio process began for specific students in grades 2-8, 10, and 11. In June, our school will submit student portfolios based on alternate achievement standards. Their results will be reported in the fall, and will be included in combined science reports this next fall and with combined reading, writing, and mathematics reports next school year.

**The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an overview of the May NECAP assessment program.** I am hoping you will help us encourage your child to give these tests his or her very best effort.

The spring NECAP Science Assessment was designed to measure your child's progress in meeting the basic Science Curriculum Targets that are highlighted within New Hampshire's Grade Span Expectations, or GSEs. The GSEs define the knowledge and skills a student should have mastered in science by the end of grade spans K-4, 5-8 and 9-11. The NECAP Science test, given at end of each of these grade spans, will be composed of three (3) test sessions:

- Sessions 1 and 2 will feature multiple choice and constructed response items with the science domains clustered (all Life Science questions will be together; all Earth Space Science questions will be together; and all Physical Science questions will be together). All students will be tested in every science domain. Session 1 and 2 will each be 90 minutes.
- Session 3 will be an Inquiry Task. At grade 4, this will involve cooperative work with hands-on materials. Approximately 120 minutes will be given at grade 4 for session 3. At grades 8 and 11, students will be involved with data analysis and experimental design issues but will work on the task by themselves. Approximately 60 minutes will be given for the grades 8 and 11 Inquiry Tasks.

The NECAP is one of the important tools available to parents and educators to determine how well our schools are helping students meet standards and grade span expectations. In every assessment, scores are only as meaningful as the effort students put into the test. Encourage your child to take the test seriously and to give his or her best effort. You can best help your child prepare for the assessment by making sure that she or he is rested on the days the tests will be given. And, as with every day, it is critical that students have a good breakfast before heading off to school. Thank you for supporting your child and our school during the testing period.

Thank you. Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,