

Bloomington Board of Education

**Superintendent of Schools
Samuel R. Donald School
29 Captolene Avenue
Bloomington, New Jersey 07403**

Mario Cardinale
Interim Superintendent of Schools
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February 17, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardians:

This year the Partnership for Assessment for Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) becomes the new statewide testing and assessment program for all students in grades 3-12. Our school district, along with several other public school districts may have received questions from parents/guardians regarding whether students can “opt-out” of the PARCC assessment by electing not to participate or by remaining home from school on certain testing days. In discussions with the New Jersey Department of Education Passaic County Office, and in legal advice provided by a variety of sources, please be advised that the PARCC assessment is required or mandatory. This memo is meant to provide you with information regarding requirements of the law as far as our mutual responsibilities, and to point out the advantages of your child’s participation in the PARCC Assessment.

Certain federal and state laws require that all students take state wide assessments, which include the new PARCC Assessments. For this reason, there are no provisions or authority given to school districts regarding students “opting out” of the PARCC Assessments. Further, we should all be aware that students who are absent on testing days will be required to attend the make-up testing dates. Public school districts are required to have a participation rate of ninety five (95%) percent in each of the various sub-groups such as regular education, special education, English language learners, etc. in order to comply with federal and state requirements. We should all note that the PARCC Assessments will provide important information regarding individual student growth towards the goal of gaining college or career readiness. The PARCC Assessments provide students the opportunity to participate in an electronic online assessment. This alone is a valuable experience for students as they look ahead to future testing assessments such as SATs and other college acceptance and placement testing. We should also note that there are no negative impacts or consequences to students for participation.

As noted above, we expect all students in grades 3-8 to participate in the PARCC Assessment which is consistent with federal and state law and our district’s policies and practices. Students who are absent on testing days will be scheduled for a make-up test. Should a student not attend school during testing administration or during the make-up testing dates, the absences will be addressed as outlined in our district’s already existing attendance policy. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in seeing that your student’s participate in the PARCC Assessment. Should you have any questions, or need additional information please feel free to contact any of the individuals listed below.

Sincerely,

Mario D. Cardinale
Interim Superintendent of Schools/Principal

MDC/ss

- Mario D. Cardinale, Interim Superintendent/Principal 973-838-3282
- Frank Verducci, Principal 973-838-4875
- Kristine Dudlo, Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction 973-838-0189

The following is the tentative schedule for this year's Samuel R. Donald school grades 3-4 PARCC schedule. Please note that due to inclement weather etc. we may need to alter the schedule accordingly. If your child arrives late on one of these test days, he or she will be asked to wait outside the office until a break in the testing occurs. For that reason, we urge you to make every effort to ensure your child **arrives at school promptly by 8:10 AM.** Please remember to make sure your child has a good night's rest the night before and eats breakfast each morning of testing!

Our 4th grade testing schedule for the PARCC assessment is as follows:

Monday, March 2	LAL Session 1
Tuesday, March 3	LAL Session 2
Wednesday, March 4	LAL Session 3
Thursday, March 5	MATH Session 1
Friday, March 6	MATH Session 2

Our 3rd grade testing schedule for the PARCC assessment is as follows:

Monday, March 9	LAL Session 1
Tuesday, March 10	LAL Session 2
Wednesday, March 11	LAL Session 3
Thursday, March 12	MATH Session 1
Friday, March 13	MATH Session 2

Grades 3-4 Make- up Testing

March 16 - 20