



April 3, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This letter is to inform you that your student will be administered the 2018 Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) in April and May. The MCAs will be administered using chromebooks. Please make sure your student brings their assigned chromebook fully charged the day of testing.

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) and alternate assessment Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS) are standards-based accountability state assessments that help districts measure student progress toward Minnesota's academic standards and also meet federal and state legislative requirements.

The list below shows tests by subject and the high school grades they are given.

- **Reading** (grades 8 & 10)
- **Mathematics** (grades 8 & 11)
- **Science** (grades 8 & 10)

Information from statewide tests is used in a number of ways. The State uses the aggregated test scores to report to the public and the U.S. Department of Education how Minnesota students are performing in school. Statewide test data help the State evaluate the progress schools are making in reducing achievement gaps among student groups. Schools and districts use the assessment results to measure their progress in improving student learning over time. Educators use individual scores to gauge students' relative strengths and areas of need, and they use aggregated results to adjust curriculum and instruction. Parents use the scores in their decision-making process when choosing schools for their children. Parents, students, and educators may also use test results to determine whether or not students are on-track for success in future grade levels, college, and careers. For these reasons, ensuring the integrity of statewide testing data is an important and shared responsibility. *(Information gathered from the MN Dept. Ed, <https://goo.gl/bawifR>)*

Preparation suggestions for a successful test day-

- **Ensure your student charges their chromebook and brings the day of testing**
- **Ensure your student eats a healthy breakfast-** Students who eat a protein-based breakfast will have increased attention spans.
- **Ensure your student is hydrated-** Research tells us that the brain requires hydration to function well.
- **Ensure your student gets a good night's sleep-** Adolescents need a minimum of eight hours of sleep per night.
- **Help reduce your student's stress-** Tips include positive self-talk ("I know I can do this"), avoid being rushed and take deep breaths (the brain needs oxygen to think clearly).
- **Believe in your student's success-** Parents can best support their student by talking and actively listening to them.

If you have any questions about our upcoming MCA Testing please contact myself or Melissa Schumann in the Guidance Office- phone: 379-5354 email: [Melissa.schumann@alschools.org](mailto:Melissa.schumann@alschools.org)

Sincerely,

Nicky L. Edwin Severtson

School Assessment Coordinator/Administrative Dean