

Dear Parents,

Over the next three weeks students in grades 3-8 will be taking the Maine Educational Assessments. It used to be that the MEAs were only given to students in grades 4, 8, and 11. With the advent of No Child Left Behind, however, the state made formal state testing mandatory for all children in grades three through eight. Students will be taking tests in two to four content areas. These tests will become part of the record and results will be sent to parents early in the next school year.

These tests are designed to let parents and the school know how their children are doing relative to the learning results. The tests are a small, but important, indicator of school success.

There are some important pieces of information you need to keep in mind.

1. Your child's classroom teacher will send home a schedule for the testing and your child needs to be there. If he or she **MUST** be absent, he or she **MUST** make up the test. This doesn't always work to the child's advantage, so it is important that all children take the tests as they have been scheduled.
2. Make sure your child has a good night's sleep and a good breakfast before school on the day of any testing.
3. It is important for you to let your child know that you expect him/her to work hard on the tests and do their best work.
4. If there is any anxiety about the testing reported by your child, please let us know, so we can help allay it.

Again, it is important for kids to be here on the days they are scheduled for testing.

Thank you for your help.