



March 3, 2021

Families of students in grades 3-11:

The Norwell Public Schools will be administering Spring 2021 MCAS testing in grades 3-11. The administration will take place by grade and subject matter on specifically identified dates beginning at the end of April.

Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education shared the following thoughts and rationale for the MCAS administration in his January 5, 2021 letter to all districts. *The Department continues to believe the MCAS test is a crucial diagnostic tool to promote student success and educational equity and we remain committed to administering the assessment this spring, while recognizing the need for adjustments and flexibility. [...] The MCAS tests will give Massachusetts educators and families critical insight into academic losses that need to be addressed this spring and summer, and data on which students and districts have been most impacted by the disruptions in schooling. Administering the MCAS will make it possible to reliably assess students' progress in relation to curriculum standards. Besides serving this essential diagnostic purpose, the high school MCAS also affirms that students are prepared for college and careers, in addition to providing access to college scholarships.*

You may also find it helpful to know that for grades 3-8 the testing experience will be shorter this year. There will be one instead of two testing sessions in ELA, Math, and Science. For grades 9-11, the testing time will remain the same as in previous years. Students must still earn a passing score on the high school MCAS tests to meet their Competency Determination (CD) requirement for high school graduation. The data provided from this year's MCAS administration in conjunction with other school based diagnostic tools will be instrumental in identifying any learning gaps and supporting student learning as we move forward.

It is important to note that participation in student testing is both a federal and state requirement. Participation is a component of our district and each school's Accountability Rating. Participation also qualifies our high school students for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship and the Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery Award.

The following link provides the schedule for this year's MCAS testing which can also be found on the district and each school's website. [NPS Spring 2021 MCAS Schedule](#)

Please feel free to contact me by email at diane.provenzano@norwellschools.org or phone, or reach out to your building principal with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Diane L. Provenzano
Director of Teaching, Learning & Technology