



*We are a community of learners inspired by our world.*

A Candidate School for the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme

Dear Parents,

During the next few months, your student, along with other students across Michigan, will be participating in the Spring 2015 Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-Step). All fifth graders will take a two-part English language arts test, a two-part mathematics test, and a two-part social studies test. Children will be taking this assessment on the iPads using individual keyboards. A classroom activity is required for students to participate in prior to some of the testing sessions. The knowledge and skills upon which these tests are based on the Common Core state curriculum that we use in the Elk Rapids School District.

The State of Michigan schedules the administration calendar for all tests and makeup dates. Your child's attendance is critical. The assessment dates are as follows:

- Monday, April 13 – English Language Arts Day 1
- Tuesday, April 14- Required Classroom Activity (for next day test)
- Wednesday, April 15 – English Language Arts Day 2
- Tuesday, April 21 – Mathematics Day 1
- Wednesday, April 22- Required Classroom Activity (for next day test)
- Thursday, April 23– Mathematics Day 2
- Tuesday, April 28 – Social Studies Day 1
- Wednesday, April 29- Social Studies Day 2

We know that a successful day starts at home and we thank you for your partnership. **Please make sure that your child attends school and is on time each day.** Students, late or absent, will need to take their tests on state authorized "make up days." This is not ideal as they will be most successful in their typical classroom environment with their teacher and peers.

Please be sure to support your child's success with reinforcing a good night of sleep and time for breakfast on the morning of the test. Our PTO will be once again providing a healthy snack each testing date. Share your confidence in your child's ability to do his or her personal best with this important assessment.

Please call my office if you would like additional information or have further questions or concerns about the tests. Additional information can also be found on the state website:

<http://www.mi.gov/mde> (explanation and sample items for practice)

<http://aware.22itrig.org> (complete tutorial and practice for students)

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/practice-test/> (sample of new testing format for classroom activity problems)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jessica Ziecina".

Jessica Ziecina

Mill Creek Elementary School Principal

Jessica Ziecina, Principal

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