

# Parsippany-Troy Hills Township School District

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March 2017

Dear Parent,

Below please find revisions to our district's PARCC testing dates. Dates were revised due to the giveback day of Monday, April 17, 2017.

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October 2016

Dear Parent,

This school year we will once again be administering PARCC (Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) assessments. PARCC is a group of states in our nation that have come together to develop assessments linked to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). PARCC assessments provide the following:

- Questions and essays that resemble the high-quality coursework seen in the best classrooms
- Information on whether or not your child is making expected progress and whether or not he or she is on track to succeed in college or careers
- Data on student performance in a more timely way so that parents, teachers, and administrators can customize instruction, particularly in areas where students are having difficulty
- Comparability among states and equity among American students

PARCC assessments are administered to all students in grades 3-11 in the areas of language arts and mathematics. At the high school level, mathematics includes only Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2; middle school students taking Algebra 1 or Geometry will take these respective assessments in lieu of the regular 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics assessment. In our district, PARCC assessments are administered once, beginning in April 2017. Please note that grades 4 and 8 will still be taking the NJASK in science only (a one-day test in May), and select high school students will be taking the NJ Biology Competency Test (a two-day test in May).

The final district-level schedule for the PARCC administration is as follows:

GRADE	DATES
3	Monday, April 24, 2017 – Friday, April 28, 2017
4	Monday, May 1, 2017 – Friday, May 5, 2017
5	Monday, May 8, 2017 – Friday, May 12, 2017
<b>BMS</b>	<b>Wednesday, April 19, 2017 – Wednesday April 26, 2017</b>
<b>CMS</b>	<b>Friday, April 28, 2017 – Friday, May 5, 2017</b>
<b>PHS Language Arts</b>	<b>Wednesday, April 19, 2017 – Friday, April 21, 2017</b>
<b>PHHS Mathematics</b>	<b>Wednesday, April 19, 2017 – Friday, April 21, 2017</b>
<b>PHS Mathematics</b>	<b>Monday, April 24, 2017 – Wednesday, April 26, 2017</b>
<b>PHHS Language Arts</b>	<b>Monday, April 24, 2017 – Wednesday, April 26, 2017</b>

In order to properly ensure that our network is ready and that our staff and students are familiar with the procedures necessary to implement PARCC assessments, every school in our district will once again conduct an **Infrastructure Trial** according to the following schedule:

## Monday, March 6, 2017

- High Schools - Grades 9, 10, 11
- Brooklawn Middle School - Grades 6-8
- Elementary Schools - Grade 3

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**Wednesday, March 8, 2017**

- Central Middle School - Grades 6-8
- Elementary Schools - Grades 4-5

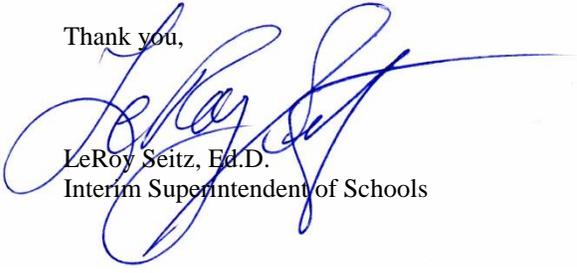
The Infrastructure Trial will be conducted on a regular day of school and will take approximately one hour to complete. We anticipate that the Infrastructure Trial will confirm that our district's technology readiness (wireless accessibility, network capabilities, device preparedness) is in place for a successful administration of PARCC assessments.

Whereas certain portions of the PARCC assessment require students to listen to audio, headphones are also allowed as noise buffers for non-audio sessions. Although we will provide any student in grades 3-11 with headphones, please send your child to school with his or her own headphones, if possible, as students' own headphones are most likely more comfortable for them. In addition, your child is permitted to bring with him/her a recreational book to read at the completion of his/her testing. This book may not be a school book—e.g. math workbook, science text. Teachers in the testing rooms will monitor any reading materials brought into the testing site. Finally, high school students must bring their iPads to school fully charged on testing days.

As was the practice with NJASK and HSPA, the NJDOE will be sending parents score reports for all PARCC assessments. For grades 3-8, the PARCC assessment will not affect promotion, just as the NJASK did not, and PARCC performance will not require a student to retake an assessment or retake a course at any level. At the high school level, the New Jersey Department of Education has announced that the PARCC test will not be a graduation requirement until 2021, although beginning with the Class of 2020, all students will be required to have taken each PARCC assessment for which they are eligible. At the high school level there remains a transition plan in place under which students have a variety of pathways to meet graduation requirements, including achieving a passing score on a number of substitute competency tests or through a portfolio review process, until passing PARCC becomes a requirement. High school counselors are available to discuss these alternatives with parents and students.

For more information about the district's administration of PARCC testing, please visit our Standardized Testing Page located on our district website, [www.pthsd.k12.nj.us](http://www.pthsd.k12.nj.us). As always, please feel free to contact your child's principal with any additional questions.

Thank you,



LeRoy Seitz, Ed.D.  
Interim Superintendent of Schools