

HASTINGS HIGHLIGHTS

*The monthly newsletter of highlights in
Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment*



In this Issue:

- JANUARY REGENTS CANCELLATION
- DIAGNOSTIC SCREENER: STAR RENAISSANCE
- MARCH TRI-STATE VISIT

OUR TALL 7 SPOTLIGHT: #4
TRUST WILL EMERGE, IF US,
CURIOSITY AND CARING PREVAIL...
DR. MCKERSIE

JANUARY REGENTS CANCELLATION

On December 21, 2021, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) provided notification to school districts that they are canceling the January 2022 administration of the New York State Regents Examination Program in response to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Regarding diploma requirements for students impacted by this change, the Commissioner of Education has indicated the following:

"Because of the cancellation of the January 2022 Regents Examinations, the Department will ask the Board of Regents to approve modifications to the assessment requirements that students must meet in order to earn high school diplomas, credentials, and endorsements. These modifications apply to all students who are completing a secondary-level course of study or make-up program in January and are scheduled to participate in one or more of the January 2022 Regents Examinations."

We anticipate that more information from NYSED will be forthcoming shortly.

DIAGNOSTIC SCREENER: STAR RENAISSANCE

As a reminder, this year we have been using a new resource, STAR Renaissance, as a diagnostic screener in grades K-8 to support our understanding of students' strengths and areas for growth in reading and mathematics. As previously communicated, this screener will be administered three times this year to students in grades K-8; once in the fall, once in the winter, and once in the spring. It is important to remember that the STAR Renaissance screener provides performance data based on a single moment in time and is being compared with other performance data to support teaching and learning.

Our winter diagnostic screening window is now open, spanning 12/13/2021 through 1/21/2022. Middle school students will be screened prior to the December break and Hillside students will be screened after the December break. Please note that student accommodations will be honored for students with IEPs and English Language Learners across Grades K-8. Click [here](#) to view the additional information about academic screening that was shared with families.

MARCH TRI-STATE VISIT

The Tri-State Consortium is an alliance of public schools working together as critical friends and partners. We are one of the member districts. One of the benefits of being a member district is the opportunity to periodically enlist the fresh eyes and input of colleagues from throughout the region to support us in our continuous improvement efforts in service to students.

Hastings is fortunate to have an upcoming visit from our Tri-State regional colleagues, which will take place from March 9-11. The focus of our visit, which is collaboration, was determined with our Chair Council. Strong, collaborative efforts are critical to foster a professional community that promotes each student's success and well-being.

Our visit will be guided by the essential questions our Hastings faculty designed, and will include a document review as well as interviews with various stakeholders. More information about the visit will follow in the New Year.