



27J Schools

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27J Schools Board of Education

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Dear 27J Families,

It's spring and that means teachers are gearing up to take stock of how much your child has learned in their class this year. It's critical that teachers get an accurate picture of your child's growth so they clearly see how well students in their classes and throughout the district are able to put their knowledge to use.

You can tell this is a crucial step in your school's and 27J's work to increase student achievement. If we don't have accurate information about how productive our teaching and learning process was, we can't make good decisions to boost student performance moving forward.

We get information through tests – district and state tests. Results matter.

Educators base decisions on results to chart our best course to give every student every advantage. To form a clear picture of 27J's performance, every student's work matters in getting accurate results. Without that, we risk getting a skewed look at our results which directly affects the quality of our decisions. It can also affect the state's rating of each school.

Testing is not an exercise to penalize or pressure students.

Rather, it's just like any other day when we ask students to do their best in answering questions. It's that simple. When a student shows us what they know, that's powerful.

You told us you expect us to improve achievement so students are prepared to compete with others when they enter the workplace or college. As a parent, you have a right to know how well we've met your expectations which means the results are important to you, too. We respect your right to get accurate information.

We start this process in April when we measure our performance alongside the state's expectations. That's done with CMAS tests which are given to 3rd through 11th grade students. You can find out when those tests are rolled out to specific grade levels by visiting your school's website.

We want to make sure parents have all of their questions answered and fully understand the facts of how we use test results. We realize parents have an important role in determining if their child will participate. We'd love to talk through that process with you, particularly if you have concerns or want to know more about how students are accommodated on test day. Just call your school's testing coordinator by March 15 and we'll make arrangements to visit with you on the phone or in person.

Thank you for your support of us keeping learning meaningful and our performance at the level you expect.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karla Reidner'.

Karla Reidner
Director of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction