

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
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April 14, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Each year, students in grades 3 through 8 participate in the New Hampshire Statewide Assessment System (NH SAS) and students in grade 11 participate in the College Board School Day SAT and NH SAS science assessment. Please refer to the [2021 assessment window](#).

This year, your child will take the following assessments, depending on their grade level:

- NH SAS for English Language Arts/Writing and Mathematics in grades 3 through 8
- NH SAS for Science in grades 5, 8, and 11
- College Board School Day -SAT English Language Arts/Reading/Writing and Mathematics grade 11

Each school district in the state is required to implement a set of high-quality academic assessments that include, at a minimum, assessments in Mathematics, Reading/Language Arts and Science to be administered in grades 3-8 and not less than once during grades 10-12; and in Science not less than once during grades 3-5, grades 6-9, and grades 10-12. (See Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*, Section 1111(b)(2) and New Hampshire law, RSA 193-C:6). Furthermore, ESSA sections 1111(b)(2)(B) require state assessments to be the “same academic assessments used to measure the achievement of all public elementary school and secondary school students in the state,” and provide for the participation in such assessments to all students.

State assessments are an important part of a student’s core educational program. They provide an evaluation of student mastery of content and skills in various academic areas, serve as one tool for measuring the degree to which students are on track to graduate high school and be college-ready and career-ready, and help inform future instruction in the classroom. Along with student work on classroom assignments, projects and local assessments, state assessment results give teachers and you, the parents, important information about where students are on their path toward academic success.

This year has been one like no other and we have a large percentage of families that have chosen to be fully remote and part of our Remote Education Academy for Learning (REAL). We are encouraging all students to join us in person to take the exam as we believe this is the optimal condition for assessment. Over the next two weeks, your school counselor, from your child’s school, will reach out with the details of times and dates. In addition to the more optimal in-person option, the NH DOE is allowing for us to administer a “select few” remote on-line assessments that will be proctored in small groups by Merrimack School District staff. Additional information on remote administration of the SAS assessment will be forthcoming from the NH DOE and will be distributed by each school.

Each district is responsible for accounting for all students and we need your help identifying if your child will be taking the assessment or if you choose to exempt your student from the state assessment (permitted in RSA 193-C:6), you must click this [Exemption For Link](#) and submit the form by emailing the document to your child’s school Principal. Please understand that if you choose to exempt your student from the assessment, no scores or summary of individual student performance, based on the statewide assessment, will be provided to you or your student.

The testing times for the NH SAS and School Day SAT are as follows:

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|---|--|
| Grades 3-8 | NH SAS for ELA/Writing/ Mathematics (hours) |
| English Language Arts/Reading | 2:15 |
| English Language Arts/Writing | 2:00 |
| Mathematics | 2:15 |
| | |
| Grades 5, 8, 11 | NH SAS for Science (hours) |
| Science | 2:00 |
| | |
| Grade 11 | NH School Day SAT (hours) |
| English Language Arts/Reading/Writing*and Mathematics *Essay is required of all test takers in the 2021 school year. | 4:40 |

Each school will be sending a specific assessment schedule.

Student results for the NH SAS (Reading/Writing, Mathematics and Science) are generally, but not always, available within 10 days upon the student completing the test. Your student’s school will send home an Individual Score Report as soon as possible after receiving results, and certainly before the end of the school year.

If you have any questions related to the administration of the assessment, please contact the principal or assistant principal at your student’s school.

As always, you can help your child during the testing window by encouraging him/her to take the test seriously and put forth a best effort! This means that it is very important to arrive to school on time and to maintain good attendance throughout the testing window. If you have any questions, please contact your child’s school for more information.

Thank you for supporting your student and encouraging him/her to do his/her best on the assessments.

Sincerely,

John F. Fabrizio

John Fabrizio