



Jonas Clarke Middle School

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Dear Middle School Parents and Guardians,

As you are aware, each spring we are required by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to administer the MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System) to students in grades 6, 7 and 8. This year there have been changes made to testing windows, formats, and administrative procedures as we move to a newer version of the MCAS test known as MCAS 2.0.

Also new this year, all 8th grade students will participate in Computer Based Testing (CBT) on their school issued iPads and keyboards this spring and we are currently working with students and staff to practice the skills needed for this computer based testing. All 8th graders at both Clarke and Diamond will take part in a practice assessment on **Tuesday March 21, 2017** (Please be sure to bring your fully charged iPad to school on this day).

All 6th and 7th grade students will take the paper-based version of MCAS 2.0 in ELA and Math this spring. It is critical that students are in attendance for this testing as we have limited time to administer make up testing. The testing schedule for the Spring 2017 test administration is as follows:

Tuesday April 4, 2017	Grades 6, 7, 8 ELA Session 1
Thursday April 6, 2017	Grades 6, 7, 8 ELA Session 2
Thursday May 11, 2017	Grades 6, 7, 8 Math Session 1
Tuesday May 16, 2017	Grades 6, 7, 8 Math Session 2
Wednesday May 17, 2017	Grade 8 Only Science Session 1
Friday May 19, 2017	Grade 8 Only Science Session 2

In addition, we have received several inquires about student participation in MCAS testing. The attached memo from the Massachusetts DESE and Education Commissioner, Mitchell Chester outlines the requirements for schools and students and will help to clarify any questions you may have.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Anna Monaco
Principal