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March 29, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians of Grade Eight Students:

This spring, students in grades eight will participate in the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA). These assessments are mandated by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and are designed to provide information about how well students are achieving in academic areas aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, which are the foundation of the District Curriculum. In 2001, under the federal *No Child Left Behind Act*, every state was required to test students in mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA) in grades 3 to 8. This mandate is still in effect under the *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015* (<http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/>).

While high school testing requirements continue to evolve at the state level, the middle school testing program will remain the same. For 2018-19, both our students' participation and results will be factored into the district's performance rating as part of the *Every Student Succeeds Act*; this data is reported annually by the New Jersey Department of Education in the New Jersey School Performance Reports.

This year's NJSLA-ELA, NJSLA-Mathematics, and NJSLA-Science will be conducted as follows:

- **May 13: English Language Arts Unit 1 (AM) and English Language Arts Unit 2 (PM)**
- **May 14: English Language Arts Unit 3 (AM) and Math Unit 1 (PM)**
- **May 15: Math Unit 2 (AM) and Math Unit 3 (PM)**
- **May 16: Science Units 1 and 2 (AM)**
- **May 17: Science Units 3 and 4 (AM)**

** Students will take the math assessment for the course in which they are enrolled rather than their grade-level assessment - if they are in Algebra 1 or Geometry.*

To view the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) testing calendars, [please click here](#) to visit our website.

Parents of students enrolled in Algebra I or Geometry should be aware that taking and passing the Algebra I and/or Geometry NJSLA Assessments has been a NJ high school graduation requirement, and while this remains under review by the NJDOE, passing at least one set of standardized tests for high school graduation has been a longstanding requirement in both state and federal regulations. Therefore, it is important that your child participate in the Algebra I or Geometry NJSLA to avoid any potential obstruction to high school graduation.

Students who are absent due to illness, family business, etc. will have make up tests scheduled for them on May 16, 17, and 20. *Please note that students who come to school during their grade's scheduled testing time should be prepared to take the test. No alternative learning experience will be provided during testing sessions. **If your child is going to be absent on a testing day for any reason, please notify your school principal's office. You are required to send a note to school letting the principal know why your child is absent.***

Specific instructions on schedules and any materials students should bring to testing will follow from your school administrators. The RPS student assessment policy and procedures can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

Sincerely,

Stacie Poelstra
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment