

United West Elementary School

2140 State Highway 135
Monmouth, IL 61462
Patrick Coate, Principal
734-8513 (P)
734-8515 (F)



March 2, 2017

Dear Third through Fifth Grade Parents:

Your child will be completing the PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) testing in the coming weeks. All states who adopted the Common Core Standards are required by the federal government to provide for administration of an assessment that measures student progress in meeting the standards. The testing will only be new to the 3rd grade students as the 4th grade and 5th grade have tested previously.

Without significant technological issue, the testing should comprise 9-10 hours of class time. Students will take no more than two tests per day over a four to five day period.

The teachers have been working diligently to prepare the students for the content of the tests to date. During technology class Mrs. Eyler has been instructing students in the nuances of the testing format as well as engaging the students in practice tests since returning from the winter break. All testing will take place in the computer lab under the supervision of your child's teacher and myself. Mrs. Eyler's Media Center and Technology classes for all students will be held at another location while testing is taking place.

We ask for your support in ensuring your child is **receiving plenty of rest** during the testing period. Minimal homework will be assigned to assist in making the evenings less structured. ***Eating a nutritious breakfast at home***, if they do not eat at school is also important. **Please refrain from scheduling appointments and other engagements that would require your child to be absent during testing.** The schedule is listed on the next page for your convenience and is also located on the March school calendar. We will have make up sessions, but it will come at the expense of missing classroom instruction at a later date. Last, it would be helpful for you to engage your child in *conversations about the testing* with an emphasis on trying their best. Most will find the experience to be quite challenging. Providing reassurance that having difficulty with a test does not mean there is something wrong or that they are not intelligent.

Please contact me if you have any questions. See the reverse side for parent resource details and the testing schedule. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Patrick Coate

Resources:

Parent Checklist:

http://www.parcconline.org/images/Parent_PARCC_Checklist.pdf

PARCC vs. Old Standardized Testing

<http://www.parcconline.org/assessments/practice-tests/a-different-kind-of-test>

PARCC Testing Dates:

Special Accommodation Testing-
3/20, 3/21, 3/22 (am/pm each day), 3/23 (am)

Mrs. Gladfelter-
3/20, 3/21, 3/22 (am each day), 3/23 & 3/24 (am/pm each day)

Mrs. Bishop-
3/24 (am), 3/27, 3/28, 3/29 (am/pm each day)

Mrs. Robertson-
3/27, 3/28, 3/29 (am each day), 3/30 & 3/31 (am/pm each day)

Mr. Young-
3/30, 3/31 (am each day), 4/3 & 4/4 (am/pm each day), 4/5 (am)

Mrs. Ruderman-
4/3, 4/4 (am each day), 4/5 & 4/6 (am/pm each day), 4/7 (am)