

Date: March 27, 2017

Dear Parent/ Guardian:

Our spring Georgia Milestones Assessment System testing window opens soon, and we are making final preparations for a successful testing season. The Georgia Milestones Assessment System is a comprehensive assessment system spanning grades 3 through high school. Students in grades 3 through 8 will take End-of-Grade (EOG) assessments in English/Language Arts and Mathematics. Additionally, 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will also take Science and Social Studies. Students taking specific high school courses will take the End-of-Course (EOC) assessments.

Georgia Milestones is designed to measure and provide information about how well students are mastering the state adopted content standards. Importantly, Georgia Milestones is designed to provide students with critical information about their own achievement and readiness for their next level of learning.

Georgia Milestones includes the following features:

- Multiple-choice items in all content areas and courses
- Multi-part and multi-select items in all content areas
- Open-ended (constructed response) items in English/Language Arts and Mathematics (all grades and courses)
- A writing component (in response to passages read by students) at every grade level and course within the English/Language Arts assessments
- Nationally norm-referenced items in all content areas and courses to complement the Georgia criterion-referenced information and to provide a national comparison

### Specific Information for End-of-Grade Tests

We ask that you make every effort to ensure your student gets a good night's rest and arrives at school on time each day for testing. The EOG tests will be administered over a fourteen-day period with one day for each content area and different grades testing on different days to accommodate more online testing. See the schedule below for more details. Please contact your school if you have questions.

Grade	ELA	Math	Science	Social Studies
<b>3rd</b>	4/17-4/18	4/19	X	X
<b>4th</b>	4/17-4/18	4/19	X	X
<b>5th</b>	4/20-4/21	4/25	4/26	4/27
<b>6th</b>	4/12-4/13	4/14	X	X
<b>7th</b>	4/18-4/19	4/20	X	X
<b>8th</b>	4/24-4/25	4/26	4/27	4/28

### Specific Information for End-of-Course Tests

The EOC window is from April 24-May 12. The schedule can be found on the Forsyth County Schools website under Assessment Calendars (<http://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/page/189>).

## Online Testing

As school systems in Georgia transition to online testing, Forsyth County will meet and exceed the state's expectations of 80% of the student population taking the Georgia Milestones assessments online during the spring 2017 administration. The state's goal is that school systems continue to increase online testing until all students are testing online by spring 2019. The information below is provided to assist you and your student in becoming familiar with the features of online testing.

- All elementary and middle schools are testing a number of students online in grades 3-8. The amount of students each school will test online varies depending on student needs and capacity of computers for testing at each school. **Please contact your school administrator for more information.**
- All high schools are testing students via the online platform, unless special accommodations require paper-pencil testing.
- A website, called *Experience Online Testing Georgia*, has been established to provide an opportunity for students to become familiar with the online testing platform. The website can be found at the link <http://gaexperienceonline.com/> and can be accessed at home. *Experience Online Testing Georgia* is available 7 days a week from 7:00am-10:00pm and does not require a log-in. It is intended to allow students to familiarize themselves with the online platform prior to testing.
- Students testing online will also have an opportunity to take a practice test at school, which provides students another opportunity to acquaint themselves with the online testing system.

## Further Information about Georgia Milestones

If you would like more information about the EOG or EOC, please read the Georgia Milestones Questions and Answers for Parents document on the Georgia Department of Education website at <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/Georgia-Milestones-Assessment-System.aspx>.

Forsyth County School System provides many measures of test security, which include providing extensive training for school-level testing coordinators, limited access to test materials, and system-level administrative oversight on test days.

For questions or concerns regarding test administration or test security, please contact your child's school administration at 770-667-2592 or the Forsyth County Schools Assessment Division at 770-887-2461. Thank you for your cooperation during testing.

Respectfully,

**Terri A. North**

**Principal**

**DeSana Middle School**

770-665-2591 Ext. 491515