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FREDERICK G. CONFESSORE
Assistant Superintendent of Schools

JAMES P. DORAN, Ed.D.
*Director of Personnel/ Human Resources/
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February 12, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This year New Jersey schools will be transitioning to a new statewide assessment along with a consortium of 11 states, called the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). Members of the PARCC have been working to develop tests that are aligned to Common Core Curriculum Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics that were adopted by the New Jersey State Board of Education in 2010. According to PARCC, the primary purpose of the new system “is to provide high quality assessments of students’ progress toward secondary readiness and success.” The assessments were created with a focus on the students’ ability to apply a broad range of concepts rather than memorizing facts. In Math, students are asked to reason and apply mathematic principles. In English Language Arts (ELA), students are required to read passages and write essay responses by answering prompts in literary analysis, research and narrative concepts. Sample tests and test items can be accessed at <http://parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests/>

In accordance with state law and regulations, all students in Grades 3 through 11 are required to take state assessments. For this school year, the PARCC assessment will replace the prior New Jersey Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (NJASK) and the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA). All students will take the PARCC assessments in Grades 3-11 in English Language Arts and Math. Additionally, the assessments will be administered electronically and all students will be scheduled to take the assessments over multiple days during their normally scheduled classes. Once a student completes his/her PARCC exam, he/she will be released back to his/her regular instructional day. The PARCC assessments will be administered during the following timeframes:

Performance Based Assessment – February 20 – April 2, 2015
End of Year Assessment – April 20 – May 15, 2015

The PARCC assessment will provide you with important information about your child’s progress toward meeting the goal of being college and career ready. The PARCC assessment will, for the first time, provide detailed diagnostic information about each individual student’s performance that educators, parents and students can utilize to enhance foundational knowledge and student achievement. PARCC assessments will include item analysis that will clarify a student’s level of knowledge and understanding of a particular subject or area of a subject. The data derived from the assessment will be utilized by teachers and administrators to pinpoint areas of difficulty and customize instruction accordingly.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

Frederick G. Confessore

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