

October 1, 2020

Greetings Roxbury Parents and Guardians:

One of the main objectives of a school district is to monitor and adjust the educational program and experience for all students in its charge to ensure the constant pursuit of the district's mission and goals. To that end, the Roxbury School District will continue the practice of examining multiple assessment measures in order to contribute toward the establishment of reflective practices that improve student achievement and programming. This is even more important as we begin this school year, following the unconventional conclusion of the 2019-2020 school year. Thus far, teachers have been implementing a multiple measures assessment approach including IXL diagnostics, running records, internal benchmarks, and frequent formative assessment to determine student readiness and mastery of standards. In addition, the school district administers the following required standardized assessments. The NJDOE has informed school districts that they anticipate the administration of these assessments again during this 2020 - 2021 school year, but administration dates are unknown at this time.

- NJSLA ELA: Grades 3 - 11
- NJSLA Math: Grades 3 - 8, Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry
- NJSLA Science: Grades 5, 8, and 11
- ACCESS 2.0 for ELLs

These state-developed assessments, in conjunction with daily classroom performance, provide critical information to the district so that prudent educational programming and instructional decisions can be made. Therefore, it is important that students display their very best effort daily so that accurate data can be gathered. A concerted effort from our entire school community each and every day, which includes these assessments, ensures and informs the district's ability to support our students with the best programming.

NJDOE has communicated the availability of an optional standardized assessment, the Start Strong assessment, which is offered through the Pearson platform similar to NJSLA and they suggest that these assessments can be utilized to identify potential learning gaps. These assessments are available to school districts until December 14, 2020. We are confident in our teachers' ability to evaluate students, which they have been making a concerted effort to do since our first day of school to determine how to best meet individual and collective student needs. Additionally, we place an incredibly high value on our in-person instructional time, and therefore are not intending to administer these optional standardized assessments.

Should our position on the Strong Start assessments change and/or once testing dates for the above identified assessments and/or additional details (including any update to high school graduation requirements) are made known to us, we will communicate that information to our families. Should you have any questions regarding these assessments or your child's academic program, please feel free to contact your teacher, school principal, or me.

Sincerely,



Charles Seipp, Ed. D.