Laurel Middle School

Rigor…Relevance…Relationships ~ People…Practices…Performance

Brandon Noelte, Principal

Zachary Furbay, Assistant Principal

Each April, all students participate in state assessments that provide your child, your child's teacher, and you with important information about how your child is progressing academically. This helps educators know how to best provide supports and instruction to your child. These assessments, along with local assessments, report cards, classwork, and teacher feedback all create a picture of your child's educational progress.

For ELA and Mathematics, all students will take the Smarter Balanced Assessment. The assessment is given primarily online and is adaptive, or changes, to meet your child at their level. These assessments are designed so that all learners can demonstrate their knowledge.

The majority of the assessment is multiple choice, but there are sections that require students to write, or type, a response. While the multiple-choice items are scored by a computer, the written/typed responses are scored by people who have had extensive training in the subject and how to score them without bias.

The school will receive results 3 weeks after they complete the assessment. Family reports are individually shared through the online family portal statewide in July/August.

Students will also be taking state assessments in Science and Social Studies. Students in grade 8 will take the DeSSA Next Generation Science Assessment. Like the Smarter Balanced Assessment, this assessment asks your child to demonstrate their progress towards standards. The Science assessment measures progress on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Students in grades 7 & 8 will take an assessment on progress towards the Delaware Social Studies Standards and the Delaware State Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies. Both the DeSSA Next Generation Science Assessment and the DeSSA Social Studies Assessment are administered online.

All of the assessments ask students to come up with their own answers, as well as show their work and thinking, and to think deeply about topics that may cross content standards. These assessments also include real life performance tasks that requires your child to think critically and use and apply information often in written form. The assessments are connected to the classroom instruction that your child receives at Laurel Middle School.

On December 10, 2015, the *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015* (ESSA) was signed into law. Section 1112(e)(2) of ESSA, states that parents of students in Title I schools have a right to know about state or district policies regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by ESSA, including any policy, procedure, or parental right to opt students out of such assessments. If you would like to receive information about this topic, please contact Brandon Noelte, Principal of Laurel Middle School, at (302) 875-6110 or Brandon.Noelte@laurel.k12.de.us.

Sincerely,

Brandon Noelte
Principal, LMS