



**MOUNT OLIVE  
TOWNSHIP  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

227 US Route 206,  
Suite 10  
Flanders, NJ 07836  
973.691.4000  
MOTSD.org  
@MOTSD

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September 8, 2023

Dear Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s):

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year. This letter provides information regarding the assessments your child will participate in during the 2023-2024 school year. Each year, your child participates in assessments that are either mandated by the New Jersey Department of Education or administered by the District. The assessments assist us in determining individual student performance and needs. The results are used to develop instructional practices that meet the needs of all of our students.

**NJSLA Assessments:** This Spring, students in grades 3-10 will continue to participate in the statewide NJSLA assessments. We encourage all families to have their children participate in this assessment, as it provides us with rich information that helps us, as a district, to strengthen our educational programming. In addition, participation in all NJSLA administrations and passing both the NJSLA Algebra I Assessment and the NJSLA ELA 10 Assessment are required by the state of New Jersey for students to graduate from high school. Schedules for the NJSLA Assessments will be sent home by your child's principal as we near the administration. Practice tests for the NJSLA can be accessed [here](#).

In addition, students in grades 5, 8, and 11 will participate in the NJSLA Science assessments, also during the Spring with dates to be determined. Information about the NJSLA Science assessment may be found [here](#).

*Anticipated District NJSLA Testing Window: April 29, 2024 to May 24, 2024*

**NJGPA:** Students in grade 11 will be required to complete the New Jersey State Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJSGPA). The NJGPA is a graduation-required assessment for grade 11 students. Students will be assessed on English/Language Arts (ELA 10) and Mathematics (Algebra 1 and Geometry) standards. Parent resources related to NJGPA can be located [here](#).

*NJGPA will be administered from March 11, 2024 to March 15, 2024*

**Accommodations:** It is important to note that if any student is permitted extra time or any other accommodations by their IEP or 504 plan, all [accommodations and accessibility options](#) will be followed for the NJSLA and NJGPA for ELA, Math, and Science (NJSLA only). In some instances, as per a student's IEP, the student may participate in an alternate proficiency assessment entitled the [Dynamic Learning Map \(DLM\)](#).

**Fountas & Pinnell:** Students in grades K-2 will participate in the Fountas & Pinnell (F&P) Benchmark Assessment. The Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment Systems (BAS) evaluate a student's reading and comprehension ability with reliable and robust universal screening that determines each child's instructional level for guided reading according to the [Fountas & Pinnell Text Level Gradient™](#). The F & P Benchmark Assessment is intended to provide teachers with information regarding your child's reading progress through a process of observation, recording, and evaluating changes in a student's reading performance. All students in grades 1 and 2 will be assessed three times per year, consistent with report cards. Students in Kindergarten will be assessed at the middle and end of the school year.

**Literably:** Reading comprehension and fluency will be assessed via Literably for students in grades 3-5. Literably is a computer-based reading assessment for students that identifies A-Z reading levels, diagnoses skill gaps, screens students for reading difficulties, and monitors progress. The assessment can be completed in half an hour's time and will be administered three times per year, consistent with report cards.

**ACCESS:** All students, K-12, who attend Multilingual Learner (ML) classes or were found eligible for ML classes will participate in ACCESS for ELLs testing during the months of February and March. ACCESS for ELLs is given annually to monitor students' progress in learning academic English, which is a U.S. federal requirement of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Students are assessed in the four language domains listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

**SAT/ACT/PSATs:** Students in grades 10 and 11 will be taking the [PSATs](#) on October 24th and 26th respectively during the school day. Students in grade 8 will also be taking the PSATs. Dates will be sent out once they are secured. The [SAT](#) will be conducted on October 11, 2023, at the high school, as well as the ACTs on October 17, 2023. If you have any questions regarding the administration of the [PSAT](#), [SAT](#), or the [ACT](#), please contact your child's guidance counselor.

**LinkIt!** Students in kindergarten- grade 11 will continue to participate in [LinkIt!](#) Benchmark Assessments. The LinkIt! Benchmark Assessment is conducted three times yearly in September, February, and June for grades 1-11 and in February and June for kindergarten. Unlike traditional tests that measure mastery of concepts and skills after students have received instruction, the LinkIt! New Jersey Student Learning Standards for ELA and Math Benchmarks provide immediate feedback and serve as an assessment **for** learning, not **of** learning. The LinkIt! Benchmark Assessment will also be used as part of the criteria for consideration into the District's [Gifted and Talented](#) program, placement into Mount Olive Success Academy, and part of the placement matrix for Accelerated ELA and math in grades 6 through 8.

**SRI:** Students will also participate in the Scholastic Reading Inventory ([SRI](#)) in grades 1 through 11 twice a year - once in September, and once in June. The purpose of this assessment is to determine a student's independent reading Lexile level which will determine grade-level growth throughout the year.

**CogAT:** Students in grades 2 and 5 will participate in the Cognitive Abilities Test Screener (CogAT) on dates to be determined this March. The CogAT Screening Form is a short form of CogAT and consists of the first subtest from each of the three batteries on the complete test: Verbal Analogies, Number Analogies, and Figure Matrices. Both the CogAT Screening Form and the complete CogAT test appraise the cognitive abilities of students from kindergarten through grade 12. The primary purpose of the CogAT Screening Form is to provide a quick, reliable, and valid data point to anchor other measures that inform decisions on student placement in gifted and talented programs.

**Advanced Placement:** Students at the high school who participate in any of our Advanced Placement courses will also participate in the AP testing for those courses according to the following schedule set by the [College Board](#). Individual student grade reports will be sent to your homes directly from the College Board.

As a learning community, we make deliberate research-based decisions as to how to balance assessing our students with ensuring sufficient instructional time within the classroom. We believe that the schedule shared with you within this letter allows us to satisfy all mandated testing requirements, along with allowing us, on a district level, to track individual student progress without being overwhelming to our students. We will, however, continue to monitor

our practices during the school year so that we can reflect on and enhance the process in the future.

If you have any questions regarding any of the information contained herein, I encourage you to contact your child's principal who will be able to speak to grade-specific assessments.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 973-691-4008 extension 8631.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MR', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Matt Robinson, Acting Assistant Superintendent

Cc: Dr. Sumit Bangia, Superintendent of Schools