



Superintendent's Message: "PARCC Testing"

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Beginning Friday, May 12, 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students in the Pascack Valley Regional High School District will start taking this year's Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) exam, the statewide standardized assessment.

This is the 36th year that such tests have been one of the requirements to earn a high school diploma in the state of New Jersey. The PARCC assessment is the most recent of New Jersey's standardized assessments and is in its third year of testing students in math and English Language Arts. All states in the country are federally mandated to test their students, with New Jersey among the states using PARCC to gauge how well students are performing. Most importantly, PARCC is now a graduation requirement for students in New Jersey. We hope you will take the time **to review this information to understand where your child is on the path to reach a graduation testing benchmark in the state of New Jersey.**

Please refer to the [State of New Jersey Graduation Requirements](#) to find additional information regarding state assessments and graduation.

The mission of the Pascack Valley Regional High School District is to prepare our students for successful college and/or career experiences with the needed mindset, skills, structures, and knowledge to accomplish that goal.

While we continue to support families in making the best decisions for their children, we also want to point out there is no "opt-out" provision for this test. We do want parents to be aware of the following: the New Jersey Department of Education has informed us that for schools that fail to test at least 95% of students, students who did not take the test may be counted as "non-proficient."

If you are planning to take other tests to fulfill graduation requirements, these do not provide us with sufficient information to serve as feedback to our curriculum and instruction. In addition, current NJDOE guidelines state that other tests are not available to fulfill graduation requirements unless a student has already taken PARCC.

PARCC is beneficial to us as a district because it provides data in a consistent format that allows us to gauge our instruction of content and the students' application of knowledge. It also is a good practice for students to demonstrate their knowledge on formal assessments and to get practice prior to taking the SAT, ACT, and other standardized assessments which are now following a PARCC-like format.

Whether we agree with it or not, our district and our schools are measured, ranked and evaluated by AP Scores, SAT scores and PARCC scores. We are uncomfortable with Pascack Hills and Pascack Valley being considered as anything other than one of the best high schools in the state. I hope you are too, and subsequently encourage your child to give their best effort.

Our principals will send out the testing schedule to all students and parents when we return from break.

Sincerely,



P. Erik Gundersen

Superintendent of Schools

Pascack Valley Regional High School District

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