

Waterbury Weekly

Ignite the Power and Potential of Each Student

March 9, 2020

Dear Waterbury School Community,

During the month of March, our students in Grades 3-5 will participate in the Illinois Assessment of Readiness Testing. I have included some information about the assessment for you to review.

Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) - formerly PARCC

The Illinois State Board of Education requires all Illinois public school students in grades 3-8 to participate in state-administered testing in reading and math. The 2020 Illinois state achievement test is called the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) and it replaces PARCC.

What happened to the PARCC exam?

The Illinois Assessment of Readiness replaced the PARCC exam in 2019. As the IAR uses the same test content and format as the PARCC exam, there will be no noticeable changes for students this year. This is somewhat advantageous as it will allow districts to continue tracking year-to-year student performance.

What is the Illinois Assessment of Readiness?

The Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) is the Illinois state achievement test given in the spring to all public school students in grades 3 through 8. The test measures a student's general Math and English Language Arts skills. District 20 will begin testing the week of March 16. Your child's classroom teacher will provide you with the exact dates your child will be testing. The IAR is fully aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards and uses the same test questions from its predecessor, the PARCC exam. The IAR is taken on a computer and is designed to provide information about student progress toward the long-term goal of college and career readiness.

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has a section of its website devoted to the IAR. You can access the ISBE website by clicking [ISBE IAR Resources](#).

What does the IAR test look like?

The IAR uses the same test items and questions as the PARCC exam, including [practice tests](#) that mirror the actual student tests. Please note that students test in both Math and English Language Arts.

Estimated Total Testing Time for IAR

	Math	ELA
Grade 3	3 - 60 minute tests	2 - 75 minute tests
Grade 4-5	3 - 60 minute tests	2 - 90 minute tests

Is IAR testing mandated?

Federal law—specifically, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), requires each state to give a state achievement test to its students. Participation rates will affect a school's overall accountability score on the Illinois School Report Card.

How can parents help to prepare their children for the IAR test?

- Discuss and “do” real-life math with your child. Help him/her know basic math facts.
- Try to ensure he/she is not scared or anxious about the tests.
- Explain to your child that the tests will initially be more challenging.
- Tell your child to do his/her best, and ensure them that a single test score does not represent all that your child can and cannot do.

- Provide a quiet, comfortable place for studying at home and make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast before a test.
- Above all, be positive and encouraging about the tests.

Thank you for your commitment to our children and our school. We appreciate your support.

Dr. Debbie Guzan
Principal



Incoming Kindergarten Information Night

Do you know a child who will be starting kindergarten in the fall?

If so, please share this date with their parent or guardian.

Thank you for your help!

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Incoming Kindergarten Parent Information Night
6:00 PM - Waterbury Multi-Purpose Room



American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge

Our student have been learning about heart-healthy habits through a variety of jump rope skills and fitness activities with Mrs. Herbers, our PE teacher, as part of the Kids Heart Challenge.

Do you still need to donate?: Please use the envelope previously sent home and make a check payable to The American Heart Association, use Waterbury's donation link <http://www2.heart.org/goto/waterbury>, or download Kids Heart Challenge APP. **CASH DONATIONS OVER \$5 WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please know that donating is not required for participation in this PE program. A donation to the American Heart Association is optional.**

When students donate, they can receive a "thank you gift" as a token of appreciation, such as a key chain clasp. Key chain clasps get the students excited about being kind, eating healthy, and helping others and are given immediately to the student when a donation is made. Other gifts, for larger donations, will arrive in April. Please note that all donations are due on Friday, March 13.



UPCOMING EVENTS For the other side

Mobile Dentist

Tuesday, March 10

Six Flags Read to Succeed

&

Santa's Village Azoosment Park Reading Logs Due

Wednesday, March 11

District 20 Parent Café

Keeping Kids Safe Online

Thursday, March 12

Spring Wood Library

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Kids Heart Challenge

Wear Red Day

Last day to turn in donations.

Friday, March 13

5th Grade Band Concert

Monday, March 16

Spring Wood Middle School

7 PM

PTO Dine to Donate – Dr. Dogs

Wednesday, March 18

10 AM – 8 PM

PTO Craft Fair & Vendor Fair

Saturday, March 21

Waterbury Elementary School

10 AM – 4 PM

McTeacher Night

Wednesday, March 25

72 Stratford Dr, Bloomingdale

4:30-7:30 PM

Board of Education Meeting

Thursday, March 26

Spring Wood Middle School

7 PM

Spring Break

Monday, March 30

through
Friday, April 3

School Resumes
Monday, April 6

Incoming Kindergarten Parent Information Night
Wednesday, April 8
Waterbury Multi-Purpose Room
6:00 PM