

April 28th, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Students in our school will be taking the **Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) Tests** from May 7, 2018 to June 8th, 2018 with specific dates listed below. It is important that your child attend school on these days. If possible, please avoid scheduling trips or appointments that would take your child out of school during this time period. It is also important that your child have a good night's rest and a healthy breakfast before testing. If you become aware of an unavoidable conflict that could result in your child missing a testing day, please notify your child's school as soon as possible

MAY 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 Blue Day	2 Green Day	3 Blue Day	4 Green Day
7 Blue Day Civics 1st: Blain, Verdin & Lowder 2nd: Patton & J. Schneider	8 Green Day Reading 8 Wickham, Gardner & Bradinova	9 Blue Day Reading 8 Salzman, Ziegler, Mudgett, Dubin, King, & Bradinova	10 Green Day Reading 7 Porta-Sheridan & D. Wilson	11 Blue Day Reading 7 Reaves, DeAtley, Wilkinson, Dubin & Bradinova
14 Green Day Math 7, Alg & Geo Griffin-Evans & Manning	15 Blue Day Math 7, Math 7 HN & Alg Crouch, Burns & Zinke	16 Green Day Math 7, Math 7 HN, Math 8 Crouse, Rupert, P. Wilson, Katz, & Zinke	17 Blue Day Math 7 HN, Math 8, Alg Borges, M. Miller, Endrizzi, & P. Wilson	18 Green Day Science 8 1st: Rever, Ellis, James, Portare & Bradinova 2nd: Krein & Wesselman

The Virginia SOL tests are required of all students in grades 3-8 across the state by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). SOL tests measure the extent to which students have learned the content and skills specified in the Virginia SOLs. The purpose of the testing is to provide information about student achievement. Scores from the tests will be used to determine whether students fail to meet standards, are proficient in meeting the standards, or are advanced in the standards. More information about how and when parents will receive their children's scores will be shared closer to these dates.

This school year, students in grades 6-8 will take a computer adaptive SOL test for both reading and mathematics. All other SOL tests that students take this year will be administered using the traditional format. CAT provides a customized assessment for each student. Each test begins with a question of moderate difficulty. A correct response leads to a more difficult question, while an incorrect response leads to a less difficult question. However, all students complete the same number of questions for the overall test.

On a mathematics CAT, a student cannot skip questions or return to previous questions. On a reading CAT, a student may move forward and backward among the questions connected with a particular passage; however, once the student navigates to the next passage, he or she may not return to questions from the previous passage. Teachers and other instructional staff in our school are working with students to help them prepare for CAT. Your child will have opportunities to practice taking this type of test before the spring SOL testing window begins.

The development of CAT is part of VDOE's continuing efforts to provide students with the best possible testing experience. CAT requires fewer total questions than a traditional SOL test to determine a student's proficiency and has been proven to increase student focus and engagement. Additional information on CAT is available on the VDOE webpage at:

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/test_administration/cat/index.shtml.

All other SOL tests that students take this year will be administered using the traditional format in which all students who take a particular version of the test respond to the same test questions. Teachers and other instructional staff members in our school are working with students who will take the CAT version of the test this year to help them prepare for this new testing experience, including opportunities to practice taking this type of test before the spring SOL testing window begins.

VDOE and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) have an electronic device policy which is to be followed during all SOL testing. To maintain test security, the possession of these devices (e.g., cell phones/mobile communication devices) in the testing room is prohibited. If a student is discovered with a prohibited electronic device while in a test environment, the student's test will be stopped, the electronic device will be confiscated, and the student will be removed from the test environment. School administrators, consistent with the Acceptable Use Policy and Student Rights & Responsibilities, have authority to search the "item of personal belonging" (e.g., the cell phone or mobile device) if it is believed to contain evidence of a violation of school regulations (in this case, cheating). School administrators have the right to apply school-based consequences based upon their investigation of the situation. Please talk to your student about the electronic device policy and the serious consequences of violating it.

The Virginia Board of Education is allowing elementary and middle school students who fail SOL tests by a narrow margin (scoring between a 375 and 399) to be retested before the end of the year provided parental permission is obtained. You filled out a permission form at the beginning of the school year regarding this second opportunity to demonstrate proficiency should they be eligible for a second attempt. If you have any questions regarding this form, please contact our Student Services Department at 703-690-5600. A parent decision not to retest will not in any way impact your child's grade or academic record.

If you would like additional information, you can find it on the VDOE's website:

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/test_administration/cat/index.shtml.

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