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Dear Elmbrook Families,

The Wisconsin Forward Exam is a test mandated by the state, designed to gauge how well students are performing in relation to our state standards. Wisconsin Students in Grades 3-8 will be participating in the English Language Arts and Math assessments. Students in grades 4 and 8 will participate in the Science exam, and students in grades 4, 8, and 10 will participate in the Social Studies Exam. The state window for this assessment will extend from March 22nd through May 14th this year. Your child's school will provide additional information regarding school and grade level specific test dates. Please watch for this on our school websites and through other forms of parent communication.

The WI Department of Education has indicated that in-person assessment is the only viable method for the state assessments. The company who produces the test has no remote (virtual) testing option available. Proctored, on-site testing ensures standardized administration that includes equitable access to technology and optimal testing environments, test security, and validity.

We are taking every precaution to ensure a safe testing environment. We are following procedures recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Department of Health Services (DHS) including social distancing, flexible schedules and the frequent sanitization of student spaces and equipment. Please make sure students are healthy before sending them to school. Keep students home who are ill or have been exposed to COVID-19. Students not in school on testing days will be scheduled for a make-up test prior to the close of the testing window. Additional guidance of our test day procedures for families of virtual learners can be found here.

You can access the <u>Informational Brochure for Families</u> for additional information about the exam including its purpose, what scores will be provided, and how the scores will be used. This brochure was designed by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. The link is available through this letter on our website if you are viewing a paper copy.

The Wisconsin Forward Exam measures the knowledge and skills your student(s) should have acquired by the time they reach each grade level in accordance with state standards. Student performance on the exam does not affect any of their current grades. Please encourage your son or daughter to take the test seriously and do the best they can. The results of these tests will be used to help school staff make determinations that best support our students.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's school and they will provide additional Information.

Sincerely,

Emily Greiber Director of Elementary Teaching & Learning