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April 2021

Dear BHMS Parent/Guardian:

Students in grades K-12 will be completing the MCA reading (grades 6, 7, 8), math (grades 6, 7, 8) and science (grade 8) tests as required by the State of Minnesota. More information regarding these tests is available on the [Black Hawk Middle School](#), [District 196](#) and [MN Department of Education](#) websites.

Regardless of the District 196 learning model, BHMS Digital Academy (DA) students in grades 6, 7 and 8 will be taking the tests as indicated on the following Wednesdays:

April 28 – Reading (grades 6, 7, 8); **May 5** – Math (grades 6, 7, 8); **May 12** – Science (grade 8 only)

These are not timed tests, so some students may finish later than others. Please plan on your child finishing each test on the date assigned.

The Minnesota Department of Minnesota (MDE) requires that students take the tests in their assigned building. Remote options are not available. You do have the option to keep your student from taking the tests if you are not comfortable having your student test on campus. The choice to opt out of the tests will not have any repercussions for the students. We ask that all families complete this [survey](#) for each student for testing and transportation planning purposes.

Students who attend in-person on the dates above will take the tests in a classroom. Safety guidelines will be followed. The schedule plan is:

8:30*	Students report to the cafeteria (breakfast is available) and will be guided to testing classroom
8:45-12:00	Testing time (breaks will be provided)
12:00-2:25*	Dismissal from school or Academic Support Time.

*Bus transportation is provided for students eligible for district transportation and using the usual routes and pick-up and drop-off times. Buses transport students from BHMS only at 2:25. Students, who do not have a ride or are unable to walk after the testing session, are expected to remain at school until 2:25. You may also drop-off your child by 8:45 and pick-up any time after your student finishes a test at the lower level doors. Your child can call you from school when finished with the test. The tests are expected to take 2-3 hours.

You are encouraged to help your child prepare for testing by helping them do the following:

- having a good night of sleep and eating breakfast at home or school
- making sure the school-issued iPad is fully charged and brought to school
- bringing wired earbuds or headphones (wireless/bluetooth earbuds/headphones are not allowed)
- bringing a water bottle
- having a positive mindset about testing
- setting a goal to complete all of the questions of the test, to try to improve from the previous time, etc.
- reminding them that their teachers will have to store their cell phones while they are taking a test or the phone should remain home

Please contact us with any questions at our email below or the office phone number above. Thank you for your partnership with your child's education.

Regards,

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Digital Academy MCA Survey Link:
https://district196.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cFRw1FHfdbaBZSC



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