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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.

If District 196 remains in the hybrid learning model, BHMS cohort A and B students in grades 6, 7 and 8 will be taking the reading and math tests on the following dates:

- April 26 - Reading (Cohort A Students)
- April 27 - Reading (Cohort B Students)
- April 29 - Math (Cohort A Students)
- April 30 - Math (Cohort B Students)

These are not timed tests, so any students who do not complete the test during the scheduled time and dates will have the opportunity to finish.

Each day will involve a modified schedule to accommodate testing and allow all class periods to meet. The student schedule each day will be as follows:

8:30	Students arrive to school (breakfast is available as usual in the cafeteria)
8:45-8:50	Students report to Panther Time for attendance and announcements
8:50-11:21	Testing Time
11:24-2:25	Shortened 6 period schedule (lunch times will be usual length).

The science MCA test (grade 8 students only) will be administered in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade science classes during the week of May 10. The school schedule will not be affected.

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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