



DMS Newsflash

A p r i l 2 0 2 1

Smarter Balanced & NGSS Assessments

Dear Parents & Guardians,

The month of May marks the Smarter Balanced Assessment window for Grades 3 through 5 and the Next Generation of Science Standards Assessment for Grade 5 at Deans Mill School. The assessments measure our students' proficiencies in the areas of English Language Arts, Math, and Science relative to the Common Core State Standards. While it certainly has been a unique and challenging year for all stakeholders with constraint pivots between in-person, hybrid, and distance learning, these assessments will continue to provide us with valuable individual and grade-level data to help us identify our strengths and weaknesses. Results will provide our teachers with information about academic areas that may require additional focus and help us identify trends in student learning to ensure needs are met. Please encourage your child to do his/her best on the assessments so we can celebrate the growth they made this year. The Smarter Balanced and Next Generation of Science Standards Assessments will be administered between May 10th and May 28th.

To best help your child prepare for each day of testing, we recommend the following:

- 🍏 To ensure your child is well prepared for the assessment, please remind him/her to try to get a good night's rest each night prior to testing and eat a well-balanced breakfast.
- 🍏 We encourage students to bring in a snack and water bottle for testing.
- 🍏 Please ensure your child brings his/her Chromebook (fully charged) and charger to school each testing day.
- 🍏 Additional electronics including cell phones and smart watches are prohibited from testing rooms and should be left home.
- 🍏 Students are encouraged to bring headphones, but blue bluetooth headphones are prohibited due to issues with test security. If your child does not have headphones, the school will issue a pair to the student.
- 🍏 Remind your child to have a growth mindset and put in a strong effort.

We appreciate your ongoing support!

Regards,

Jenn & Tom



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Important Dates

May

- 10-28 Smarter Balanced & NGSS Testing Window • Grades 3-5
**More specific dates and information to come.*
- 11 PTO Meeting • 6:30 PM • VIRTUAL
- 13 Board of Education Meeting • District Office • 7 PM
- 28 Spirit Day • Patriotic Day • Wear **Red, White, & Blue**
- 31 Memorial Day Observance • No school



June

- 4 Science & Technology Day
- 10 Field Day at DMS
**Rain date is June 11*
- 10 Board of Education Meeting • District Office • 7 PM
- 17 5th Grade Party
- 18 Last day of school



Stonington Middle School
Summer Academy 2021
Incoming Grades 6-8

Save
the
Dates

July 6-8
July 13-15
July 20-22
July 27-29
August 3-5

8:30 AM – 12:15 PM

Classes held at Stonington High School

Registration Coming Soon

You do not need to attend all 5 weeks to participate

Diversity Corner



Stonington Public Schools Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

Stonington Public Schools has launched a podcast series entitled, Conversations from the Classroom to the Coastline. The series highlights Stonington's inspiring educators and students, award-winning programs, current challenges, and unique community partnerships. Learn more about the district beyond what is covered in school newsletters and the Board of Education's monthly meetings. Hear from the practitioners, professionals and students about teaching and learning inside and outside of our classrooms. Guests include master-teachers, administrators, professional consultants to the district, community members and most importantly, Stonington students and alumni.

The first episode features Stonington Middle School teacher, Tim Flanagan, and his work specific to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) inside and outside the classroom. Several upcoming episodes will also feature additional DEI work in the district. The podcast is available on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), and [Amazon Music](#). It's also available on the SPS [podbean webpage](#).

Specials Update

Our goal for the year is to keep families informed about grade-level curriculum in Music, Art, Library, and Physical Education, and how they can support their children at home.

To all of our students: We're so proud of how hard everyone continues to work this year. Thanks for doing a great job! Even though we might not see you in class, we are still thinking of you! Remember, we're switching to our last special on May 18th.

With love from:

Miss Biernacki, Mrs. LaPalme,
Mrs. Anderson, and Mrs. McMinn



+ **Scoliosis screenings for Grade 5 girls**

The State of Connecticut mandates that school nurses conduct postural screenings for female students in Grade 5. School nurses will be performing this screening on **June 8, 2021**. Girls should be observed wearing a two-piece bathing suit top or a bra. Please make sure that your child dresses accordingly.

+ The purpose of this program is to recognize the signs of spinal curvature at its earliest stages so that the need for treatment can be determined. Specifically, scoliosis is a sideways curvature of the spine. In its early years, it is painless and develops gradually, especially during the years of rapid adolescent growth. Kyphosis, sometimes called round back, is an exaggerated forward bend of the spine and is often confused with poor posture. Many cases of curvature of the spine are mild and require only ongoing observation by a doctor after the first diagnosis. Others get progressively more severe as the child grows and requires active treatment. Early treatment can prevent the development of a severe deformity which can affect a person's appearance and health.

+ Each student will be screened individually by school nurses. The nurses will inspect the student's spine as he or she stands and then bends forward. The student's entire back from shoulders to hips need to be observed without covering. Girls should be observed wearing a two-piece bathing suit top or a bra.

+ If further consultation is recommended, parents will be notified in writing of the findings and will be asked to seek further evaluation from their own physician.
If you have any questions, please contact your child's school nurse.

+ **Kindergarten Registration**

+ If your child is eligible to start Kindergarten in the fall, please make sure the nurse has a copy of the most recent health assessment and immunization records. Any missing information will delay the placement of your child into a classroom.

+ **Health Tips and Safety tips from the nurse**

Preventing Sunburn

+ Sunburn can happen within 15 minutes of being in the sun, but the redness and discomfort may not be noticed for a few hours. Don't forget to apply sunscreen to your children prior to going outside to play.

For safety of the children on the playground and climbing stairs in the building, we request children not wear flip flops or slip-on shoes while at school.

+ Students will be going outside every day for recess now that spring has arrived. Remember to dress your children appropriately for the weather.

Tick Season

There have already been spotting of ticks found on staff and students. Please be sure that you are checking your child regularly.

+ ***How can I prevent Lyme disease?***

+ Check yourself and your family daily for ticks. Look especially in the hair, at areas of the body that bend, in the belly button, in and around the ears, and where pants/underwear waistbands touch the skin. Dress in long-sleeved shirts and long pants, and tuck the pants into socks whenever possible when playing in woods or in tall grass. Use products that are tick-repellent on your skin while outdoors, and treat your clothing with a product that contains permethrin.

Allergy season

As you know, allergy season is here in New England. Please be advised that many symptoms are also consistent with COVID-19. Please be sure to check with your child's doctor and manage symptoms accordingly. If your child needs to take allergy medicine, please remember to give it to him or her before school.

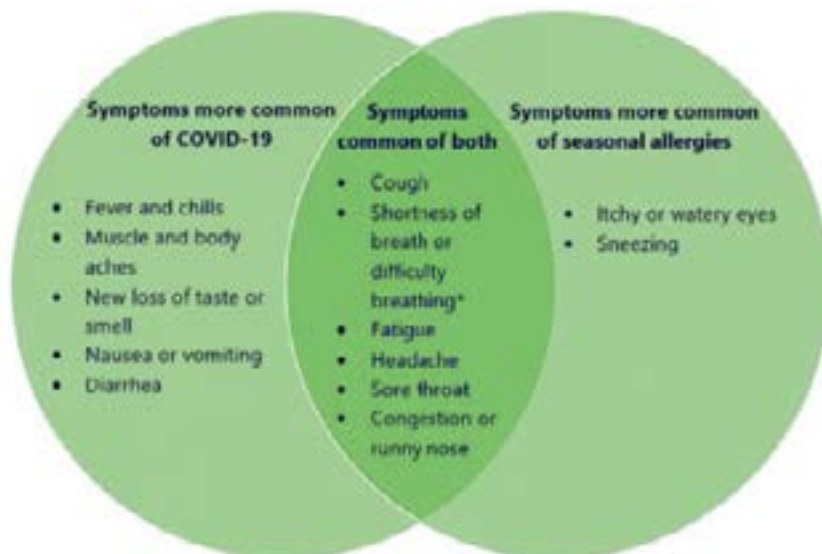
COVID-19 Information and Reminders

Healthy DMS Community

Our goal is to keep DMS healthy and in school! We are asking that you continue to follow the [Parent/Family Responsibility Form - Health Safety Requirements](#).

Travel

Regarding your upcoming travels, there are no current mandates and requirements in place for Connecticut. We encourage you to follow the recommendations and **mitigation measures** found on the [Connecticut Travel Advisory](#) information page whenever you plan to travel. Stonington Public Schools will not require specific mitigation measures regarding travel.



COVID-19 Vaccine

Help keep your community safe! Sign up for your vaccine! Visit [Ledge Light Health District COVID-19 Vaccination Page](#) for information on obtaining your vaccination. Many locations no longer require appointments.

Also

Families, students and staff continue to do a fantastic job adhering to the guidelines! Please continue to wear your mask, keep a 6-foot distance, and wash your hands.



For the most up-to-date information on COVID-19 in our schools, please visit [Stonington Public Schools](#) and select the **Red Banner** section at the top of the page.

Keep doing your part and continue to keep the DMS community **healthy!** We are in this together!



Nurse Lori
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