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September 19, 2025

Dear Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s):

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year. This letter provides information regarding the [2025-26 Assessment Information and Schedule.docx](#). In addition to the testing timelines, this document also includes resources for families to better understand and prepare their child for the assessments. This schedule is posted on the district and school websites. Your child will participate in assessments mandated by the New Jersey Department of Education or administered by the District. The assessments assist teachers and administrators in determining individual student performance and needs. The results are used to develop instructional practices that meet the needs of all of our students. Please note that the New Jersey Department of Education continues to update information and details on the mandated state assessments, so please continue to check the district website for updates.

State Mandated NJSLA Assessments: This Fall, students in grades 4-11 will participate in the new NJSLA (New Jersey Student Learning Assessment) Field Test on Literacy, Mathematics, and Writing. In the Spring, students in grades 3-10 will continue to participate in the statewide NJSLA assessments. We encourage all families to have their children participate in this assessment, as it provides us with valuable information that helps the district to strengthen our educational programming. Schedules for the NJSLA Assessments will be sent home by your child's principal as we near the administration. As the New Jersey Department of Education shares updated information on practice assessments, updated links will be added to the [2025-26 Assessment Information and Schedule.docx](#). In addition, students in grades 5, 8, and 11 will participate in the NJSLA Science assessments, also during the Spring.

State Mandated NJGPA: This Fall, students in grade 12 will participate in the NJGPA Field Test and students in grade 11 will be required to complete the New Jersey State Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJSGPA). The NJGPA is a graduation-required assessment for grade 11 students. Students will be assessed on English/Language Arts (ELA 10) and Mathematics (Algebra 1 and Geometry) standards.

Accommodations: It is important to note that if your child is permitted extra time or any other accommodations as written in their IEP or 504 plan, those accommodations and accessibility options will be followed for the NJSLA and NJGPA for ELA, Math, and Science (NJSLA only). In some instances, as per a student's IEP, a student may participate in an alternate proficiency assessment entitled the [Dynamic Learning Map \(DLM\)](#).

ACCESS: All students, K-12, attending Multilingual Learner (ML) classes or determined to be eligible for ML classes will participate in the mandated [ACCESS](#) for ELLs testing during the months of February and March. ACCESS for ELLs is given annually to monitor students' progress in learning academic English, which is a U.S. federal requirement of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Students are assessed in the four language domains listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

SAT/ACT/PSATs: Students in grades 9-11 will be taking the [PSATs](#) in October during the school day. The [SAT](#) will be conducted in October at the high school, as well as the ACTs. If you have any questions regarding the administration of the [PSAT](#), [SAT](#), or the [ACT](#), please contact your child's guidance counselor. The specific assessment dates are posted on the

[w 2025-26 Assessment Information and Schedule.docx](#)

iReady and LinkIt!: Students in Grade 6-11 will continue to participate in LinkIt benchmark assessments, while our Grade K-5 students will participate in i-Ready Diagnostics and Universal Screening [iReady](#). Both benchmark assessments are conducted three times yearly in September, January/February, and June. Unlike traditional tests that measure mastery of concepts and skills after students have received instruction, the ELA and Math Benchmarks provide immediate feedback and serve as an assessment **for** learning, not **of** learning. The assessment results help teachers to differentiate instruction to address the academic needs for their students.

CogAT: Students in grades 2 and 7 will participate in the [CogAT](#) on dates to be determined this March. The CogAT Screening Form is a short form of CogAT and consists of the first subtest from each of the three batteries on the complete test: Verbal Analogies, Number Analogies, and Figure Matrices. Both the CogAT Screening Form and the complete CogAT test appraise the cognitive abilities of students from kindergarten through grade 12. The primary purpose of the CogAT Screening Form is to provide a quick, reliable, and valid data point to anchor other measures that inform decisions on student placement in gifted and talented programs.

Advanced Placement: Students at the high school who participate in any of our Advanced Placement courses will also participate in the AP Testing for those courses according to the following schedule set by the [College Board](#). Individual student grade reports will be sent to your homes directly from the College Board.

As a learning community, we make deliberate research-based decisions as to how to balance assessing our students with ensuring sufficient instructional time within the classroom. We believe that the schedule shared with you within this letter allows us to satisfy all mandated testing requirements, along with allowing us, on a district level, to track individual student progress without being overwhelming to our students. We will, however, continue to monitor our practices during the school year so that we can reflect on and enhance the process in the future. If you have any questions regarding any of the information contained herein, I encourage you to contact your child's principal who will be able to speak to grade-specific assessments.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Regan, Ed.D.

Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Mount Olive Township Public School District