

Dr. Pamela McDonnough
PRINCIPAL



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Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) is a progress monitoring test that is administered three times per year to track your student's progress in learning the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards. Your student will participate in the third administration (PM3) of the Grade [6/7/8] FAST Reading [and Mathematics] assessments on [May 11: 6th Grade Reading, May 12: 7th/8th Grade Reading, May 13: 6th Grade Math, and May 14: 7th/8th Grade Math]. The results from PM3 will show how well your student has mastered the grade level content standards. You will be provided information about how to see your student's results after testing is completed.

Your student's FAST assessments will be administered on paper, as an accommodation per his or her Individual Educational Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan. This test attempt will present items that will cover the entire test "blueprint," meaning students will see items that measure the standards within the subject and grade level. For more information about the test design, please visit <https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/best/>. You or your student can review sample materials at home at <https://flfast.org/families.html>.

Please review the following policies with your student before testing:

- **Electronic Devices**—Students are not allowed to have any electronic devices, including, but not limited to, cell phones, smart glasses, and smartwatches, at any time during testing or during breaks (e.g., restroom), **even if the devices are turned off or students do not use them.** Students may not wear smart glasses during statewide testing, even if they are prescription glasses. Students with prescription smart glasses will need to remove them or test another day with standard glasses. If your student is found with an electronic device or is found using Bluetooth/wireless headphones/earbuds during testing, his or her test will be invalidated (not scored).
- **Calculator Policy**—For Grades 7–8 FAST Mathematics, approved handheld scientific calculators will be provided. For Grade 6 FAST Mathematics, a handheld four-function calculator will be provided. Calculators are not allowed for Grades 3–5 Mathematics.
- **Testing Rules Acknowledgment**—All tests include a Testing Rules Acknowledgment printed in the student's test and response book that reads: "I understand the testing rules that were just read to me. If I do not follow these rules, my test score may be invalidated." Prior to testing, test administrators read the rules to students, and students sign below the statement in their test and response books show that they understand the testing rules.
- **Discussing Test Content after Testing**—The last part of the testing rules read to students states that because the test content is secure, students may not discuss or share details about the test items and passages after testing. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, or posting test content to social media sites. **While students may not share information about what questions were on their test, this policy is not meant to prevent students from talking about their testing experiences with their parents/families.**

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- **Working Independently**—Students are responsible for doing their own work during the test and for protecting their answers from being seen by others. If students are caught cheating during testing, their tests will be invalidated (not scored).
- **Leaving Campus**—If your student leaves campus before completing a test (e.g., for lunch, an appointment), he or she **will not** be allowed to return to that test. If your student does not feel well on the day of testing, it may be best for him or her to wait and be tested on a make-up day. Please remember not to schedule appointments on testing days.
- **Testing Accommodations**—Please contact the school to discuss any other testing accommodations that will be provided for your student.
- **Testing Irregularities**—If a testing irregularity occurs in your student’s testing room, as part of a school investigation, your student may be asked questions to provide information about the incident.
- **Extra Time**—Any student still working at the end of the allotted time for the session will be provided extra time, as allowed, to complete the test. However, based on directions from the district, students who are not actively working (e.g., sleeping) at the end of regular time may be dismissed rather than being given extra time.

If you have any questions related to this test administration, you may contact Mr. Martinez, Assistant Principal over Testing, at kevin.martinez@palmbeachschools.org.

For more information about the FAST program, please visit the portal at <https://flfast.org/fsa.html>.

Thank you for supporting your student and encouraging him or her to do his or her best during this test administration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Pamela McDonnough