MOUNT OLIVE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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September 14, 2026

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

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year. This letter provides information regarding the assessments your child will participate in during the 2026-2027 school year. Each year, your child participates in assessments that are either mandated by the New Jersey Department of Education or administered by the District. The assessments assist us in determining individual student performance and needs. The results are used to develop instructional practices that meet the needs of all of our students.

NJSLA-A Assessments: This 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 rich information that helps us, as a 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. Practice tests for the NJSLA-A can be accessed here.

In addition, students in grades 5, 8, and 11 will participate in the NJSLA Science assessments, also during the Spring with dates to be determined. Information about the NJSLA Science assessment may be found here.

Anticipated District NJSLA-A Testing Window: April 19-May 21, 2027

NJGPA: 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. Parent resources related to NJGPA can be located here.

NJGPA Testing Window: March 1-19, 2027

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

ACCESS: All students, K-12, who attend Multilingual Learner (ML) classes or were found eligible for ML classes will participate in 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 on October 14, 2026 during the school day. The SAT will be conducted on October 20, 2026, at the high school, as well as the ACTs on October 6, 2026. If you have any questions regarding the administration of the PSAT, SAT, or the ACT, please contact your child's guidance counselor.

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. 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 Cognitive Abilities Test Screener (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,

Elizabeth McDermond

Assistant Superintendent
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