

# ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

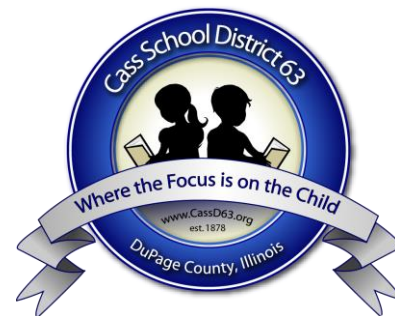
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*Kerry J. Foderaro, Ed.D.*

Superintendent of Schools

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Wednesday, February 19, 2020

Dear Cass School District 63 Families:

Annually, typically in the early spring, students attending Illinois public school districts are administered a state-mandated assessment. In recent years, it has been the PARCC assessment and prior to that it was the ISAT, which followed the first state-mandated assessment, IGAP. The Illinois State Board of Education's current version is the Illinois Assessment for Readiness (IAR), which officially began last school year.

The first statewide mandated assessment, 30 plus years ago, was reported only at the school and district level. The goal of this assessment was accountability at the local-level, state-level and for the state, at the federal level. Schools and districts utilized these results at that time and still do today, to improve curricula, teaching and learning.

Soon after this first statewide mandated assessment, reports for individual students were generated with the hope that they could be useful and benefit the growth of each individual student. This was, and still is, challenging due to the many revisions in the mandated assessments over the years, as well as the delayed timing of receiving the results.

This spring, our students in Grade Three through Eight, along with students in those grade levels from all other Illinois public school districts, will participate in IAR.

We strongly encourage students, as we hope you will with your children, to try their very best on every assessment that is administered. It is an opportunity for students to showoff and demonstrate how hard they have worked and how much they have learned over their years of schooling. This is an excellent opportunity for our students to get formally recognized for their achievements.

As a responsible school district, we need student assessment data to do our very best. The state-mandated assessment data is just one snapshot in time for each given student. In addition,

## Concord Elementary School

Cass School District 63

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## Cass Junior High School

Cass School District 63

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School Principal & District Director of Technology

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teachers give classroom tests and assessments and administer NWEA MAPs assessments districtwide, twice a year, for many of our grade levels. These assessments complement the state-mandated assessment data with both teacher and NWEA MAPs assessment data. We are confident that using multiple assessments, allows us to have reliable data for each student, which we then use to greatly enhance our teaching and learning process.

More details, when we receive them about this anticipated spring state-mandated IAR assessment, will be forthcoming from your child(ren)'s school(s).

Sincerely,

*Kerry J. Foderaro*

Kerry J. Foderaro  
Superintendent of Schools

KJF/glw