Dear Parents and Guardians:

As you probably well know, our students take federal and state required assessments every spring. These assessments are one facet of many that we utilize to help us understand how students are growing academically and how effective our instruction and curriculum are in meeting state and national standards. The Illinois State Board of Education and the Federal Department of Education uses these assessments in a variety of ways to continue their ongoing quest to enhance education. This year, the English Language Arts and Math assessment for Grades Three-Eight, is called the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR). The IAR replaces the mandated annual Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), which was administered the last four years.

We are told that the IAR is almost the same as the assessment that students took last year. This assessment was developed with the same Illinois Learning Standards and includes high-quality test questions that teachers and students have become familiar with over the past number of years.

Our students should feel very confident that the IAR is an opportunity to demonstrate and get recognized for what they know and what they can do based on their hard work and studies.

The IAR will change over the next few years as the state works to make it more useful to schools and families. Next year, the state has made a commitment to have test results back much more quickly than previous years. The year after that, the state states that the test will adapt to each student, so we gain a better understanding of where each individual student is in their learning. This should allow us to continue to be able to measure students’ growth from year to year throughout these improvements.

All our students will take the IAR online, as we have taken previous mandated assessments. We have been assured that all our teachers and students will have the necessary support and resources they need to make this transition from PARCC to IAR go smoothly.

Our students in Grades Three-Eight, will take the IAR between Monday, April 8 and Thursday, April 18.
To learn more about the Illinois Assessment of Readiness, please visit the Illinois State Board of Education’s website at: ISBE Illinois Assessment of Readiness.

More detailed information about this assessment will be forthcoming from your child(ren)’s school and/or teacher. Thank you for your continued partnership in your child(ren)’s academic success.

Sincerely,

Kerry J. Foderaro

Kerry J. Foderaro
Superintendent of Schools

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