



School Matters

Issue 5

April/May 2019

APRIL

April is the month that we look forward for Spring Break and Good Friday, but we feel some apprehension since state-mandated assessment is right around the corner. April testing often causes stress and anxiety for students and for parents. Teachers can also feel the extra pressure put on them for their students to perform well. I want to address this topic in an effort to ease some of the anxiety that has traditionally been associated with state assessments. Please visit the website:

<https://www.tn.gov/education/assessment/tnready/tnready-parent-resources.html> to access resources to

help you and your child as you prepare for this. It's an informative site with resources and information on the test itself. Some type of anxiety is expected when students take achievement tests, and in fact, it can be productive. However, when a child has stomach, head and adverse emotional reactions before or during a test, it can become an area of concern for parents and teachers. If this reaction occurs, parents are encouraged to discuss these issues with their child. School is so much more than a test score, and students are valued on other factors that

are present all year. Those include their attitude, behavior, attendance and performance on work throughout the year. Also, some students benefit from knowing that they are not supposed to know everything on the test. It is not designed for students to make 100%. A major reason for the test is to provide a picture of the entire school and how it is meeting the needs of it's students.

When assessments occur, please remember it is important that during the week of assessments that students have a regular bedtime, a breakfast that includes foods that stimulate the brain (eggs, cereal, fresh fruits and whole wheat toast). Avoid fast foods with lots of sugar, caffeine and fat. It is recommended that your student's evenings be open. Movies with the family, a game night, hiking, playing at the park...something enjoyable.

Please keep in mind that teachers will be actively defusing test anxiety in the classroom and encouraging students to do their best. Although testing is not associated with many positive feelings, it is still necessary.



IMPORTANT DATES

4/1-5 Easter Break
4/17 Early Dismissal-1:00 pm
4/19 Good Friday– No School
5/15 Early Dismissal-1:00 pm
5/22 Abbrev. Day-Last School
Day-Dismissal 10:30 am
5/25 High School Graduation



STATE TESTING DATES

OES:

4/16 **ELA** Grades 2-5, Part 1
4/17 **ELA** Grades 2-5, Parts 2,3
4/18 **ELA** Grades 2-5, Part 4
4/23 **Math**, Grades 2-5, Parts 1,2
4/24 **Math** Grades 2-5, Part 3
4/25 **Soc St** Grades 3-5
4/26 Make-ups

OMS:

4/16 **ELA**, 6th-8th, Part 1
4/17 8th **Sci**-Online
4-18 6th **Sci**-Online
4/22 7th **Sci**-Online
4/23 **ELA**, 6-8, Parts 2,3,4
4/24 6th/7th **Math**,
Parts 1-3; 8th **Soc St**
4/25 8th **Math**, Parts 1-3;
6th/7th **Soc St**
4/26 Make-ups

OHS:

4/16-**Eng 9/10**, Part 1
4/17-**US History**, Part 1
4/22-**US History**, Part 2
4/23-**Eng 9/10**, Part 2
4/24-**Eng 9/10**, Part 3
4/25-**US History**, Part 3
4/26 **Biology**
4/30 **Alg1&2 & Geom**, Part 1
5/1 **Alg1&2 & Geom**, Part 2
5/2 **Alg1&2 & Geom**, Part 3





MAY



May

brings the end of testing and the scheduling of end-of-school activities for everyone. From field trips, plays and parties to Special Olympics Field Day, students and teachers alike are looking forward to the many adventures that bring the school year to its close. Seniors are happily anticipating graduation. Many students and their families are planning for a summer adventure. It is always a celebration of another great year of learning.

And, although we must always await state decisions to complete planning for the new school year, teachers and staff are already working on making 2019-2020 the best school year yet!



State-Wide Education News

Our newly elected governor, Bill Lee, has education as one of his three major priorities. A few of his goals in education are:

1. Read to be Ready Program Renewal 2019-20 school year
2. 100 Middle Schools implanting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Curriculum
3. Increasing from 2 to 4 lottery classes at Technical Schools
4. High School "Transition to Career" Programming

In addition we also have a newly appointed Commissioner of Education, Dr. Penny Schwinn, who has some specific goals for the Department of Education. Those goals include:

1. focus on local initiatives that work,
2. students having real life opportunities to experience on-the-job experiences, and
3. communication not being a one-way street. She is open to hearing from local School Directors and School Boards.

Teachers and Staff Members of the Year 2018-2019



Oneida High School

Dean West



Rhonda Davis



Oneida Middle School

Morgan Gazay



Casey Bowling



Oneida Elementary School

Kevin Terry

Tommie Harness

Abby Chitwood