



March 21, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS) is a comprehensive assessment system for grades 3 through high school. Georgia Milestones measures how well students have learned the knowledge and skills identified in the state-adopted standards. Students in grades 3-8 will take the GMAS End of Grade (EOG) assessments during the April 17-May 2, 2018 testing window.

Students will be tested as follows:

Grade	Subject Areas Tested	Testing Dates
3 rd grade	English Language Arts and Math	April 22 – 24
4 th grade	English Language Arts and Math	April 29 – May 1
5 th grade	English Language Arts, Math Science and Social Studies	April 17 – 19 April 25 - 26
6 th grade	English Language Arts and Math	April 22 – 24
7 th grade	English Language Arts and Math	April 29 – May 1
8 th grade	English Language Arts, Math Science and Social Studies	April 17 – 19 April 25 - 26

Georgia Milestones assessments include:

- open-ended (constructed-response) items in English Language Arts and Mathematics in all grades and courses;
- a writing component (in response to passages read by students) at every grade level and course within the English Language Arts assessments;
- nationally norm-referenced items in all content areas and courses to complement Georgia criterion-referenced items and to facilitate a national comparison; and
- multiple-choice items in all content areas and courses.

Student achievement in each content area is classified into one of four performance levels (as depicted on the Individual Student Report(s)). The Achievement levels are as follows:

- Beginning Learner
 - Lack important knowledge and skills to be successful in this subject
 - Need *substantial* support to be ready for the next grade level or course
- Developing Learner
 - Have some of the knowledge and skills necessary in this subject
 - Need *additional* support to be prepared for the next grade level or course

- Proficient Learner
 - Have the knowledge and skills to be successful in this subject
 - **Are prepared for the next grade level or course**
- Distinguished Learner
 - Have *advanced* knowledge and skills in this subject
 - **Are well prepared for the next grade level or course**

In order to provide students with exposure to the online Georgia Milestones testing platform, the Georgia Department of Education has provided a website at:

<http://gaexperienceonline.com/>

1. Log into the website using **GOOGLE CHROME**
2. Click on the *Test Practice* button
3. Select *Online Tool Training* under End-of-Grade (EOG)
4. Select the appropriate test practice
5. Select *Standard Online Tools* or the Online Accommodations of *Masking, Contrasting Color, and Color Chooser*
6. Choose grade band for grades 3-5 or 6-8 for EOG.
7. Log in using the credentials provided

***IMPORTANT TEST PREPARATION REMINDER:** Please make sure that your child gets plenty of rest each night before testing, eats a healthy breakfast and gives their best effort on each test session.

For more information on Georgia Milestones, please visit the Georgia department of Education's website at testing.gadoe.org or contact me at dcole@gocats.org

Sincerely,

Dr. David L. Cole
Director of Assessment and Curriculum
Valdosta City Schools