



SPARTANS

ATHLOS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Minnesota Charter School District 4011

10100 Noble Parkway North
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443
Phone 763-777-8942
Fax 763-315-0601
www.athlosbrooklynpark.org

February 5, 2019

Dear Athlos Leadership Academy Parents and Guardians,

Beginning March 4th, our third through eighth grade students are scheduled to take the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs). The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) and alternate assessment, Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS), are the statewide tests that help districts measure student progress toward Minnesota's academic standards. Third through eighth graders take assessments in reading and math. Fifth and eighth grade students take science MCAs as well. Most students take the MCA, but students who receive special education services and meet eligibility criteria may take the MTAS. All third grade through eighth grade students are required to take the MCA or MTAS.

As a public charter school, we are required to align our curriculum and instruction with Minnesota State Standards. MCA assessments are then used to measure student progress in relation to the standards students have been instructed in throughout the year.

MCA assessments will be taken on computers unless a paper test has been arranged through a student's IEP. Teachers will be supporting students by teaching them how to navigate the online MCA assessments by ensuring opportunities to review the MCA tutorials online in advance of testing. The student tutorial is used to familiarize students and educators with the general functionality of the online test including navigation, tools, and test item types.

In addition, students may review MCA Item Samplers with their classroom teachers. The Item Samplers are used to familiarize students with how the content is tested by providing examples of items in the format used on the test itself.

Students and families are welcome to use student tutorials and the Item Samplers at home, as well, to support students in familiarizing themselves with the test features. Item Samplers are not practice tests and cannot be used to predict how well students will perform on the actual assessments, but are very useful tools in familiarizing students with the format and features of the tests. You may access Item Samplers and tutorials by entering the link below into your web browser and then clicking on the [Preparing for Testing](#) tab.

<http://minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com/>

Students will be taking MCAs during the following weeks:

Week of March 4-7

- Reading MCA- 8th Grade (Koehn, Baccam)
- Reading MCA- 5th Grade (Rasmussen, Novak, Swanberg, Jeatran)

Week of March 11-15

- Reading MCA- 3rd Grade (All Homerooms)
- Reading MCA- 5th Grade (Fryzek)
- Reading MCA- 7th Grade (All Homerooms)
- Reading MCA-8th Grade (Freeman)

Week of March 18-22

- Reading MCA- 4th Grade- (All Homerooms)
- Reading MCA- 6th Grade- (All Homerooms)



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Week of April 1-5

- Small Group Testing- Reading and Math

Week of April 8-12

- Math MCA-8th Grade (Koehn, Baccam)
- Math MCA-5th Grade (Rasmussen, Novak, Swanberg, Jeatran)
- Small Group Testing- Reading and Math (April 8th)

Week of April 15-19

- Math MCA- 4th Grade- (All Homerooms)
- Math MCA 6th Grade- (All Homerooms)

Week of April 22-26

- Math MCA- 3rd Grade (All Homerooms)
- Math MCA- 5th Grade (Fryzek)
- Math MCA- 7th Grade (All Homerooms)
- Math MCA-8th Grade (Freeman)

Week of April 30-May 3

- Science MCA- 5th Grade & 8th Grade (All Homerooms)
- Science MCA- Small Group
- Reading and Math MCA Make-up Tests (All Grades)

Week of May 6

- Science MCA Make-ups

**If your student is taking the MTAS assessment or is scheduled for a small group assessment due to an IEP or 504 accommodation, your student's case manager or social worker will be in contact with you closer to March regarding specific small group testing dates and times. Any updates to large group/homeroom testing dates or times will be communicated through classroom webpages.

Respectfully,

Julie Brown
Dean of Academics
Athlos Leadership Academy