

March 1, 2017

Dear Atlantic Middle School Families,

The very busy month of March is upon us! I know our students are ready to meet and exceed the challenges ahead of them this spring. We have been working as a school all year to prepare our students to do their very best on the upcoming MCAS assessments. You can also help prepare for testing. Copies of previous MCAS questions are on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website. Director of Curriculum Madelyn Roy will be a guest speaker at the March PTO meeting on Tuesday March 14th at 6:00 p.m. in the Atlantic Conference Room. She will address the new changes to MCAS testing this year. All are welcome to attend. Grade 8 students will be taking the English Language Arts and Math MCAS tests on-line this year. Grades 6 and 7 students will continue to take a paper-based MCAS test and the grade 8 Science test will also be a paper-based test. The Atlantic Middle School testing dates are listed below. As we make the final push to MCAS, remember that formal testing is a necessary part of the educational process. We are proud that we have wonderful students who take responsibility for their learning and want to do well.

Spring MCAS Testing Dates

Grades 6 & 7 ELA Test – Wednesday April 26th & Thursday April 27th

Grade 8 ELA Test - Friday April 28th, Monday May 1st, Tuesday May 2nd, & Wednesday May 3rd

Grade 8 Math Test – Monday May 15th, Wednesday May 17th, Thursday May 18th, & Friday May 19th

Grades 6 & 7 Math Test – Wednesday May 24th & Thursday May 25th

Grade 8 Science Test – Wednesday May 24th & Thursday May 25th

While we are so pleased with our student's efforts in preparation for the spring MCAS tests, we also know that MCAS test scores are only one measure of student learning. At Atlantic, our students also have a variety of opportunities to excel in the arts and athletics. The Drama Club will be presenting *Lion King Jr.* on Thursday March 30th and Saturday April 1st at 7:00 p.m. and also on Sunday April 2nd at 2:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. The production is a result of students and staff coming together to create something very special. Come out and enjoy our very talented students on stage.

Thank you for your continued support. As always, please call if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Maureen C. MacNeil
Principal
Atlantic Middle School