



EAGLE MOUNTAIN SAGINAW ISD

Fostering a Culture of Excellence

From the Desk of Dr. Linda Parker

Deputy Superintendent

January 14, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we come to the end of the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year, I would like to share information with you regarding the upcoming spring semester, which begins on January 19. You can expect to receive ongoing communication from your child's school principal, who will share specifics on topics particular to your child's grade level and campus.

Preparation for STAAR/End-of-Course Exams

The Texas Education Agency (TEA), our governing entity, has determined that STAAR and End-of-Course (EOC) exams will continue as scheduled in the spring. Fortunately, it has been determined that the exams will not count for federal accountability purposes. However, it is important that your child participate as the individual results will be used to determine your student's progress and plan for meeting any academic support your child may need in the coming year. As part of our continued focus on the academic growth of all students, interim assessments are given throughout the year to assess progress and determine academic support in grades 3-8, as well as in the high school tested subjects.

Online Testing Format

The State STAAR and EOC tests will be administered online this year, and all students are required by TEA to take the tests online beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. If a student has a physical or learning need, additional supports may be available. This is a perfect year for us to start the process of preparation and practice for our students, as we have 1:1 accessibility to devices and access to the online interim State tests. Thus, our expectation is for all students to test online this year.

As we move toward the spring state testing dates, teachers are instructing students how to navigate online testing utilizing the state interim assessments. These assessments are aligned with the State standards and give students the opportunity to practice the state assessment format for online testing prior to the STAAR and EOC tests in April and May.

Students Must Test On Campus

This year, the TEA has determined that all students enrolled in the tested grade levels (grades 3-12) must take the STAAR and/or EOC tests at their campus. ***This includes both remote and in-person learners.*** This is to ensure the integrity of the testing environment. To accommodate for COVID precautions, we will have testing opportunities available on multiple days. This will give campus leaders the flexibility to provide for safe and socially distanced testing areas for all students. Each campus will be sending you specific details as the testing safety plan is finalized. If you have concerns or any questions, feel free to reach out to the campus administration where your child attends school.



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Testing and Accountability in Spring 2021

It is important to understand that while the State tests do not count for federal accountability purposes this year, test results do count for participation and enable us to determine student progress and plan for meeting student academic needs for the upcoming year. It is especially vital for all students in tested grades and subjects, whether in the remote or in-person setting, to participate in testing and attend classes regularly in order to work on mastering the academic standards. As parents and guardians, you have the greatest impact on your child's success by ensuring he/she is attending classes, connecting to learning, and actively participating every school day.

In closing, I thank you for your partnership with us in the education of your child. We continue to focus on our mission of "fostering a culture of excellence that instills a passion for a lifetime of continuous achievement in every student." Your support of your child, in partnership with our teachers and leaders, is valuable in helping us meet this mission for all students.

EMS Proud,

Linda Parker, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent