

# Thomas J. McMahon Elementary School



151 North Temple Street, Lewiston, ME 04240

March 16, 2018

Dear McMahon 3rd-6th Grade Families,

Next week the administration of the Maine Educational Assessment (MEA) begins for all Maine public elementary schools. If you grew up in Maine, you probably remember taking this annual state assessment that is given to all 3rd-8th graders each spring. The MEA assesses student proficiency of the Maine Learning Results, which are commonly referred to here at school as grade level standards. Over the years as the standards have become more rigorous so has the assessment. Additionally, the MEA is now given on a computer.

At McMahon our assessment schedule is as follows:

- Grade 3: Reading, Writing & Language - 3/19-3/21; Math & Essay - 3/26-3/28
- Grade 4: Reading, Writing & Language, Essay, Math - 4/2-4/6
- Grade 5: Reading, Writing & Language, Essay, Math - 3/26-3/30
- Grade 6: Reading, Writing & Language, Essay, Math - 3/19-3/23

At McMahon school, assessment is just part of the teaching and learning process. Assessments are a way to “show what we know!” Our kids are proud of their hard work and learning growth. As a school we aim to provide multiple ways for students to demonstrate their growth and learning, including state tests. Our class time is spent teaching and learning standards in meaningful and engaging ways - not doing test prep. But, since the MEA assesses the standards we’ve been teaching and learning our kids go into the assessment prepared!

To support your child at home, you can make sure they get a good night's rest and have a healthy breakfast. Give your child a positive pep talk as they leave to just do their best! Because the assessment measures a range of abilities there will be questions on the test that are too hard for some kids. Just encourage kids to give it their best shot when they come to a tricky question and just move on without worry. We want them to know it is OK if they aren't sure on all questions. We are so proud of our students! If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or a member of the administration team.

Sincerely,  
Amber Eliason, Principal

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