

STAFFORD MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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May 13, 2020

Greetings SMSD Parents & Students!

To measure student progress during the 2019-2020 school year, Stafford MSD will be administering an End-of-Year assessment. This assessment is designed by the Texas Education Agency to determine student growth and understanding of the state curriculum. Test results will not be used for course grading or promotion purposes; rather, the End-of-Year assessment will give parents and educators a powerful tool that shows what their students have learned and where they can improve their knowledge and understanding of key subject matters heading into the 2020-21 academic year. This information will help develop instructional plans that use the identified strengths and weaknesses to close educational gaps and push towards content mastery.

The End-of-Year assessment does not take the place of the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR), which was canceled this year due to COVID-19. This assessment will be conducted online in the home setting. Directions for accessing the testing website, as well as login information, will be provided for each student by the student's counselor for Elementary and Intermediate schools and by the campus test coordinator for the Middle and High Schools. For students who do not have access to technological devices, please contact your campus to discuss an alternate assessment administration method.

The testing window is May 18 – June 12, 2020. The grades and subjects of assessments are as follows: Grades 3–8 mathematics and reading, grades 4 and 7 writing, grades 5 and 8 science, grade 8 social studies, Algebra I, English I, English II, Biology, and U.S. History. Spanish versions of End-of-Year assessments are also available for grades 3–5 mathematics and reading, grade 4 writing, and grade 5 science.

Accommodations and accessibility tools will be available for students who utilize them routinely and effectively during regular classroom instruction and testing. The online test platform has automatic scoring; therefore, immediate results are available for students and parents to view.

The End-of-Year assessments are self-paced assessments that can be completed when students are available. These assessments mirror the STAAR tests, so students should need only a few hours to complete each test. Students will be able to pause and resume testing or log in and log out of testing until they submit the test.

If you have any further questions or concerns regarding the End-of-Year assessment, please contact your campus.

Sincerely,



STAFFORD MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Kadir Almus Chief Academic Officer