

*Main Dunstable Elementary School
20 Whitford Road
Nashua, NH 03062
603-594-4400*

"Where Children Learn and Grow"

*Christopher M. Gosselin
Principal*

*Patti Flynn
Assistant Principal*

September, 2009

Dear Families,

During the first three weeks of October 2009, students in grades 3 through 8 will participate in the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP). Students in all grades will be tested in reading and mathematics. In addition, students in grades 5 and 8 will be tested in writing. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an overview of the assessment program. I am hoping you will help us encourage your child to give these new tests his or her very best effort.

The NECAP tests are designed to measure your child's progress in meeting New Hampshire's Grade Level Expectations, or GLEs. The GLEs define the knowledge and skills a student should have mastered by the end of each school year. The grade 3 test, for example, will measure what a student should know and be able to do after completing second grade. The reading test includes short and long reading passages with related multiple choice and constructed response questions. The mathematics test includes multiple choice, short answer, and constructed response questions. The writing test includes multiple choice and constructed response questions, and a single extended writing prompt. A constructed response question requires students to show their work and/or explain their reasoning. Test results for all students will be available in February 2010.

The New England Common Assessment Program will be one of the important tools available to parents and educators to determine how well our school is helping students meet standards and grade level expectations. In every assessment, scores are only as meaningful as the effort students put into the tests. Encourage your child to take the tests seriously and to give his or her best effort. You can best help your child prepare for the assessment by making sure that she or he is rested on the days the tests will be given. And, as with every day, it is critical that students have a good breakfast before heading off to school. Thank you for supporting your child and our school during the testing period.

Please see the reverse side for our building schedule.

Thank you. Please call me if have any questions.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Gosselin

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Principal

Patti Flynn

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