

Dear Parent or Guardian:

From March 8 to May 7, students in grade 11 will take the state assessment in (a) English Language Arts, (b) Mathematics, and (c) Science. The purpose of this letter is to help in your understanding of the assessment, as well as providing a few ideas for improving your child's preparedness.

The assessments measure student achievement in relation to our state standards in the areas of English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. In addition, score reports will provide information on student performance in the following areas:

- English: reading, writing, listening, & research
- Math: concepts and procedures; problem solving and modeling/data analysis; & communicating reasoning
- Science: physical science, life science, and earth & space science

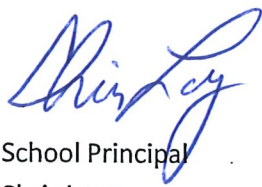
The assessments are given through an online computer application and are unique in the way they adapt to a student's question responses. This is important as it provides questions that are appropriate for your child's level of learning. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude towards testing. These assessments are not timed; however, we provide the following times as estimates of assessment duration: (a) English – 4 hours, (b) Math – 3.5 hours, (c) Science – 1 hour.

Student grades will not be impacted by their performance on this assessment, however the assessment does serve as a way for the school to analyze how well we are helping students meet the standards. For 11<sup>th</sup> grade students, the results for English language arts and math are also used for two purposes: (a) to qualify students in the fall of their senior year to alert them that they have already met criteria for guaranteed general acceptance to into the state's six public universities and four technical institutes (Proactive Admissions), and (b) to determine a student's eligibility to further prepare for postsecondary coursework (College Readiness Courses). More information regarding Proactive Admissions and College Readiness Coursework can be found on [SDMyLife](#).

There is no need for students to study in preparation for the assessments. We do, however, ask that students try their best and get plenty of rest the night before testing. It is important for students to come to school on test days. Assessments are required, therefore making up a missed assessment leads to less instructional time and a loss of important learning opportunities.

This testing is very important for your child, and the Garretson School District. Thank you for supporting your child and our school during this assessment period. Please contact us if you have any questions. We know that Garretson's students will help us to understand the great strides our students have taken in meeting our school and state standards in learning!

Sincerely,



School Principal  
Chris Long