

# Fletcher W. Judson Elementary School

124 Hamilton Lane

Watertown, CT 06795-2693

Telephone: (860) 945-4850

Fax: (860) 945-2711

**Kristin Raymond**

Principal

April 27, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardians:

The 2020-21 school year has been incredibly challenging. COVID-19 has affected not only our district, but also our state, our country, and the world at large. Despite this, you and your children have risen to the challenge and adapted to learning in new ways. The resilience of our school community in Watertown has allowed learning to continue.

In the next several weeks, all Connecticut students will participate in the annual state assessments in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics in Grades 3-8, and students in grades 5, 8 & 11 will also take a test in Science. Schools and educators use these tests to see how students are progressing at each grade level so they are prepared for college and careers when they graduate high school. Parents/guardians can use the same high-quality tests to see how their child is performing on the standards, especially given that we did not test last year.

Even though state tests will continue this year, the test results will not be used for school accountability measures. They will be used mainly to learn how students are doing and to target resources and supports for educators and schools.

Although it is best to administer these tests in-person at school, the Connecticut State Department of Education requires that fully remote students also take the assessments. Therefore, Watertown Public Schools has been working diligently to develop a plan, gather necessary resources and train proctors to administer the Smarter Balanced ELA and Mathematics tests remotely to our Temporary Voluntary Remote Students in grades 3-8 and the NGSS Assessment to Remote Students in grades 5, 8 & 11.

The remainder of this letter contains details pertaining to the logistics of the remote administration of the state assessments in Watertown for the 2020-2021 school year.

- **DEVICES:** A school-issued computer with a remote testing tool must be utilized for the students to take these assessments at home. If you do not have a school-issued computer, please contact the Main Office at (860)945-4850 so we can arrange a pick-up time.
- **AGREEMENT FORM:** In order for students to take the assessment remotely, we must obtain a Parent/Student Agreement form for all students. Please click here to complete the digital [Parent/Guardian and Student Agreement Form for Remote Summative Testing](#). Please complete a separate form for each child in your household that this pertains to.

- **PRACTICE TEST:** In order to smooth out any connectivity and login issues prior to the actual subtests, we will be administering practice tests. These are scheduled as follows:
  - NGSS (**Grade 5 only!**): Monday, May 3, 2021
  - SBAC: Thursday, May 6, 2021
  
- We will troubleshoot any connectivity and login issues on an individual basis, after the practice tests have been completed.
  
- **SCHEDULE OF ASSESSMENTS:** The actual assessments have been scheduled for the following days and times:
  - **Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)**
    - Tuesday, May 4, 2021
    - Wednesday, May 5, 2021
  - **Smarter Balanced ELA Computer Adaptive Test (CAT)**
    - Monday, May 10, 2021
    - Tuesday, May 11, 2021
  - **Smarter Balanced Mathematics CAT**
    - Monday, May 17, 2021
    - Tuesday, May 18, 2021
  - **Smarter Balanced Mathematics Performance Task (PT)**
    - Monday, May 24, 2021
  
- **MATERIALS NEEDED:** All students will need their State Assigned Student Identifier Number (SASID) and test session ID numbers for each subtest. These will be communicated to your children in advance by their teacher, through Google Classroom. Scratch paper and a writing utensil are also needed for all students to take the assessments, so please be certain to have these available at home. If you are in need of any of these materials, please contact the Main Office at (860)945-4850. Finally, headphones are recommended.

*\*Please note that some individual students may require additional materials as accommodations. Should this be the case, your child's case manager will contact you to make these arrangements.*

In addition to the information provided in this letter, I encourage you to click here to review the [Remote Testing Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) for Parents/Guardians for Smarter Balanced and NGSS Tests](#). Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions you might have at this time.

On a final note, thank you for your patience and for partnering with us in the interest of our students. Although this may feel a bit overwhelming right now, Watertown students (and parents) have become very adept at remote learning and at taking assessments remotely. Our students are resilient and their ability to persevere has been proven. Therefore, we are confident that although there may be some logistical speed bumps along the way, we will get through this together, as we always do.

Respectfully,

*Kristin Raymond*