

April 22, 2022

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I'm writing to let you know that there has been an error in the testing protocol for the 5th grade Montana Science Assessment (MSA). Earlier this spring, your child's teacher inadvertently opened the online summative assessment when they had intended to open an interim assessment. This exposed the test questions to a single fifth grade classroom. We immediately contacted the Montana Office of Public Instruction about the testing irregularity.

Because the teacher thought they had opened an interim assessment, protocols for a summative test were not followed. This invalidated the tests and the students will not receive a score. Unfortunately, this group of students will not have another opportunity with the Science assessment this year. The students will take the summative Math and ELA tests later this spring.

The testing coordinators plan to have the affected students take the MSA interim assessment while the other 5th graders are taking the summative assessment. The results of the interims will be shared with parents upon request.

I apologize for this error, which was truly human. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Mrs. Blair, Principal
West Valley Middle School