



March 2, 2022

Beresford Middle School Parents/Guardians,

It is that time of year again to see how well our students are achieving academically! From **March 2 – May 6**, grades 6-8 and 11 will take the South Dakota ELA and Math Assessments, along with the South Dakota Science Assessment (grades 8 and 11 only). The purpose of this letter is to help in your understanding of the assessments, as well as providing a few ideas for improving your child's preparedness.

The South Dakota Assessments measure student achievement in relation to our state standards. In addition, score reports will provide information on student performance in the following areas:

- **English:** Reading, writing, listening, and research
- **Math:** Concepts and procedures; problem solving and modeling/data analysis; and communicating reasoning
- **Science:** Science and engineering practices, disciplinary core ideas, and cross-cutting concepts

The assessments are administered through an online computer application and are unique in the way they adapt to a student's 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: English – 4 hours, Math – 3.5 hours, Science – 3 hours.

- The **8th grade science test** will be on Thursday, March 5 and Friday, March 6 during science class.
- The **6-8th grade math/ELA** will take place on Thursday, March 31 and Friday, April 1.

Student grades are not impacted by their performance on these assessments; however, the results do serve as an indicator for us to analyze how well Beresford School District is helping students meet the standards. 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 each testing session. It is very important for students to come to school on test days. State assessments are required, therefore making up a missed assessment leads to loss of important instructional time and learning opportunities.

- Students and parents can access resources, tutorials, and complete practice tests in English, math, and science for grade 3-8 and 11 at <https://sd.portal.airast.org/>.

Thank you for supporting your child and our school during this assessment period. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our district testing coordinator, Dianne Nielsen, Dianne.Nielsen@k12.sd.us.

Belinda L. Miller

Belinda L. Miller
6-12 Principal