



GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 06-6

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

P.O. Box 410
406 North 2nd Street
Groton, SD 57445
Fax: (605) 397-8453

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

P.O. Box 410
810 North 1st Street
Groton, SD 57445
Fax: (605) 397-2344

Groton Area School

Board

Dr. Steve Smith, President
Martin Weismantel, VP
Tigh Fliehs
Deb Gengerke
Travis Harder
Kara Pharis
Grant Rix

Superintendent

Joseph J. Schwan
(605) 397-2351 ext. 1003
Joe.Schwan@k12.sd.us

High School Principal

Kiersten Sombke
(605) 397-8381 ext. 1004
Kiersten.Sombke@k12.sd.us

Elementary Principal

Brett Schwan
(605) 397-2317
Brett.Schwan@k12.sd.us

Business Manager

Michael J. Weber
(605) 397-2351 ext. 1008
Mike.Weber@k12.sd.us

Athletic Director

Brian Dolan
(605) 397-8381 ext. 1068
Brian.Dolan@k12.sd.us

Opportunity Coordinator

Jodi Schwan
(605) 397-8381 ext. 1015
Jodi.Schwan@k12.sd.us

K-12 School Counselor

Ashley Seeklander
(605) 397-2317
Ashley.Seeklander@k12.sd.us

Technology Coordinator

Aaron Helvig
(605) 397-8381 ext. 1025
Aaron.Helvig@k12.sd.us

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian:

From April 20 to April 24, students in grades 3-5 will take the state assessment in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Students in grade 5 will take the state assessment in Science April 14-16. The assessment is given in morning sessions. 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 of our state's 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: English – 3.5 hours, Math – 3 hours, and Science – 1.5 hours.

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. Shortly after the testing period is complete, you will receive a report showing your child's scores.

There is no need 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. Assessment 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, Groton Area Middle School, and the Groton Area 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 our Groton Area Middle School students will help us to understand the great strides our students have taken in meeting our school and state standards in learning!

Sincerely,

Ms. Ashley Seeklander, K-12 School Counselor/District Testing Coordinator
Mr. Brett Schwan, Elementary Principal
Mr. Joe Schwan, Superintendent