



Hickory Public Schools

432 Fourth Avenue SW, Hickory, North Carolina 28602
Phone: (828) 322-2855 • Fax: (828) 322-1834 • www.hickoryschools.net

Dr. Robbie Adell, Superintendent

August 17, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to the 2020-21 school year. We are experiencing a time like no other, however our main goal is to educate students and give them the academic foundation they need to be successful. Parents are wondering if there will be statewide testing this school year. As of this communication, there is no waiver from the US Department of Education to eliminate statewide testing. Due to the schedule and how students will be instructed – remotely or a hybrid model – test windows have been adjusted to proceed with statewide testing.

Students are not allowed to opt out of required state testing. NC general statutes §115C-549, 550, 557 and 558 state the tests are to be administered to those in grade levels each year “to all students enrolled or regularly attending.” Because of state and federal laws, all students in North Carolina (including students with disabilities) are required to participate in the testing program. Not only are public schools required to test, but also non-public schools have testing requirements. Please know that we will utilize all safety precautions to test students. Test windows for assessments have been adjusted to accommodate our school test calendar and how students are being instructed.

For several years, NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) has been requiring schools to administer more assessments to students online. Hickory Public Schools has been ahead of the requirements in moving to administer assessments online. For the 2020-21 school year, most schools will deliver state required assessments online. Please note there are a few assessments that are required to be delivered via paper/pencil. These are noted on the attached test calendar.

Throughout the school year, students will be assessed on how they are learning the content presented in class. Some assessments will be formative, giving teachers immediate information to adjust instruction as needed, and some assessments will be summative, given at the end of a unit, grading period or end of the school year/semester. Below is information on some required assessments students will participate in this school year.

- Students are instructed on writing throughout the school year in all classes. Writing tasks will be aligned to what students are studying in class. Teachers will be able to see the progression and improvement in student writing over the school year.
- Students will participate in NC Check-Ins, a formative assessment created by NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI). This assessment aligns to the typically assessed content students will see on the End-of-Grade (EOG) and End-of-Course (EOC) assessments. Students will participate in this assessment in Reading at grades 3 – 8, Math at grades 3 – 8 and NC Math I, and Science at grades 5 and 8.
 - Students taking English II, Biology and NC Math 3 will participate in a local benchmark assessment.
 - All assessments will be administered online.
- At the end of the school year, students will take the required EOG assessments in Reading at grades 3 - 8, Math at grades 3 - 8 and Science at grades 5 and 8.
- At the end of each semester, students enrolled in NC Math I, NC Math 3, Biology, and English II will take a required EOC assessment in the course. Students’ score on the assessment will count as 20% of their overall grade in the course.
- Students in grade 3 will take the required Beginning of Grade 3 Reading test to gage their reading comprehension and establish a baseline for their growth in reading.



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- Students enrolled in high school will take the PreACT in grade 10 and the ACT in grade 11. These assessments will gauge students' readiness for college or career after high school. Students may use their ACT score for college entrance.

Please see the attached test calendar for a full listing of assessments students will take for the 2020-21 school year. You may also click here (<https://tinyurl.com/ycezsetd>) to add testing dates to your own electronic calendar. Please know that dates are subject to change. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to your child's principal or me.

Sincerely,
Shawn Clemons, Ed.D.
Director of Accountability



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2020-21 Test Calendar Grades 6-8

Date	Grade Level(s)	Test
August 17, 2020 - September 11, 2020	6 - 8	Remote Learning
August 17, 2020 - EOY	6-8	W-APT and WIDA Screener <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within 45 calendar days of enrollment
October 1 - 30, 2020	6-8	NC Check-In #1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading @ grades 6-8, Math @ grades 6-8, Science @ grade 8
November 2 - 20, 2020	6-8	NC Check-In #1 <i>Review</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading @ grades 6-8, Math @ grades 6-8, Science @ grade 8
November 2 - 20, 2020	8	NC Check-In #1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NC Math I
November 30, 2020 - December 18, 2020	8	NC Check-In #1 <i>Review</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NC Math I
January 11, 2021 - February 4, 2021	6-8	NC Check-In #2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading @ grades 6-8, Math @ grades 6-8, Science @ grade 8
January 25, 2021 – March 5, 2021	6-8	ACCESS for ELLs (English Language Learners) Alternate ACCESS for ELLs
February 8 - 25, 2021	6-8	NC Check-In #2 <i>Review</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading @ grades 6-8, Math @ grades 6-8, Science @ grade 8
March 1 - 26, 2021	6-8	NC Check-In #3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading @ grades 6-8, Math @ grades 6-8, Science @ grade 8
	8	NC Check-In #2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NC Math I
April 12 - 29, 2021	6-8	NC Check-In #3 <i>Review</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading @ grades 6-8, Math @ grades 6-8, Science @ grade 8
	8	NC Check-In #2 <i>Review</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NC Math I
May 17 - 28, 2021	6-8	EOG Reading, Math & Science @ grade 8 NCEXTEND1 (Reading, Math & Science @ Grade 8)