Netcong Community:

Please find below information regarding assessment information for this marking period, as well as the rest of the school year. Please pay close attention to the testing expectations for virtual students outlined in the first letter. Thank you!

LinkIt Assessment administered next week - September 29th and October 1st:

Link-It Assessment Letter.pdf

20-21 Testing Assessment Calendar:

2020-2021 Standardized Assessment Calendar.pdf

DRA's - Administered in October:

DRA Assessment Letter.pdf

As noted in the letters above, assessment results will be shared and reviewed at November conferences.

Netcong Elementary School
26 College Road, Netcong, NJ 07857
973.347.0020   973.347.3676 (F)   www.netcongschool.org

Mrs. Kathleen Walsh
Superintendent

Mr. Kurt Ceresnak
Principal

Our Children, Our School
Our Future

September 24, 2020

Re: LinkIt and 20-21 Assessment Information

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Next week, all second through eighth grade students will participate in online Language Arts and Mathematics assessments via LinkIt. The language arts assessment will take place on Tuesday, September 29th and the mathematics assessment will take place on Thursday, October 1st beginning at approximately 8:45am. Each teacher will be providing more specific information to their students prior to and on the day of the assessment. Most students are already familiar with these assessments, as LinkIt was administered last school year.

LinkIt assessments allow teachers to easily identify a student's strengths and weaknesses, differentiate instruction, provide tailored interventions, measure student mastery of grade level learning standards, and help teachers determine how to best support your child. This data is also used by the counseling office, special support teachers, and members of our Child Study Team to gain an accurate assessment picture of students. LinkIt data is also utilized to evaluate our programs and adjust our curriculum accordingly. LinkIt results will be shared with parents/guardians at fall conferences. Please keep in mind that this assessment is only one of the multiple measures we use to make instructional decisions.

If your child is learning virtually, it is imperative that you help us provide a secure testing environment by adhering to the following:

- Provide a quiet space with limited interruptions where your child can work independently for about 60 minutes (typical testing time is between 45-55 minutes).
- **Remind your child that he/she is <u>not permitted</u> to search the internet or use other offline resources to help answer questions.**
- **Refrain from coaching and providing assistance of any kind**. Offering assistance will not provide us with accurate results regarding your child's performance and capability. Please just encourage your child to do his/her best.
- Do not allow access to a calculator for Math, except on the Algebra I assessment.

Logistical information related to your child's taking the *LinkIt Assessment at Home*:
- If possible, your child should use the Google Chrome browser. If you don't have it, you can download it for free.
- Your child will log into test.linkit.com. Students can use their student ID number to log-in and teachers will provide the test code.

Besides administering the LinkIt assessment, other assessments will also be administered this school year. As discussed at back-to-school night and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-6.6, all school districts are required to provide information for state assessments and commercially-developed assessments that will be administered for the school year. Attached is the Netcong School District assessment calendar for the 2020-2021 school year.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kurt Ceresnak
Principal

Netcong Elementary School Standardized Testing Calendar 2020-2021

Assessment Name / Subject Area	Administration Date/Time	Grades Covered	Requirement	Results Available
NJSLA ELA Grades 3-8 Practice Tests & Information: https://nj.mypearsonsupport.com/practice-tests/english/ https://www.nj.gov/education/assessment/	Computer Administration Dates: TBD Time: TBD	Grades 3-8	Required for all students Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015	TBD by the state
NJSLA Math Grades 3-8 Practice Tests & Information: https://nj.mypearsonsupport.com/practice-tests/math/ https://www.nj.gov/education/assessment/	Computer Administration Dates: TBD Time: TBD	Grades 3-8	Required for all students Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015	TBD by the state
NJSLA Algebra I Practice Tests & Information: https://nj.mypearsonsupport.com/practice-tests/math/ https://www.nj.gov/education/assessment/	Computer Administration Dates: TBD Time: TBD	Grade 8 Algebra I students	Required for all students Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015	TBD by the state
NJSLA Science Assessment Grades 5 and 8 Practice Tests & Information: https://nj.mypearsonsupport.com/practice-tests/science/ https://www.nj.gov/education/assessment/	Computer Administration Dates: TBD Time: TBD	Grades 5 and 8	Required for all students Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015	TBD by the state

* Students requiring modifications and accommodations per an IEP or 504 Plan will be afforded those modifications and accommodations during testing

*Students will have access to NJSLA accessibility features during testing

Netcong Elementary School Standardized Testing Calendar 2020-2021

Assessment Subject Area	Administration Date/Time	Grades Covered	Requirement	Results Available
Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) • English • Math • Science Information: http://www.dynamiclearningmaps.org/content/information-parents https://dynamiclearningmaps.org/sci_resources	Computer Administration Dates: TBD Time: TBD	Grades 3-8 * Select special education students only	Required for all students Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015	TBD by the state
Linklt! Practice Tests & Information: http://www1.linkit.com/	Computer Administration 9/29/20 & 10/1/20 8:45am start Other assessment dates: TBD Time: TBD	English Language Arts and Math Benchmark Assessments Grades 2-8	Required for all students	Throughout the school year
iReady Practice Tests & Information: http://i-readycentral.com/familycenter/what-is-i-ready/	Computer Administration 9/3/20 – 6/15/21 Time: TBD	ELA Benchmark Grades 2-8	Required for all students	Throughout the school year

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*Students will have access to NJSLA accessibility features during testing

Netcong Elementary School Standardized Testing Calendar 2020-2021

Assessment Subject Area	Administration Date/Time	Grades Covered	Requirement	Results Available
Pearson Envision Math Practice Tests & Information: https://www.pearsonschool.com/index.cfm?locator=PSZu69	Computer Administration or Paper and Pencil 9/3/20 – 6/15/21 Time: TBD	Grades K-5	Required for all students	Throughout the school year
Pearson Digits Practice Tests & Information: https://www.pearsonschool.com/index.cfm?locator=PSZwZ5	Computer Administration or Paper and Pencil 9/3/20 – 6/15/21 Time: TBD	Grades 6-8	Required for all students	Throughout the school year

* Students requiring modifications and accommodations per an IEP or 504 Plan will be afforded those modifications and accommodations during testing

*Students will have access to NJSLA accessibility features during testing

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Principal

September 24, 2020

Re: Diagnostic Reading Assessment (DRA) Information

Dear Parent/Guardian:

During the month of October, Netcong Elementary School staff will utilize the Diagnostic Reading Assessment (DRA) to assess Kindergarten through fifth grade students' independent reading proficiency and overall literacy skills. An independent level is one at which a child reads with 95-100% accuracy, without assistance. Over time, the DRA shows your child's growth in reading and provides essential data for teachers to use in grouping students for guided reading, developing classroom groups for specific reading skills, providing supplemental support, and continuing to develop the independent reading level of their students. Teachers are able to match students' instructional levels to appropriate texts and provide appropriate but challenging reading instruction.

Please refer to the correlations chart below for DRA levels and their corresponding grade levels:

Grade Level	Fall	Spring
Kindergarten	N/A	3
First Grade	4	16
Second Grade	18	28
Third Grade	30	38
Fourth Grade	40	40
Fifth Grade	50	50

- DRA levels above define exactly what skills and abilities readers should possess at each grade level ("on-grade level" scores)

You can also utilize the following resource to find out more information regarding the DRA assessment:

https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/reading-resources/book-selection-tips/assess-dra-reading-levels.html

Our teaching staff will continue to work with students to improve their literacy skills and challenge them accordingly. **The results of the DRA Assessment will be shared during November parent-teacher conferences.** Once you know your child's reading level, you can search for books at a particular DRA level utilizing Scholastic's Book Wizard. Book Wizard can be accessed at:

http://www.scholastic.com/bookwizard/

Please keep in mind that a great deal of research proves that the best predictor of student success is the extent in which families encourage learning at home. Thus, I encourage you to involve yourself in your child's education and together we can meet the goal of instilling a lifelong love of learning.

If you should have any further questions, please reach out to your child's teacher. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kurt Ceresnak
Principal