



Marion Community Unit School District No. 2

1700 W. Cherry Street
Marion, Illinois 62959



March 19, 2018

Dear Parent,

Beginning the week of April 2-6, 2018, Marion CUSD 2 will begin administering the Illinois State College and Careers Readiness test to grade 3-8 students in Mathematics and English/Language Arts. Additionally, grades 5, 8 & high school Biology students will take the Illinois State Board of Education Science Assessment between April 16-20, 2018. Results are reviewed by Marion CUSD 2 staff and administration and used for school improvement. Parents will receive results in Fall 2018.

The mandated state assessments are aligned to Illinois' new learning standards and aimed to deliver clear and timely information about what students know and can do and whether they can demonstrate the academic preparation necessary to succeed as citizens and in college and careers.

The tests seek to assess what matters in today's world. The assessment system not only measures mastery of English Language Arts, Mathematics & Science knowledge but also uses technology to include questions and tasks that mirror the type of work students will encounter both in their current classrooms and post high school.

The authentic assessments invite students to think deeply and construct their own solution to challenging tasks and situations. The assessments require students to analyze information and explain their answers; therefore, better reflecting classroom lessons and experiences. At the conclusion of the tests, students may be asked to provide feedback about the assessment.

As always, we want your child to perform his or her best. You can help your child do this by:

1. making sure, if possible, that your child attends school on the days of testing;
2. making sure your child gets a good night's sleep the night before testing;
3. providing breakfast on the mornings of testing;
4. reminding your child to ask the teacher questions if he or she does not understand the test directions;
5. letting your child know that you have confidence in his or her ability to do their best; and
6. advising your child not to worry about the test-just do the best he or she can.

Please contact your child's teacher or me if you want additional information or have further questions. Additional information can be found on the district's website at www.marionunit2.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Amy M. Sanders'.

Amy M. Sanders
Assistant Superintendent