



THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

EMBASSY CREEK ELEMENTARY
ROBERT BECKER, Principal
10905 Southeast Lake Boulevard
Cooper City, Florida 33026
754-323-5550/754-323-5590
www.browardschools.com/embassycreek

The School Board of
Broward County, Florida
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April 15, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that your student will take the paper-based **Florida Standards Assessments (FSA)** as indicated on the attached Testing Calendar. Students in **Third grade** will participate in a 2-day Mathematics test. **Fourth and Fifth grade** students will participate in a 2-day **English/Language Arts** and 2-day **Mathematics** test. Additional testing will also take place in Science for all Fifth graders. Please refer to the attached Testing Calendar for a list of specific dates and times of testing sessions in the month of May.

Per the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), no remote administrations are available for any statewide summative assessments. The Florida Department of Education (DOE) requires all students present during the testing window to participate in the assessment. Therefore, all students present on any testing or make-up testing days will be required to sit for the assessment. Furthermore, unlike some states, Florida has no "opt-out" policy for state assessments used as the required measures of student achievement for the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015. Students not in attendance on day of their test(s) will be marked absent and standard absence reporting policies will be in effect. The final determination of whether a student is in attendance on their scheduled testing day remains with the parent/guardian(s).

In order to continue adhering with physical distancing guidelines, face to face students will be testing on different days than virtual students. Please be aware that face to face students will continue their regular arrival and dismissal procedures. Third thru Fifth grade virtual students, however, are asked to arrive on campus from 8:15 a.m.- 8:30 a.m. on their testing days and report to the cafeteria. On testing days, dismissal will be at 10:30 a.m. for all Third thru Fifth virtual students. Please use the east car loop for arrival and dismissal. Parents should be aware that crossing guards are not available on testing days during arrival and dismissal times for virtual students. Therefore, virtual learners may not bike or walk to school without an adult. In order to support our health and safety measures, parents are not allowed on campus during arrival and dismissal times.

Students are asked to bring their masks, which must be worn upon arrival to campus as well as during testing. Students should also bring a water bottle, light jacket, and a positive attitude. 😊 Virtual students are asked **not** to bring their computers or backpacks on testing days. Pencils for testing will be provided.



This letter, testing schedule, and informational PowerPoint will also be posted on our school website:
browardschools.com/embassyreek

The health and safety of all Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) students and staff are among Embassy Creek's highest priorities. BCPS has deployed personal protective equipment, signage and electrostatic sprayers to all schools to assist with ensuring a safe and secure learning environment for students and teachers. **All students, employees and visitors are expected to complete a daily at home health assessment before leaving for school or work each day. In addition, all students, employees, visitors and vendors are required to wear face coverings, unless medically exempt.** Additional information about the District's health and safety protocols can be found online at <https://www.browardschools.com/coronavirus>.

The goal of statewide assessments is to provide academic achievement and learning gains data to students, parents, teachers, school administrators, and district staff to measure progress and achievement for learners. While no single assessment is the sole determiner of promotion, statewide assessment results are considered for a variety of school-based decisions such as promotion, course placement, and acceptance into magnet programs. For further information on promotion criteria, please see School Board Policy 6000.1 Student Progression Plan. https://web01.browardschools.com/sbbcpolicies/docs/Policy%206000_1-Student_Progression_Plan_rev2020-2021_final.pdf. Final recommendations for promotion or retention will be made on a wholistic review of the student's academic performance during this school year and their readiness for the following grade level.

For information regarding session lengths for Spring 2021 assessments, please see the [2020–2021 Florida Statewide Grade-Level Assessments Fact Sheet](#).

To help your student become comfortable with the item types and response formats, the following resources are available at

<http://www.FSAssessments.org/students-and-families/practice-tests/paper-based-practice-test-materials/>:

- Paper-Based Practice Tests and Answer Keys
- Student Presentations

Please review the following policies with your student before testing:

- **Electronic Devices**—Students are not permitted to have any electronic devices, including, but not limited to, cell phones, smartphones, and smartwatches, at any time during testing **or** during breaks (e.g., restroom), **even if the devices are turned off or students do not use them.** If your student is found with an electronic device during testing, his or her test will be invalidated.
- **Calculators**—Calculators are not permitted during Grades 3–6 Mathematics tests.
- **Testing Rules Acknowledgment**—All tests include a Testing Rules Acknowledgment printed in the student's test and answer book that reads: "I understand the testing rules that were just read to me. If I do not follow these rules, my test score may be invalidated." Prior to testing, test administrators read the rules to students, and students acknowledge that they understand the testing rules by signing below the statement in their test and answer book.



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- **Discussing Test Content after Testing**—The last portion of the testing rules read to students before they sign below the Testing Rules Acknowledgment states: “Because the content in all statewide assessments is secure, you may not discuss or reveal details about the test content (including test items, passages, and prompts) after the test. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, or posting to social media sites.” Please make sure your student understands this policy prior to testing and remind them that “discussing” test content includes any kind of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, posting to social media, or sharing online. **While students may not share information about secure test content after testing, this policy is not intended to prevent students from discussing their testing experiences with their parents/families.**
- **Working Independently**—Students are responsible for doing their own work during the test and for protecting their answers from being seen by others. If students are caught cheating during testing, their tests will be invalidated. In addition, FDOE employs Caveon Test Security to analyze student test results to detect unusually similar answer patterns. Student tests within a school that are found to have extremely similar answer patterns will be invalidated.
- **Leaving Campus**—If your student leaves campus before completing a test session (e.g., for lunch, an appointment, illness), he or she **will not** be allowed to return to that test session. If your student does not feel well on the day of testing, it may be best for him or her to wait and be tested on a make-up day. Please remember not to schedule appointments on testing days.
- **Testing Accommodations**—If your student has an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a Section 504 plan, or is an English Language Learner (ELL) or a recently exited ELL, please contact the school to discuss the testing accommodations that will be provided for your student.

If you have any questions related to this test administration, please contact our Testing Coordinator and Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Jacqueline Hudson, at Jacqueline.Hudson@Browardschools.com. For more information about the Florida Statewide Assessments program, please visit the portal at www.FSAssessments.org.

For more information about the **Florida Standards Alternate Assessments** program and score reporting, please view:

https://fsaatraining.onlinehelp.cognia.org/wpcontent/uploads/sites/8/2019/05/FSAAPT_UnderstandingReports_English.pdf

Thank you for supporting your student and encouraging him or her to do his or her best during Spring 2021 assessments.

Sincerely,

Robert Becker
Principal