



April 2019

Upcoming Dates

A Note From Ms. Renner Middle School Principal

Greetings from the Middle School!

Thank you for your support at the PREP GALA this past weekend. It was a fun evening and students will benefit from the funds raised for arts, activities and athletics!

MCA TESTS BEGIN MONDAY: Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA's) will be given in all grades of the middle school on Monday, April 15th, Wednesday, April 17th and Grades 5 and 8 will complete their Science MCA on Tuesday, April 23rd.

It will be very important for students to be in attendance the entire day during their scheduled test days. Please contact us if your child will need to miss the test or arrive late or leave early for any reason on a testing day. Students should be in attendance for the entire day. **Students should not be calling or texting parents to pick them up when they have completed testing.**

- **April 11th -**
- Severe Weather Awareness Drill
- **April 12th -**
- Spirit Wear Day
- **April 15th -**
- MCA Reading Test Grades 5-8
- **April 17th -**
- MCA Math Test Grades 5-8
- **April 19th -**
- NO School
- **April 23rd -**
- MCA Science Test Grades 5 and 8

<u>5th Grade</u>	<u>6th Grade</u>	<u>7th Grade</u>	<u>8th Grade</u>
Reading – 04/15/19	Reading – 04/15/19	Reading – 04/15/19	Reading – 04/15/19
Math – 04/17/19	Math – 04/17/19	Math – 04/17/19	Math – 04/17/19
Science – 04/23/19	Science – N/A	Science – N/A	Science – 04/23/19

Estimated testing time for the MCA Reading is 2 ½ to 3 ½ hours with six sections including 7-9 passages and up to 64 items. The MCA Math test length is estimated between 1 ½ to 3 hours with 60-63 questions covering five different sections of math standards. Reading and Math MCA's are adaptive and will change the content and the difficulty level of the question for the individual student depending on how they answer the previous questions. The MCA Science test is estimated at 1 ½ to 2 ½ hours containing three sections with 54 questions on the 5th grade test and 66 questions for 8th grade. The science test is not adaptive and all students will answer the same questions. The science test measures standards from three years of science curriculum which include grades 3-5 for 5th grade and 6-8 for 8th grade.

MCA's will be given to fifth and sixth graders in the Performing Arts Center and seventh and eighth grade students will be testing in the Axillary Gym. Mr. Vincent will have



open gym for middle school on testing days from 9:00- 9:20 a.m.

What to Bring for Testing:

- *Spirit Wear with blue or black jeans or Uniform are only clothing choices.*
- Pillow or chair cushion for folding chair seat.
- Sweatshirt or sweater to layer. Non-Uniform is allowed.
- Headphones if you prefer your own over the school set. Noise cancelling headphones are okay.
- Clear plastic water bottle. No glass or metal water bottles with water only.
- Small amount (10 pieces or less) of mint gum or unwrapped peppermint or citrus flavored candies such as lemon drops in a small plastic bag.
- Book to read when finished testing or puzzle/coloring/activity book with colored pencils for coloring. Activity packets will be available.

What Not to Bring for Testing:

- Blankets, sleeping bags, back packs or other similar items.
- Do not wear sweats, joggers, yoga pants or other Non-Uniform items. It is a Spirit Wear or Uniform Day.
- ***Electronic devices that can electronically send or receive information such as cell phones, tablets, fitness trackers or smart watches, etc.***
- Hand held calculators. All students must use online calculators in the test.
- Reading, Math, or Science textbooks, and materials or homework.

All district staff have completed their required MDE test monitor and security training at this time. Reading/Language Arts, Math, and Science teachers will be reviewing mandatory testing directions and tutorials with students using the MDE online testing tutorials and item samplers. Teachers will spend class time and assign homework reviewing Grade Level Standard Content information, test taking strategies and using the technology tools available on the online test over the next week. It is a requirement that all students be familiar with the types of items and the use of the technology tools on the MCA prior to the test and be able to use them independently. Practice with the format of the MCA computer based adaptive test is important because it is different from what students do on a normal paper and pencil test.

Prior to the test, teachers will be helping students think about the type of strategies they will use on the test and how their physical and mental preparation can increase their stamina and attitude toward this long test. While the score of the test is important and we hope that students will score well, what is more important is helping students build the skill set and mental capacity to handle achievement tests before they reach high school. Students will take a number of high stakes tests in high school including college entrance exams such as the ACT and Advanced Placement tests. We want to help students work through text anxieties and strategies on the MCA's to enable them to be successful on these future college preparatory exams.

Teachers will share the preliminary score reports with students in class following the tests. SCPA Middle school students have done very well on the MCA tests in the past and we are anticipating that our students have learned the curriculum and skills necessary to perform at or above the state benchmarks again this year.

Part of the requirement for state and federal legislation is that we need to show student's College and Career Readiness. A score of MEETS or EXCEEDS STANDARDS demonstrates a student's college readiness. MCA scores will be included on student transcripts and are part of the student's official records. MCA Individual Score Reports will come from MDE in August and will be sent home with students in the fall.

Quarter 4 Mid-Quarter on Friday, May 3rd: Teachers will hand out Progress Reports to each student in their Period 1 class on Tuesday, May 7th. We ask parents to review the progress reports with your children, sign and return the form to Period 1 teachers by Thursday, May 9th. Please contact individual teachers with any concerns or questions regarding class progress. You can also view student grades electronically through ParentVUE in Synergy. The end of the quarter and the final day of school will be on Thursday, May 31st.



Thank you for your patience, support and encouragement through what can be a busy and stressful quarter for your child. We appreciate everything you do to help make the end of the 2018-19 school year as successful as the beginning!

Wanda Renner, Middle School Principal
wrenner@stcroixprep.org

A Note from the School Nurse

5th

6th

7th

8th

Although the numbers are not significant, we are seeing more cases of influenza or influenza-like illness than we did during the winter months. Remember to wash hands and cover coughs to reduce the spread. Please follow the guidelines for exclusion found here and at the Prep website. If you have any questions please contact the nurse at nurse@stcroixprep.org.

It is also starting to be allergy season. The snow molds should be resolving but the tree pollen is ramping up. We are seeing an increase in students with congestion/runny noses and complaining of sore throats along with itchy eyes and noses. Be sure to discuss any allergy like symptoms with your child's healthcare provider.



Thank you!

Middle School Homework Calendar & Teacher Blogs

5th

6th

7th

8th

Middle School Homework Calendar 2018-19

<https://sites.google.com/stcroixprep.org/scpamiddleschool/home>

* Teacher blog pages are also linked to the Middle School Homework Calendar

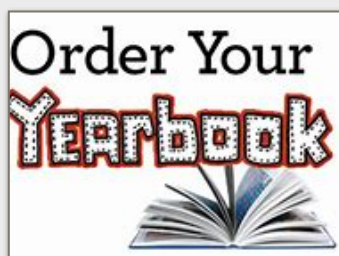
5th

6th

7th

8th

Yearbook



NEW this year!!

- Middle School ***ONLY*** yearbook highlighting grades 5-8
- 56 page, hardcover book, printed in color
- Covering classrooms, activities, trip highlights, and FUN!
- Cost is \$38 until May 15th (cost if purchased after May 15th is \$40)
- Delivery will be at Back-To-School Night in August 2019
- To purchase a yearbook click [here](#)