



HOLLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

April 1st, 2024

Greetings Parents and Guardians,

As you know, staff and students at Holland are extra busy this Spring semester, whether it be extracurriculars, DYAD, tutoring, UIL competitions or academic learning in the classroom. In addition to all things fun, Spring also brings about testing season.

With the Spring Semester arrival, the STAAR testing season is also fast approaching! These assessments are required by the Texas Education Agency and are used to evaluate school district performance as well as individual student performance. These assessments measure how well students have mastered the content and skills identified in the TEA standards. In preparation, we would like to inform you of the testing dates & schedule.

The most important thing that you can do for your child during testing is make sure that he/she comes to school on the days they have tests. Making up a missed test means time out of class and losing important learning time that cannot be made up. In addition to attendance, your child will do his/her best on the tests if they:

- Take the tests seriously and give his or her best effort,
- Get to bed early the night before to be well-rested on the day of the test,
- Have a good breakfast on the morning of the test,
- Come to school on time.

Reminders for testing dates:

- Please make sure students are present and punctual on testing dates to ensure they get the full time allotted and do not feel rushed.
- We also encourage students to avoid bringing backpacks, cell phones, smart watches, and all other non-test related items to school on testing dates.
- During these testing dates, students must still follow the Houston ISD dress code guidelines which requires their uniform and a sweatshirt (if desired).
- Students **MUST** either bring lunch from home or get it in the cafeteria. **Parent food drop offs ARE NOT allowed during state testing.**

****All cell phones and smart watches will be taken up before testing begins.****

Any cell phone that is not placed away in the space mandated by the teacher and found during testing will result in the cell phone being taken to the front office and held until the student's parent pays the school allotted amount.

The fee for phones taken up during testing is \$30.

The following list includes the grades, dates, and subject areas that are to be tested:

NO VISITORS ALLOWED ON CAMPUS DURING THESE DATES

Grade	Reading/Writing	Science	Social Studies	Mathematics
6	4/16/2024	N/A	N/A	05/01/2024
7	4/16/2024	N/A	N/A	05/01/2024
8	4/16/2024	4/18/2024	4/24/2024	05/01/2024

Testing season is often accompanied by stress and anxiety for many staff and students. You and I both know that there is NO single test or score that defines who our students are. In fact, effort is what truly defines each of us. The effort we put into a task often determines our GROWTH and success. However, we would be remiss to think that how our students perform on the state assessments do not have ramifications on our students and their futures in the next grade level. Some possible ramifications for students who do not pass or fail to take the STAAR exam include summer school attendance, tutorials in the upcoming year, and/or intervention classes.

Just like you, we want your student to perform their BEST in everything they do. The upcoming STAAR is no exception. However instead of chasing a score, our continued focus for every student is GROWTH from their previous performance level. With that said, our teachers are in the process of conducting STAAR rotations and small groups with the designed plans across the campus to best meet the needs of our students prior to the exams. We ask that you continue to encourage your student to remain focused and do their best in these instructional opportunities to ensure GROWTH on their achievement.

GROWTH is everything so please encourage your student to strive to do their best during these intensive and targeted STAAR rotations and small group learning opportunities. We have no doubt that with the right instruction and our students' diligent efforts, we will all succeed. We are planning on grade level STAAR celebrations for students who have NO testing violations, NO testing disruptions, and try their hardest. We believe all our students can be successful with your support!

For additional information and an overview of the statewide testing program, visit the Texas Education Agency Student Assessment Division parent information website at: <http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/parents/>

Please contact the Campus Testing Coordinator, Amanda Cone, for additional questions about STAAR.

Thank you again for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Keri Ward
Principal