



SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

33 Mechanic Street, Fair Haven, VT 05743

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slatevalleyunified.org

Brooke Olsen-Farrell, Superintendent

Kristin H. Benway, Director of Special Services
Casey O'Meara, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

Cheryl Scarzello, Director of Finance
Christopher G. Cole, Director of Operations

3/14/26

Dear Families,

Later this month, our middle school students will participate in the **Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program (VTCAP)**. These state assessments provide one way for us to measure student learning and help us better understand how our school is supporting student growth. At the same time, it is important to remember that this is **only one measure** of learning. It does not capture the many ways our students show their abilities, creativity, kindness, and perseverance each day.

Our testing schedule is as follows:

Math:

March 24 (9:40–11:23) & March 25 (9:40–11:23)

English Language Arts:

March 31 (8:47–10:30), April 1 (9:40–10:30), and April 2 (9:40–11:23)

Science (Grade 8 only):

April 7 (8:47–10:30) & April 8 (9:40–11:23)

Students who are absent during testing times will be pulled when they are present to make up tests.

We also recognize that adolescence can make it difficult for students to fully appreciate the purpose of an assessment like this. The test is not graded like a typical classroom assignment, and students will not receive their results until the fall of the following school year. For many middle school students, that can make the experience feel distant or less meaningful. We understand that perspective and empathize with it. At the same time, the results do matter to our school and to our community. They help us evaluate our programs, identify areas for growth, and tell the story of our students' learning. We know our students are amazing, and this is one opportunity for them to show that to the broader community and beyond. Our message to students is simple: **do your best and show what you know.**

(over)

Fair Haven Union Middle & High School

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Benson Village School

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While we work hard at school to prepare students, family support at home can make a big difference in helping students feel confident and ready. Here are a few simple ways you can help:

Prioritize sleep

A good night's sleep helps students focus, think clearly, and manage stress. We encourage students to get plenty of rest during the testing period.

Encourage a healthy breakfast

Eating breakfast helps fuel the brain and improves concentration. A balanced breakfast with protein and whole grains can help students maintain their energy throughout the morning. As always, breakfast is available at school as well.

Promote a positive mindset

Remind your child that these assessments are simply an opportunity to show what they know. Encouragement from home can help students stay motivated and confident.

Support perseverance

Testing requires stamina and sustained attention. Encourage your child to take their time, read carefully, and keep trying even when questions feel challenging.

Our goal is for students to approach testing feeling **prepared, calm, and supported**.

Thank you for partnering with us to help create the conditions that allow students to do their best.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Warmly,

Jennefer Paquette

FHUMHS Co-Principal

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