Math and Science Academy - District Assessment Calendar

MSA believes that assessments serve several purposes:

- Providing valuable information pertaining to:
  - What do our students know and can do?
  - What do we do if our students haven't learned it yet?
  - What do we do if our students have learned it?
- Being accountable to all educational stakeholders (students to the community)
- Evaluating programs to determine what is working, what is not working, and what should be done next based on data

When	What	Who
September	FastBridge - Fall Reading & Math	MS students
October	PSAT	Grades 9-11
January	FastBridge - Winter Reading & Math	MS students
February	Access	EL students
April	MCA/MTAS	MS students - Reading 8th - Science 11th - Math
	ACT/MCA/MTAS Day	MS students - Math 9th - Science 10th - Reading 11th - ACT
May	AP Biology	AP Enrolled Students
	AP Chemistry	AP Enrolled Students
	AP Modern World History	AP Enrolled Students
	AP English Literature & Composition	AP Enrolled Students
	AP English Language & Composition	AP Enrolled Students
	AP Calculus AB	AP Enrolled Students
	AP Calculus BC	AP Enrolled Students
	AP Statistics	AP Enrolled Students
	AP Computer Science A	AP Enrolled Students
	AP Art History	AP Enrolled Students
	AP Psychology	AP Enrolled Students
	AP Computer Science Principles	AP Enrolled Students
	AP Human Geography	AP Enrolled Students
	AP Business Personal Finance	AP Enrolled Students

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	AP Government and Politics	AP Enrolled Students
	FastBridge - Spring Reading & Math	MS Students
June	Math and Spanish Placement	Incoming 6th graders

State Testing

Access for ELLs		
What is it?	**Why do our students take it?**	**Other information**
The ACCESS for ELLs assessment measures English learners' progress towards meeting Minnesota's standards for English language development in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. ACCESS results are used to determine support and programming for English learners, and to evaluate program effectiveness. ACCESS is mandated by the state of Minnesota, and is administered to all students identified as English learners in grades K-12.	Students take the ACCESS assessment to measure their progress towards English language development standards and to meet federal ESSA accountability requirements	MDE's Assessment for English Learners WIDA

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA)		
What is it?	**Why do our students take it?**	**Other information**
The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) is the state test that helps districts measure student progress toward Minnesota's academic standards and also meet federal and state legislative requirements. The MCA is mandated by the state of Minnesota. All students in grades 3-8 and 10 will take the Reading test, all students in grades 3-8 and 11 will take the Math test, and all students in grades 5, 8, and HS students enrolled in Biology will take the Science test. Some students who receive special education services and meet eligibility requirements may take the alternate assessment MTAS instead.	Students take the MCAs to measure learning of the Minnesota Academic Standards and to meet federal ESSA accountability requirements.	MDE"s Minnesota's Academic Standards-Based Assessments

Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS)		
What is it?	**Why do our students take it?**	**Other information**
The Minnesota Test of Academic Skills is the alternative state assessment that some students with significant cognitive disabilities may take instead of the MCA.	Students take the MTAS to measure learning of the Minnesota Academic Standards and to meet federal ESSA accountability requirements.	MDE's MTAS

District Testing

FastBridge

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What is it?	Why do our students take it?	Other information
FAST is a comprehensive reading and math assessment system that supports district-wide assessment (universal screening) of all middle school students and progress monitoring for some students who are receiving additional support. Results from FAST assessments are used to measure students' growth and inform instructional decision-making, including decisions for classroom instruction as well as decisions regarding additional support or enrichment for students.	Students take the FAST assessments (aMath, CBMMath Automaticity, aReading, and autoReading) to help the school measure students' progress and to help inform classroom instructions.	FastBridge Information

Other Testing

ACT		
What is it?	**Why do our students take it?**	**Other information**
The ACT Test, typically administered to juniors and seniors, is a national college admissions examination designed to measure academic achievement in English, mathematics, reading and science. Current state legislation requires that juniors must be offered the chance to take the ACT on the state administration day selected by the district.	Students who take the ACT may receive more scholarships, qualify for specific programs, assist in registering for the right classes, and can help secure their admission.	ACT

PSAT		
What is it?	**Why do our students take it?**	**Other information**
The PSAT is mostly a practice version of the SAT. The highest performers on this exam are eligible to earn scholarships. Students in grades 9-11 take the PSAT.	Students take the PSAT to give them an opportunity at practicing for college entrance tests such as the SAT and ACT, and can qualify them for a National Merit Scholarship.	PSAT

Advanced Placement (AP)		
What is it?	**Why do our students take it?**	**Other information**
Advanced Placement (AP) is a program administered by the College Board, which offers college-level curricula and examinations to high school students. American colleges and universities may grant advanced course placement and/or course credit to students who obtain scores of 3 or higher on the AP examination. Students who are enrolled in an AP class may choose to take the exam to have an opportunity of earning college credits.	Students take the AP exams to earn college credit or placements while in high school (saving money and time), getting exposure to college level exams, and standing out when applying to post-secondary institutions and scholarships.	College Board - Advanced Placement

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