

Preparing for MCAS at the Morse School

MCAS testing for Morse School 3rd, 4th and 5th graders begins after the April Break! Here is some important information to help you and your child prepare!



What is MCAS?

The MCAS assessment helps to measure students' progress towards meeting grade level standards in English language arts, mathematics and science. It is a standardized test used by all public schools in Massachusetts. The results give us information about teaching and learning at the Morse School and help us to make sure that all of our students are developing the foundational skills they need to be successful in middle school, high school and college. This year, all Morse school students will take the MCAS on laptop computers.

When will my child be taking the MCAS test?

MCAS testing will begin on Tuesday, April 23rd for 4th graders, Thursday, April 25th for 3rd graders, and April 29th for 5th graders. There are two MCAS sessions for English language arts (ELA), two for mathematics, and two for science (5th Grade only). The testing dates for students in grades 3-5 are indicated below:

| Subject | Grade 3 | Grade 4 | Grade 5 |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|
| English Language Arts | April 25 th & 26 th | April 23 rd & 24 th | April 29 th & 30 th |
| Mathematics | May 9 th & 10 th | May 13 th & 17 th | May 14 th & 16 th |
| Science | | | May 20 th & 21 st |

Is there anything I can do to help my child prepare for MCAS?

At the Morse School, teachers have been working hard to help students develop the skills that will be measured on the MCAS assessment. We have done this not only by giving all of our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders opportunities to practice tasks that resemble those that they will encounter on the MCAS test, but also by engaging them in daily learning activities that are aligned with the standards that MCAS assesses. Nevertheless, there are a few things that you can do to help prepare your child to do his or her best on MCAS:

- **Make sure your child gets enough sleep!** Sleep can affect a child's energy, mood and mental alertness. It is recommended that elementary school-aged children sleep for at least 10 hours per night. Please make sure that your child gets enough sleep on the night before the MCAS test!
- **Make MCAS days "special!"** – We do not want our children to feel anxious about MCAS, but we do want them to recognize that MCAS days are special and that we want them to do their best. We encourage you to think of ways of making the day special at home as well, such as giving your child a preferred breakfast (students will still have access to free breakfast in our cafeteria).
- **Make sure your child gets to school on time!** – Arriving to school on time allows your child to participate in morning meeting and enjoy breakfast before the test begins. Please make every effort to have your child here by 8:10 on MCAS days!
- **Avoid scheduling family travel during your child's MCAS testing days!**

If you are interested in learning more, please visit the MCAS website (www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/parents). You may also contact your child's teacher or a member of the administrative team if you have more questions.

Thank you!

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