Dear Parents/Guardians,

This past spring, New Jersey students did not participate in the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) due to Covid-19. Therefore, students in grades 4 through 8 will be participating in Start Strong testing during the first two weeks of October. The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) informed school districts that Start Strong testing will satisfy federal requirements for testing for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Start Strong Assessments are brief, each approximately 45-60 minutes in length. There will be one unit of English language arts and one unit of mathematics for fourth through eighth graders. There will be one unit of science for sixth grade only. The assessments consist of machine-scorable questions, which allows for immediate results. This will provide teachers and school administrators with necessary data of student growth from last school year to address scholars’ unique needs this school year. As with state testing from previous years, scholars with 504 plans or Individualized Education Programs (IEP) will have accommodations to Start Strong testing.

The schedule below details the testing dates for each grade level and subject area:

**Tuesday, October 5, 2021:** Grades 4-8 ELA  
**Wednesday, October 6, 2021:** Grades 4-8 Mathematics  
**Thursday October 7, 2021:** Grade 6 Science  
**Make up testing dates:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 through Friday, October 15, 2021

Parents/guardians will be given an individual score report (ISR) shortly after the October testing window for Start Strong has closed. Please visit the Start Strong Resource Center for more information [https://nj.mypearsonsupport.com/startStrong/](https://nj.mypearsonsupport.com/startStrong/). If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact me by phone or email. My contact information is listed below.

Sincerely,

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