



*Serving With Pride The
Township of Manalapan
and the
Borough of Englishtown*

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September 20, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please be advised that during the week of October 4th, students in grades 4-8 will take the state mandated Fall 2021 Start Strong assessments. Due to the cancellation of the Spring 2021 administration of the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) in English language arts, mathematics, and science, these assessments are required by the state to be administered in the fall for this school year in order to fulfill the federal statewide assessment requirement for the 2020-2021 school year.

Students in grades 4-8 will take assessments in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics, and students in grade 6 will also take the science assessment. These assessments are based on a subset of prioritized prior-year academic standards and are administered in approximately 45-60 minutes for each subject area. Makeup testing may occur through October 22nd, if needed, for students who may miss the initial testing dates.

The testing schedule for each school during the week of October 4th is accessible by clicking [HERE](#) -- [MERS FALL 2021 START STRONG TESTING SCHEDULE](#).

Please also note that student cell phones and communication devices must be off and away during testing; and accommodations will be provided as per a student's Individualized Education Program or 504 plan.

The Start Strong assessments utilize three performance levels — “Strong Support May Be Needed”; “Some Support May Be Needed”; and “Less Support May Be Needed.” A report of your child's assessment results will be provided to you in late fall. More information (i.e., tutorials, practice tests, etc.) regarding the Start Strong can be found at: <https://nj.mypearsonsupport.com/startStrong/>

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. You may also contact your child's assistant principal who serves as the School's Testing Coordinator.

Sincerely,

Jodi Pepchinski
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Human Resources