



December 2015

Dear parents and guardians,

As many of you are aware, Illinois students this past spring participated in a new state assessment, called the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) exam, in English language arts and math. The PARCC assessment replaces the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) and the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) and marks a significant change from these previous assessments.

The PARCC exam asks students to demonstrate and apply their knowledge and skills, rather than reciting facts and filling in a bubble for the correct answer. The test lines up with the updated Illinois Learning Standards and measures students' problem-solving abilities, critical thinking, and writing skills, which are abilities all students need to stay on track for college and career readiness after high school.

The district and school PARCC scores are being released publicly on Friday, December 11, 2015 and our Illinois Report Cards will be posted on our website for viewing. **Individual student assessment summaries will be sent home with the 2nd quarter report cards.**

The PARCC assessment sets new goals for our students using higher expectations that match the rigor and scope of the Illinois Learning Standards. As you review these reports, the school and district averages will look much different and may appear lower than what you typically expected on previous state assessments. It is important to remember that these score reports **are not** comparable to previous scores on the Illinois State Achievement Test (ISAT). The PARCC exam uses higher international expectations for what it means for students to truly master content and grade-level standards. The 2015 PARCC test scores provide a new baseline to measure student progress going forward. These results do not mean our students know less or are less capable or that our schools are falling behind. Our schools continue to do great work to teach the updated learning standards and prepare our students for the demands of college and careers. We have simply raised the bar for the type of skills and knowledge students must possess before moving onto the next grade level.

We will continue to recognize and value the great teaching, learning, leadership, commitment, and achievements that make our schools unique. The Kinnikinnick District remains steadfast and dedicated to our mission: ***To encourage and empower all students to reach their highest potential.*** If you would like more information about the PARCC assessment or the Illinois Learning Standards, please visit our website <http://k131curriculum.weebly.com> and if needed, do not hesitate to reach out to the teachers that can best discuss your child's progress.

Your partner in education,

  
Keli Freedlund  
Superintendent