

# WMS WILDCAT NEWSLETTER



**Mission Statement:** West Middle School educates the whole child with the belief that all children can learn. WMS exists to meet the social, physical, emotional, and academic needs of all students.

Scott Cole, Principal

Ron Koch, Assistant Principal

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## March 2019

### *A note from the principal...*

We will be administering a **new Iowa Assessment** this spring. The new assessment is called the **Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP.)** The assessment will be administered online. The dates of the assessment are April 29 – May 17. More information will be sent out as we get closer to the testing window. As in the past, student attendance is extremely important during the testing window.

There is information listed later in the newsletter about our **school climate survey**. Information has been sent to parents and guardians in a variety of ways to access the survey. Please take a moment of your time to take the survey. Your input is valuable to us as we look to improve the building and your students' education.

**Before and after school traffic** is very hectic getting onto campus to drop off and pick up students. A reminder to not use the bus lane for drop off or pickup as the busses need a place to park. Students do not need to be dropped off or picked up solely at the main entrance. We are asking parents to please utilize the full length of both lanes when dropping off and picking up students. This will help with traffic flow both before and after school. Students are capable of walking a short distance to enter the building or to get their rides home. Your help with this is greatly appreciated.

*Scott Cole—279-6813*

**REMEMBER?**



**Set Your  
Clocks  
Ahead!**



Daylight Saving Time starts at 2:00 A.M.,  
Sunday, March 10th.

### Upcoming Events:

- March 1—**No School** District-wide
- March 5—**NAIA Basketball (SPED)** @ Tyson 8:15-11:00
- March 10—**Clocks spring forward** 1 hour at 2:00 A.M.
- March 14—**Music in Our Schools Concert** @ WHS 7:00 P.M.
- March 15 — **W.I.N.G.S.** @ Morningside College
- March 18—**Low Brass Trio** @ WMS Band—11:00-1:00
- March 22—**End of 3rd Quarter**
- March 22—**Yearbook Sales End** (purchase online or at school)
- March 28—**8th grade TAG to Wayne State College** 9:00-4:00
- March 29—**PBIS Incentive** 1:45-2:45 P.M.

### Yearbook Sales

Students may order Yearbooks anytime now through March 22nd. Yearbooks **ordered at school are \$20.**  
Yearbooks **purchased online are \$17** at Balfour.com. Books will be distributed the last week of school.

**BUY YOUR**  
*Yearbook*

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Highlights...



### Putting Things Together

Do you know what you get when you put potassium permanganate and glycerin together? 8<sup>th</sup> grade science students do!

Students researched the properties of both pure compounds – potassium permanganate and glycerin. Next, students made a prediction of what might happen if the two compounds were placed together. The last step was to go to the fume hood, put them together, and find out!

This lab activity is helping us study chemical reactions, valence electrons, chemical bonding, and balancing chemical equations. Ask your 8<sup>th</sup> grade science student for all of the details.

Your Voice Matters...Speak Up In Our Schools.

Please plan to participate in the **School and District Climate Survey**

Survey Dates: February 19 – March 22

The survey is open to all parents and guardians.

How to take the survey:

- A link will be sent to you by email, text message and voicemail.
- Paper surveys are available for pick up at your child's school.

Take the survey online: [www.siouxcityschools.org/newsletter](http://www.siouxcityschools.org/newsletter)

All survey responses are confidential.

Su Voz Importa...Levante tu voz en Nuestras Escuelas.

Por favor participe en la Encuesta sobre el **Ambiente del Distrito y las Escuelas**

Fechas de la Encuesta: 19 de febrero-22 de marzo

La encuesta está disponible a todos los padres y guardianes.

Como tomar la encuesta:

- Se le enviará un enlace por correo electrónico, mensaje de texto y correo de voz
- Si Habrá encuestas en papel disponibles en las escuelas de su hijo.
- Complete la encuesta en línea: [www.siouxcityschools.org/newsletter](http://www.siouxcityschools.org/newsletter)

Todas las respuestas de la encuesta son confidenciales.

### Let's Talk

An engaged community makes our District stronger. That is why we have made it easy for you to connect with us whenever it is convenient for you. We encourage you to take advantage of **Let's Talk!** our 24/7 online submission site, by reaching out with your ideas, questions, concerns, and praise. To make a submission, please visit <http://www.siouxcityschools.org/lets-talk/>.

## Free Tutoring at West Middle

**Every Tuesday and Thursday**, free tutoring will be available in the **West Middle library** from **2:55-3:55 P.M.** Teachers from West Middle will be hosting the sessions and will help students with homework completion or give additional instruction on assignments students are struggling with. Whether your child needs a little or a lot of help, please encourage them to attend any of the tutoring sessions.



## DBIS Update...

The following students have been identified as persons who live through the lens of our WEST expectations. These expectations include, but are not limited to, being a person and community that is Welcoming, Engaged, Safe, and Trustworthy. Congratulations!

### February Honorees:

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Cael Kilberg, Collin Mayo, Monserratte Montoya Robles, Olivia Zoeller

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Jennifer Hernandez, Sara Retana Virula, Johnny Tran, Thanh Nhan Vo

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Marin Frazee, Vada Garner, Brady Henry, De'Vionne West



### Teen Health Tips:

- 1) Eat breakfast
- 2) Avoid skipping meals
- 3) Cut back on sugary drinks
- 4) Eat from ALL the food groups including fruits & vegetables
- 5) Eat a balanced diet without completely denying yourself your favorite foods
- 6) Get active...move, move, move

\*\* adapted from [teenhealthcare.org](http://teenhealthcare.org)

# The New Iowa Statewide Assessments of Student Progress

## Coming April 29-May 17

### Why a NEW version of the assessment?

Legislators passed House File 2235 during the last legislative session, which now requires all Iowa schools to give a new assessment called the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP). The new assessment is aligned with the grade-specific Iowa Core Standards, which means the ISASP more accurately reflects student understanding of the information currently being taught in our schools.

### Who will take the assessment?

Students in grades 3 – 11 will take the reading, language and writing, and math assessments.  
Students in grades 5, 8, and 10 will also take the science assessment.

### Why is this assessment given?

In Iowa and in the Sioux City Community School District, the curriculum taught to students is aligned to the Iowa Core Standards. It is important to assess how well students understand the information taught in our schools. Therefore, ISASP will assess each student's demonstrated knowledge and understanding of grade-specific content.

### How will students take the assessment?

Students will take the assessment online.

### What should parents/guardians know about the new assessment?

Results are received quicker.

Previous assessments relied heavily on multiple-choice questions. The new assessment will evaluate students' skills using a mix of technology-enhanced questions, including open-ended essay questions.

Today's technology-enhanced questions provide greater insights into learning than previous assessments, which were formatted primarily with multiple-choice questions.

The new assessment will provide parents/guardians with actionable information about their child's learning.

Over time, parents will also be able to access year-over-year analysis of how their child performed from one year to the next.

### How can parents/guardians help prepare students for the assessment?

Practice tests are available online at <http://iowa.pearsonaccessnext.com/test-prep/>. Parents/guardians can help prepare students for testing by reviewing the practice tests online. Throughout the school year, and especially during testing periods, parents/guardians can ensure optimal student performance by making sure children get enough sleep, eat a good breakfast, and arrive to school on time. Most importantly, encourage students to try their best.



**Nondiscrimination Statement:** The Sioux City Community School District offers career and technical programs in the following areas: Business & Marketing, Family & Consumer Science, Health Science, and Industrial Arts, Technology, & PLTW. The Sioux City Community School District is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. It is an unfair or discriminatory practice for any educational institution to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information (for employment), national origin, religion, age (for employment), disability, socioeconomic status (for programs), marital status (for programs), or veteran status (for employment) in its educational programs and its employment practices. Inquiries or grievances, including Section 504 grievances and grievances under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, may be directed to Jen Gomez, Director of Student Services & Equity Education at 627 4th Street, Sioux City, IA 51101, (712) 279-6075, [gomezj2@live.siuoxcityschools.com](mailto:gomezj2@live.siuoxcityschools.com). Please see District Board policies 103 and 504.4 for additional information on available grievance procedures.

### ***WMS T-shirts***

WMS T-shirts & Sweatshirts are available anytime in the office.

### **Ongoing School Fundraisers**

Please **SAVE YOUR HY-VEE RECEIPTS, BOXTOPS, & POP TABS**. Your child can turn them in to their Advisory teacher or the office. **Students can even pay library fines with BoxTops!**



# **La NUEVA Evaluación del Progreso Estudiantil del Estado de Iowa Comenzando el 29 de Abril al 17 de Mayo**

## **¿Por qué hay una NUEVA versión de la evaluación?**

Los legisladores aprobaron el Archivo 2235 de la Cámara de Representantes durante la última sesión legislativa, que ahora requiere que todas las escuelas de Iowa realicen una nueva evaluación llamada Evaluación del Progreso Estudiantil del Estado de Iowa (ISASP). La nueva evaluación concuerda con los Estándares Básicos de Iowa específicos para cada grado, lo que significa que el ISASP refleja con mayor precisión la comprensión de los estudiantes de la información que actualmente se enseña en nuestras escuelas.

## **¿Quiénes tomarán la evaluación?**

Los estudiantes en los grados 3 - 11 tomarán las evaluaciones de lectura, lenguaje y escritura, y matemáticas. Los estudiantes en los grados 5, 8 y 10 también tomarán la evaluación de ciencias.

## **¿Por qué se da esta evaluación?**

En Iowa y en el Distrito Escolar de la Comunidad de Sioux City, el currículo que se enseña a los estudiantes concuerda con los Estándares Básicos de Iowa. Es importante evaluar qué tan bien los estudiantes entienden la información que se enseña en nuestras escuelas. Por lo tanto, ISASP evaluará el conocimiento demostrado y la comprensión de cada estudiante del contenido específico a su grado.

## **¿Cómo tomarán la evaluación los estudiantes?**

Los estudiantes tomarán la evaluación en línea.

## **¿Qué deben saber los padres/guardianes acerca de esta nueva evaluación?**

Los resultados se recibirán más rápido.

Las evaluaciones previas se basaron considerablemente en preguntas de elección múltiple. La nueva evaluación evaluará las habilidades de los estudiantes utilizando una mezcla de preguntas aumentadas con tecnología, incluyendo preguntas abiertas de ensayo.

Las preguntas de la tecnología mejorada de hoy día proveen una mejor comprensión del aprendizaje que las evaluaciones previas, que eran escritas principalmente con preguntas de elección múltiple.

La nueva evaluación proveerá a los padres/guardianes información útil acerca del aprendizaje de sus hijos.

Con el tiempo, los padres también tendrán acceso al análisis de año tras año, de cómo se desempeña su hijo de un año al siguiente.

## **¿Cómo pueden los padres/guardianes apoyar a sus estudiantes para prepararlos?**

Los exámenes de práctica están disponibles en línea al <http://iowa.pearsonaccessnext.com/test-prep/>. Los padres/guardianes pueden ayudar a preparar a los estudiantes para los exámenes por medio de repasar los exámenes de práctica en línea. Durante el año escolar, y especialmente durante el periodo de los exámenes, los padres/guardianes pueden asegurar el rendimiento mejor, por supervisar que sus niños duerman lo suficiente, desayunen bien, y lleguen a la escuela a tiempo. Lo más importante es de animarlos a que hagan lo mejor posible.