

OCTOBER 14, 2022

DIGITAL ACADEMY

News you can use!

BITS AND BYTES

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Calendar Updates

October 31st
Asynchronous Day
(No Zoom Classes)

November 4th
End of
First Marking Period



Benchmarking and SEL

PROGRAM UPDATES

Greetings Parents, Students, and Staff!

Benchmarks

Thank you so much to all the students across all grades who came in and completed the benchmark testing this week! (Thank you parents and guardians for helping students realize these were important!) As a school, a little more than 3/4 of the students completed these assessments, with nearly 90% of our middle grades completing!

What are we going to do with this information? In the coming weeks, your children's core teachers will meet with the students to discuss results so that students understand their strengths and weaknesses. Then, we'll be providing lessons and activities to build or reinforce skills that are weak or missing.

The ultimate goal of this program is student growth, and it is our hope that every student who takes the January tests will show at least a half-year's growth by then.

We will also use these test results to determine which students can be released to the "independent" track, meaning they can truly work at their own pace and are no longer required to attend structured classes.

Parents and Guardians must approve of this option regardless of a student's test scores.

Social Emotional Learning

Unfortunately, the intensity of testing made it impossible to kick off our SEL program on Wednesday, so we'll be kicking off next Wednesday at 12:30 with the middle grades and 1:55 for the high school.

Remote Testing

An Experiment

A small group of students whose parents had difficulty ensuring their in-person participation for benchmarks asked for the opportunity to complete these important exams remotely under parent supervision.

After receiving permission from the central office, we went ahead and tried the experiment. I wish I could say it was wildly successful and we'll be able to remote test in the future.

Unfortunately, with a couple of exceptions, the students who attempted the benchmarks remotely either did not finish, took more than twice as long as the school average to complete, or simply were unable to access the exams even with parent support.

Consequently, when the next round of benchmarks occurs in January, all students will be expected to complete these exams in person. It's what is best for the students and for the validity of the data.

Please know that we wanted this to work, but even if it had, students would still have to participate in person for PSSA and Keystone Exams. We simply do not have the ability to complete the state tests in a remote fashion (yet).

Thank you to the parents and students who were our test cases. We may not have been successful, but we learned what does and does not work, and that was worth the time invested!

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