Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Maine Educational Assessments (MEA) includes **required** assessments in Mathematics, English Language Arts (ELA)/Literacy, and Science. The 2020-21 State summative assessment in Mathematics and ELA/Literacy for grades 3-8 this year will the Northwest Evaluation Assessment (NWEA) delivered online. The MEA Science assessment for grades 5 and 8 will be an assessment designed by New Meridian, which will also be online. The testing dates/windows for the assessments are as follows:

 NWEA (Grades 3-5):

 ***Grade 3: May 11 and 14***

 ***Grade 4: May 17 and May 20***

 ***Grade 5: May 21 and May 24***

 ***Testing for Off-Site Learners (Edmentum): May 5 and May 26***

 MEA Science (Grade 5 Only): **The window is** **May 17-June 11 *(specific dates TBA)***

These assessments aim to match the content and skills outlined in the standards that guide instruction in the classroom and provide information about student learning. Assessment data allows our district to track cohort information over time, which means that we can follow specific grade levels and determine ways to meet the unique needs of each group of students as well as individual learners. **No single test can give a complete picture of achievement, and in RSU 13, we combine student grades and teacher reports, to look at the full picture that shows important information about student progress.**

We are committed to providing accurate information to parents and families in our community about the value of student participation in statewide assessments. Parents have the right to request the district’s policies and procedures regarding student participation in state and local assessments. When this information is requested, the district will provide all applicable information to families. Parents can also access Assessment schedules and information about rights on the RSU 13 site under the “Curriculum” Tab by selecting “Assessment Data” from the dropdown menu. When a student does not participate in the state assessments, valuable information is lost, and it can result in penalties to schools and the district. It is important that we test all students so that we have the best picture of how to use our resources to best meet our students’ needs. We are confident that with the quality instruction delivered by our dedicated educators, and your support, our students can meet and exceed these expectations. We encourage you to reach out to your child’s teacher and/or school administrator with any questions you may have about the MEA or your child’s progress.

Thank you,

Steffany Tribou

Assistant Superintendent

Ainslee Riley

Principal