**Bridgeton Public Schools**

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Many students in Bridgeton Public Schools will participate in the Start Strong (SS) and New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJ SLA). In mathematics, the SS and NJ SLA require students to solve problems using mathematical reasoning and to be able to model mathematical principles. In English Language Arts (ELA), students will be required to closely read multiple passages and to write essay responses in literary analysis, research tasks and narrative tasks. In addition to mathematics and ELA, children in various grade levels will take the state-mandated Science assessments.

Students in certain special education classrooms will take the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) assessments. These assessments follow the same grade levels and content areas, and are online assessments for students that cannot take the NJ SLA due to certain limitations. Students that take NJ SLA will not take the DLM, and students that take DLM will not take NJ SLA.

For our English Language Learners (ELL) population of students, the NJ DOE requires the administration of the ACCESS for ELLs. The ACCESS will be given to our ELL population and is an online and paper-based assessment to measure students’ academic English language in four language domains: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. Students that take the ACCESS for ELLs will also take either the NJ SLA or DLM.

Students that are classified and receiving special education services, along with students that have 504 documentation, may receive certain accommodations or modifications for assessments. These assessments will provide teachers information on student progress to inform instruction and provide targeted student support. The district has been working with your child in order to prepare them for this assessment. The dates for the assessments are enclosed and each student should complete the assessments within one week.

These assessments are both state and federally required, and results will be just one more piece of information we have about your child. To determine student growth and progress over time, we use multiple measures. In Bridgeton Public Schools these measures include District Assessments measured through programs such as Achieve 3000 and Imagine Math; prior performance in particular classes; historical report card grades; teacher checklists, matrices and recommendations; markers of success such as active participation, class attendance, and academic independence; and other types of standardized testing such as SAT, ACT, and PSAT.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christopher M. Tavani

Director of Student Services