



# Clark Public Schools

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**Edward Grande**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

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January 15, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) will once again be assessing students in grades three to eight in language arts literacy and mathematics through a computer-based system, now referred to as the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment – English Language Arts (NJSLA-ELA) and the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment – Mathematics (NJSLA-M) but formerly known as the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments. This online testing system will also still be used with ninth and tenth-grade students to assess their English skills and their Algebra 1, Geometry, or Algebra 2 skills. Fifth, eighth, and eleventh-grade students will continue to participate online in the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment – Science (NJSLA-S) for the third year now. These assessments will all measure student mastery of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards that have been aligned with college and career readiness. The tests will not only evaluate students' progress but also show teachers and families where a student needs help or is excelling so that they are able to personalize instruction in order to meet individual student needs. **The testing window for each of our schools for language arts, mathematics, and science runs from April 20, 2020 through May 21, 2020. More specific school-based schedules are to follow as students will not be testing throughout this entire NJSLA testing window.**

Kindly make certain that, as with any test, your children are well rested and nourished prior to taking these assessments. Students who are absent on a given testing day will be scheduled for the corresponding make-up session. Based on N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1 et seq., parents/guardians cannot “opt out” on behalf of their children when it comes to state-standardized tests. **Please also know that we will continue to use these results as a factor to determine student placement at the various grade levels due to the comparison data over numerous years that we now have. In addition, these results are a key component towards our school rankings. These rankings are of critical importance in terms of how our schools, our school district as a whole, and our township are viewed externally by, for instance, colleges/universities, scholarship donors, and internship companies. Such views also have a direct correlation on property values.**

I hope you find the information provided above to be helpful. I firmly believe that our students are extremely capable and that their teachers are putting their best efforts forth in terms of preparing their students to succeed on these tests. I most respectfully request your support with motivating our students to do their very best on the NJSLA. If you have any questions or require any further information, please contact our Supervisor of Pupil Personnel Services/School Counseling, Mr. Andrew Amendola. Mr. Amendola serves as our District Test Coordinator and can be reached at [aamendola@clarkschools.org](mailto:aamendola@clarkschools.org) or 732-574-9600 ext. 3263.

Yours sincerely,

*Edward Grande*

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