

In Session with the "Oriole" Superintendent

By, Mark D. Rosekrans, Superintendent of Charlotte Public Schools

Critical Time Of Year For Students

With the calendar now at mid-March and Spring Break fast approaching, this is a critical time for our students and their academic standing. There are twelve and a half weeks left in the 2015-16 school year. The majority of the school year is behind us but much remains to be accomplished in every building and every classroom.

Parent/Teacher conferences have been underway at each building. Parents are encouraged even beyond conferences, to continually make contact with their student's teacher and school. This contact is to ensure that communication on achievement, classroom content progress and student engagement is at its highest level possible. Our teachers welcome the ongoing communication as they readily know the more communication and understanding our parents have, the more students know and achieve what is expected of them. Constant communication between the home and school clearly results in more student success being attained.

Immediately upon return from spring break, students will begin M-Step and SAT testing. Preparations at each building (grades 3-8) are underway with staff and students for the M-Step on-line assessments. Building administration and teachers at each building have had many conversations and targeted efforts to ensure our students are ready. These advanced preparations are vital for student success on the assessments.

High school juniors will be taking the SAT. The PSAT (pre-SAT) was administered earlier this school year. The PSAT provides valuable insight for students as well as teachers on the SAT assessment as well as key knowledge expectations within all of the core subject areas. The SAT, has now replaced the ACT as the state assessment tool for high school eleventh grade students.

I strongly encourage all of our parents and students to go to our website home page. Under the Departments tab, access the Curriculum and Instruction area. The Curriculum and Instruction section, along with your school building newsletters, has extensive information on the upcoming assessments and the actual test windows. Each building test window is slightly different so please make sure to become familiar with your child's school testing schedule.

Two key preparations parents and students should do when the testing window is here are; get enough rest the night before and eat breakfast the morning of the test. Being well rested and having something to eat beforehand help the student to fully focus on the assessment.

Our students are looking forward to our upcoming Spring Break. Spring Break is a welcome recess, but immediately upon return from break, the testing cycle begins. After Spring Break we have ten weeks of teaching and learning left in this school year. This is a critical time of year for our students to prepare for the upcoming tests and to finish the school year strong and with great achievement.

Go Orioles! Oriole Pride!