

## **In Session with the “Oriole” Superintendent**

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

### **Charlotte Public Schools Gear Up for the MSTEP**

Charlotte Public Schools, like most schools across the State of Michigan, has been gearing up for the MSTEP. What is the MSTEP you ask? The MSTEP is not the next fitness or exercise craze, **it is the new state assessment test** that students will be taking upon their return from Spring Break.

MSTEP stands for **Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress**. The MSTEP replaces the MEAP which was the assessment test for over 40 years in our state.

The MSTEP is brand new. This is the first time students will be taking these tests in April and May.

The MSTEP will test students in grades 3-8 and 11 in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. The new tests also shift from a fall testing window to a spring window. This shift allows students to be tested in curricular content the year it was instructed instead of from the prior year.

In addition, a significant change is the MSTEP will be conducted on-line using computers and technological devices instead of the traditional paper and pencil testing. This is a major move by the state and one where a substantial investment has been made to conduct the test. Further, not only will students need to understand the questions and provide responses, they will need to be able to manipulate the technology to progress through the test.

Over the past several months in our schools and classrooms, Charlotte has been preparing for the new MSTEP. We have integrated instructional activities aligned to the testing format and exposed students to sample tests. This is all in an effort to have students ready and able to perform to the best of their ability.

Parents, on the Michigan Department of Education website there are many resources available for you to become familiar with as well. Just google MDE and on their opening page they have a MSTEP link with lots of information and resources. Take a look and have conversations with your child or children so they are even more prepared and aware of the new tests.

Please contact you building offices for specific test dates as they are different at each of our buildings.

We are your partner in your child’s education. Please take time to check out the information as the tests are challenging, rigorous and require your child to demonstrate understanding as well as conduct performance tasks.

**Go Orioles! Oriole Pride!**