

April 2021

Dear Families,

Students have been working hard on their core academics in preparation for the upcoming Forward Exam State assessment. The Forward Exam is a required assessment to be given by all Wisconsin public schools.

The Forward Exam is an online assessment. Students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 will be tested in math, and reading. Additionally, students in grade 4 and 8 will also be tested in the areas of science and social studies.

**You are receiving this letter as your child is scheduled to begin their Forward Exam soon.**

The State of Wisconsin has made modifications to Forward Exam testing to reflect the pandemic-related challenges. These include reduction of total testing times as well as the elimination of a writing subtest. There is no waiver available for State of Wisconsin testing and testing continues to be a requirement for all public schools in Wisconsin. The State of Wisconsin requires that all learners take the testing in-person for optimal testing environment and to ensure test security.

**Please review the information on the back of this letter for specific information regarding your child's Forward Exam schedule and school-specific testing directions.**

While this is a unique year in many ways, recognizing (and celebrating) the learning our students have accomplished this year as well as knowing the areas of next learning are key to maximizing this assessment.

Students will need headphones during the test. For best safety mitigation, we'd ask your child to bring their own to the testing session. If you do not have headphones, the school will provide them for your child.

During the testing window we are looking for your partnership in making sure your child is prepared to do their best on the test. Some ways you can help them prepare for the Forward Exam include:

- Helping them get a good night sleep the evening before their scheduled testing day
- Making sure they eat a healthy breakfast the morning of their scheduled testing day
- Ensuring that they are in attendance on testing days
- Encouraging them to do their very best on the test

If you have any questions regarding the Forward Exam or State of Wisconsin requirements, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you have questions on your child's test schedule or school-specific testing directions please contact your child's school principal.

Thank you in advance for helping your child show their best learning on this important test.

Sincerely,

*Amy Oakley*

Director of Instruction, School District of Fort Atkinson