



ABNER GIBBS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
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**Christopher J. Rogers, *Principal***

March 24, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians of Abner Gibbs Elementary School Students:

Beginning on Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, students in grade 3 will be taking this year's MCAS tests. Students in grades 4 and 5 will begin taking MCAS on April 5<sup>th</sup>. The MCAS tests are an important part of your child's education. They are one of many tools used to assess your child's academic growth as well as measuring our school's progress in attaining the state's curriculum frameworks.

Since the beginning of the year, our staff has worked with your son/daughter to prepare for these tests. Specifically, we have focused on assisting your child to answer questions by analyzing the question to determine what it is asking and using writing prompts to more effectively answer the question.

In addition to preparing your child for the tests, we will provide him/her with the proper environment and resources to complete the test. But we also need your help. In the next day or so, please spend some time with your son/daughter to reinforce the importance of this test. Not only will your child receive a score on the test, his/her score will be compared to other students in his/her grade at Abner Gibbs Elementary School, as well as throughout the state.

There are other things you can do to prepare your child for the MCAS. First of all, make sure she/he has a good dinner the night before and gets a sound night's sleep in order to be to school on time. Stress the importance of getting to bed early and being rested for these important tests. In the morning, provide him/her with a nutritious, full breakfast. Juice, fruits, cereal, bagels with cream cheese, peanut butter & toast, and yogurt are some quick and easy meals that can get your child off to a great start. If it is difficult to provide breakfast at home, your child can have a full breakfast at school. When your child arrives to school at 8:45 a.m., he/she can report directly to the cafeteria where breakfast is only \$1.00. For students with free lunch, breakfast is also free of charge.

Please encourage your child to be relaxed and positive about the test. We have a great group of students and teachers at Abner Gibbs Elementary School, and I am confident that they will perform well. At the end of school on the testing days, take some time to talk with your child about how the day went. Specifically, ask him/her about the test and how he/she thought they did. Ask him/her what the questions were about and how they responded. Shortly, students in grades 4 and 5 will receive and sign the "Student Responsibilities during MCAS Testing" statement in homerooms. In the statement, the student promises the following: that they have not seen the test booklet before testing, all the work will be their own and will not copy anyone or let anyone answer questions for them, they will not use a cell phone or other electronic device during testing, and they will not discuss or share information about the questions until MCAS ends in our school. If they have any questions about these statements, they can talk to their teacher, counselor, or principal.

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The following is the current testing schedule Abner Gibbs Elementary School will follow this spring.

**March/April 2016 English Language Arts (ELA/Reading Comprehension) MCAS Tests**

Tuesday, March 29	Wednesday, March 30	Tuesday, April 5	Wednesday, April 6	March 31, April 1, 7, 8, 11, and 12
Grade 3 ELA Reading Comprehension Session #1	Grade 3 ELA Reading Comprehension Sessions #2A and #2B	Grades 4 and 5 ELA Reading Comprehension Session #1	Grades 4 and 5 ELA Reading Comprehension Sessions #2A and #2B	Grades 3, 4, 5 ELA Make-ups as needed

**May 2016 Mathematics & Science MCAS Tests**

Tuesday, May 10	Wednesday, May 11	Thursday, May 12	Friday, May 13	Tuesday, May 17	Thursday, May 19	May 13, 16, 18, 20, 23, and 24
Grade 3 Mathematics Session #1	Grade 3 Mathematics Session #2	Grade 5 Mathematics Session #1	Grade 5 Mathematics Session #2	Grade 4 Mathematics Session #1 and Grade 5 Science Session #1	Grade 4 Mathematics Session #2 and Grade 5 Science Session #2	Grades 3, 4, and 5 Make-ups as needed

These tests will begin promptly at 9:30 in the morning. Please help us by ensuring that your son/daughter arrives to school on time for 9:00 a.m. homeroom and ready for the test. Any student that misses a portion of the tests will be making them up on the next available make-up testing date.

The MCAS is an important educational tool to measure what your child is learning. With the school, students and families working together, your child and our school will perform well in this assessment process.

If you have specific questions about the MCAS or the procedures we have in place, feel free to contact me at 572-6418.

Sincerely,

Christopher Rogers  
Principal