



Where Students Come First

Dear Parents,

Thursday, March 30, 2017

From April 13th – April 27th, students in grades 3-5 will take the Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS). Some students will test using the pencil/paper method, while others will take the test online. The purpose of this letter is to give you an understanding of the test and a few ideas for helping your child to do his/her best on this test.

Promotion Requirements

Students in these grades are required to pass the 2017 Georgia Milestones Assessment in order to be promoted to the next grade level. Below are the requirements for elementary students according to State Board of Education Rule 160-4-2-1.11:

- **Third grade** students must score on or above grade level on the **reading** component of the English/Language Arts Georgia Milestones in order to be promoted to fourth grade.
- **Fifth grade** students are required to perform on or above grade level on the **reading** component of the English/Language Arts test at or above the Developing Learner level in **mathematics** on the Georgia Milestones in order to be promoted to the sixth grade.
- Third, Fifth, and Eighth grade students who do not take the state-adopted assessment in grade 3, 5, and 8 in reading and/or mathematics on any designated testing date(s) will result in the student being retained. The option of the parent, guardian or teacher(s) to appeal the decision to retain the student shall follow the procedure set forth in state rule.

Attendance Policy

The most important thing that you can do for your child during testing is make sure that he/she comes to school on the days they have tests. **Students are considered tardy at 7:40 AM.** If a student arrives to school during testing, he or she will not be allowed to take that test section with their class. Making up a missed test means time out of class and loss of important learning time that cannot be made up.

Electronic Device Policy

The Georgia Milestones has a strict policy that **prohibits the presence of ANY electronic devices in the testing rooms.** This includes cell phones, tablets, video games and music devices. Students should do their best to keep these devices at home. However, if devices are brought to school, they will be confiscated and kept in a secure location until testing is over.

Tips for Success

Extra practice is available on our school's website for FREE! Just go to <http://school.fultonschools.org/es/conleyhills>.

Also, your child will do his/her best on the tests if they:

- Take the tests seriously and give his or her **best effort**,
- Get to **bed early** the night before to be well-rested on the day of the test,
- Have a good **breakfast** on the morning of the test. **Breakfast is provided for FREE here at the school.*
- Come to **school on time**.

Thank you for supporting your child and our school during this test. Please call our school if you have any questions.

Yours in Education,

| GMAS Testing Schedule | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------|
| Date | Test | Grade |
| April 13 | ELA (Writing) | 3, 4 |
| April 14 | ELA (Writing) | 5 |
| April 17 | ELA | 3, 4 |
| April 18 | ELA | 5 |
| April 19 | Math | 3, 4 |
| April 20 | Math | 5 |
| April 21 | Make-Ups | All |
| April 24 | Science | 5 |
| April 25 | Social Studies | 5 |
| April 26-27 | Make-ups | All |

Serena Lowe, Principal
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