

UNION ACADEMY MIDDLE MAGNET SCHOOL

AN IB WORLD SCHOOL

1795 Wabash Street Bartow, FL 33830 Phone: 863-534-7435 Fax: 863-534-7487

Principal, Mr. Stephen Scheloske

Assistant Principal, Mrs. Dana Simmons

Dear Parent/Guardian of a Union Academy Student,

Statewide assessments are quickly approaching. Attached, is the calendar of assessments for Union Academy. FSA Writing will be our first assessment, school wide on March 6, 2018.

Each grade level will take part in the following assessments.

- 6th Graders will take the following assessments:
 - Writing – March 6 – paper based
 - Math – April 16/ April 17
 - Reading – April 24/ April 25

- 7th Graders will take the following assessments:
 - Writing – March 6 – paper based
 - Math – April 18/ April 19 (Algebra students will not test at this time)
 - Reading – April 26/ April 27
 - Algebra 1 – May 2/ May 3 (only Algebra students will test)
 - Civics – May 8

- 8th Graders will take the following assessments:
 - Writing – March 6 – computer based
 - Math – April 19/ April 20 (Algebra and Geometry students will not test at this time)
 - Reading – April 26/ April 27
 - Algebra 1 & Geometry – May 2/ May 3 (only Algebra and Geometry students will test)
 - Science – May 1 (All 8th grade science classes test)

Please take note of the dates and times your student will be testing. Attendance is important on these days. Most testing will take place in the morning before lunches. Please make sure any appointments are scheduled appropriately.

Union Academy will have a strict policy on cell phones and smart watches during testing. Students are encouraged to leave these items at home. However, if a student does have a cell phone or smart watch, all items will be turned off and placed in their binders in the front of the room, away from the students reach.

For information regarding all Spring 2018 FSA assessments, please visit the FSA Portal at www.fsassessments.org, and click on the **Students and Families** icon. Students will be participating in practice tests at school before each computer based assessment. This will familiarize the students with the testing platform, item types, and response to formats he or she will see on the various assessments. These practice test are also available for practice at home through the FSA Portal.

Please review the following policies with your student before testing:

- **Electronic Devices**—Students are not permitted to have any electronic devices, including but not limited to cell phones, **smartphones, and smartwatches**, at any time during testing OR during breaks (e.g., restroom), **even if they are turned off or students do not use them**. If your student is found with an electronic device, his or her test will be invalidated.
- **Testing Rules Acknowledgment**—All FSA tests include a Testing Rules Acknowledgment that reads, “I understand the testing rules that were just read to me. If I do not follow these rules, my test score may be invalidated.” Prior to testing, test administrators read the rules to students, and students acknowledge that they understand the testing rules by signing below the statement on their planning sheets, worksheets, or work folders.
- **Discussing Test Content after Testing**—The last portion of the testing rules read to students before they sign below the Testing Rules Acknowledgment states, “Because the content in all statewide assessments is secure, you may not discuss or reveal details about the passages or items after the test. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, or posting online, for example, on websites like Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.” Please make sure your student understands that “discussing” test content includes any kind of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, or posting to blogs or social media websites. **While students may not share information about secure test content after testing, this policy is not intended to prevent students from discussing their testing experiences with their parents/families.**
- **Working Independently**—Students are responsible for doing their own work during the test and for protecting their answers from being seen by others. If students are caught cheating during testing, their tests will be invalidated. FDOE employs a test security company, Caveon Test Security, to analyze student test results to detect unusually similar answer patterns. Student tests within a school that are found to have extremely similar answer patterns will have their results invalidated.
- **Leaving Campus**—If your student begins a test session and leaves campus before completing it (for lunch, an appointment or illness, etc.), he or she **WILL NOT** be allowed to complete that test session. If your student does not feel well on the day of testing, it may be best for him or her to wait and be tested on a make-up day. Please remember not to schedule appointments on testing days.
- **Testing Accommodations**—If your student has an IEP or Section 504 plan, please contact the school to discuss the testing accommodations that will be provided for your student.

If you have any questions related to this test administration, you may contact Christy Trotter, testing coordinator, or Dana Simmons, assistant principal at 863-534-7435. Thank you for supporting your student and encouraging him or her to do his or her best during this test administration.

Sincerely,

Stephen Scheloske
Principal

Dana Simmons
Assistant Principal