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LOWER TOWNSHIP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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September 15, 2021

RE: Start Strong Assessments – Fall 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to a new school year! This past spring, New Jersey students did not participate in the statewide student achievement testing program, the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA), due to the impact of Covid-19. The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) notified districts that the administration of the Start Strong assessments in the fall 2021 will satisfy the federal statewide assessment requirement to administer general assessments in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, and science for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Start Strong assessments are intentionally brief, designed to maximize instructional time and quickly provide critical data to teachers and school leaders. The district will have immediate access to student results, allowing teachers the flexibility to address students' unique needs at the beginning of the school year. These assessments are in addition to our normal, local assessments, which will also give us needed data on student growth and progress from the past year.

The Start Strong testing window for Lower Township Elementary Schools is September 27-October 6, 2021. Students will take one 45 to 60-minute assessment in English-Language Arts and one in Mathematics. Students in grade 6 will also take a Science assessment. As with regular state testing, students who are permitted extra time or other accommodations as per their 504 or IEP plan will have access to those accommodations on the Start Strong.

Parents/Guardians will be provided with an Individual Student Report (ISR) following the close of the assessment window at the end of October. The ISR will provide parents with a sense of their child's understanding in the tested content areas; a description of the major concepts that were tested; and a starting point for discussions with their child and teacher(s) about areas where students may need additional support. If you would like more information, you can access the following link: [Start Strong Parent Information](#)

We appreciate your support as we begin the 2021-2022 school year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Mrs. Sabina Muller, District Testing Coordinator, at smuller@lowertwpschools.com or 609-884-9400 ext. 2604.

Sincerely,



Jeff Samaniego
Superintendent