



**McFarland Spartans**  
www.mcfarland.k12.wi.us

# McFarland School District

5101 Farwell Street • McFarland, WI 53558-9216 • (608) 838-3169

**District Administrator**  
Aaron Tarnutzer

**Director of Teaching and Learning**  
Melissa Pfohl

Re: Spring 2024 Forward Exam

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We are sending you this letter to let you know about the Forward Exam your child will be taking and to ask for your help to make sure they are ready to take the test. Thank you for taking the time to read this important information.

**Background:** State assessments, including the Forward Exam, are required by both State (Wis. Stat. § 118.30) and Federal ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) Law. One of our District's highest priorities is keeping track of whether your child is learning what we are teaching and responding appropriately, whether your child already knows what is being taught or hasn't yet mastered the material. We do this in many ways, including classroom assessments as well as larger-scale standardized tests. This year students in the State of Wisconsin will take the Forward Exam in the Spring to measure their progress in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics in grades 3-8 as well as in Science in grades 4 and 8 and Social Studies in grades 4, 8 and 10.

The state testing window for the Forward Exam is from **March 18th through April 26th**. The exact schedule will vary from school to school, but a summary of testing dates is included at the end of this message. You can expect to hear more details about this schedule from your child's teacher and/or school in the coming weeks.

**How can you help your child to be ready to take the test?** Both your child – and we – appreciate your support in using the following strategies:

- Be sure your child is in attendance for the dates his/her class is scheduled to test. Please schedule appointments outside the school day.
- Have your child get a good night's sleep the night before testing – at least eight hours is recommended.
- Have your child eat a nutritious breakfast including some protein on the days they are testing – research says this really matters!
- Be sure your child has their device charged and at school.
- Be sure your child has working headphones available for use with their device.

**Test participation:** While we know that for some students these exams can be stressful, we are asking that you encourage your child to participate in the exam and do the best they can. Participation of all enrolled students ensures the validity of test results used for state and federal accountability, public reporting and continuous improvement. Children with IEPs will receive accommodations as listed in their IEPs. The State reviews our participation data including any opt-out requests when determining if we are meeting state/federal participation rates. Please see this [flyer](#) for more information about the importance of test participation.

Thank you,  
Melissa Pfohl  
Director of Teaching and Learning

**4K-2**  
Conrad Elvehjem Primary School  
6009 Johnson St  
(608) 838-3146

**3-5**  
Waubesa Intermediate School  
5605 Red Oak Trail  
(608) 838-7667

**6-8**  
Indian Mound Middle School  
6330 Exchange St  
(608) 838-8980

**9-12**  
McFarland High School  
5103 Farwell St.  
(608) 838-3166



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### More information on the Forward Exam is available online:

- Sample items: <http://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/forward/sample-items>
- Student/Parent/Guardian Pre-Test Brochure: [https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/assessment/pdf/Forward\\_Brochure\\_for\\_Families.pdf](https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/assessment/pdf/Forward_Brochure_for_Families.pdf)

### Spring 2024 Schedule

We are aware Ramadan is observed during the Forward Exam testing window. If you would like to discuss alternate testing dates or accommodations for your child due to this or other reasons, please contact their principal.

Grade	Schedule	Grade	Schedule
3	ELA - April 3, 5, 9 and 10 Math - April 4, 9 and 10	6	ELA - April 10 and 11 Math - April 17 and 18
4	ELA - April 3, 4, 9 and 10 Math - April 2 and 10 Science - April 3, 4 and 5 Social Studies - March 19	7	ELA - April 10 and 11 Math - April 17 and 18
5	ELA - April 2, 4 and 5 Math - April 3 and 4	8	ELA - April 10 and 11 Math - April 17 and 18 Science - March 19 and 20 Social Studies - April 2 and 3
10	Social Studies - April 3, 4 and 5		

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