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Dear Parents:

As you may know, the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) testing window in our schools opens on March 27 and runs through May 17. Your child's principal will soon send a letter home detailing the days for testing in your child's particular school.

This is the third year for PARCC Testing across the state of New Jersey, and we have been mandated to administer this assessment to all students in Grades 3-8. Last year, some parents chose to refuse administration of the test to their child. While the New Jersey Department of Education has not legislated an opt-out program, we recognize a parent's rights to make such decisions on behalf of their child.

Please allow me to share our guidelines on test refusal with you in that case:

- If you wish to refuse administration of the test to your child, we require that a letter be submitted to your child's principal no later than March 24, 2017. Letters submitted last year are not valid for this year's testing period.
- All students will remain in their classroom.
- Students whose parents have refused PARCC Testing will be allowed to read or do alternate assignments. These activities will be determined at the school level by the principal and teacher.
- Alternate activities will align with relevant learning standards.
- Any student who is a disruption to the testing environment will be removed from the classroom.

I do ask that you make an informed decision in this matter. Please visit the PARCC tab on our district website at www.mtlaurelschools.org to learn more about PARCC and the changes made in the assessment for this year. Please also consider the district-wide impact on reported test scores when refusals are factored into local results. While the PARCC is not used as a criterion for placement within our advanced programs, it continues to be a mandated requirement for high school graduation.

I thank you in advance for your partnership in your child's educational success.

Sincerely,

Sharon Vitella, Ed. D.