



November 24th, 2020

Dear Families of the Class of 2022,

This letter is to inform you of changes to the administration of the MCAS exam. The MCAS is a standardized exam in Mathematics, English Language Arts, and Biology taken by Massachusetts public school students. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the MCAS that your student was scheduled to take in spring 2020 has been rescheduled to January and February 2021. Here are some additional details about the MCAS exam for the Class of 2022.

- The state of Massachusetts requires that students **pass** the Math and English Language Arts MCAS exams to be eligible to graduate. You can find additional information about graduation requirements from the Department of Education on their website.
<https://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/graduation.html>
- All MCAS testing in January and February 2021 will be in-person in the school. There will be no remote option to test from home. Your student will be invited to come into school to complete the MCAS exams in January and February. We will send more details about in-person testing in January.
- To support students' success on the MCAS exams, Excel will administer diagnostic exams in December. **On diagnostic exam days students will not attend regularly scheduled virtual classes.** Instead, your child will log on to Zoom and **virtually** complete a full-length diagnostic exam. The dates for the **diagnostic exams** are:
 - Wednesday, December 2nd, 2020 for Mathematics
 - Wednesday, December 9th, 2020 for English Language Arts

The purpose of the diagnostic exams is to determine whether your child requires additional support or intervention prior to the official exam date in 2021. A small number of students will be invited to come in person for the diagnostic exam; if your child is in this group, his/her/their case manager will notify you individually.

We recognize that this is a shift in the regular exam schedule, which may feel challenging for some students. We remain committed to supporting your student to find success and are eager to continue partnering with you. If you have further questions, please contact your child's advisor or the school at (617) 326-3574.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nina Keough".

Nina Keough