

**Washington Oak School**  
**801 Read School House Road**  
**Coventry, RI 02816**



Dear Parents,

As the new school year begins, it's time to remind you about the participation of students in the Rhode Island Statewide Assessment System. NECAP (The New England Common Assessment Program) assessments of reading, mathematics and writing skills are conducted during the first three weeks of October 2011 with students in grades 3 through 8 and grade 11. During the last three weeks of May 2011, students in grades 4, 8 and grade 11 will participate in the NECAP-Science assessments.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an overview of the October NECAP assessment program. I am hoping you will help us encourage your child to give these tests his or her very best effort.

The fall NECAP tests in reading, mathematics, and writing were designed to measure your child's progress in meeting Rhode Island's Grade Level Expectations, or GLEs. The GLEs define the knowledge and skills a student should have mastered by the end of each school year. The grade 3 test, for example, will measure what a student should know and be able to do after completing second grade. The reading test includes short and long reading passages with related multiple choice and constructed response questions. The mathematics test includes multiple choice, short answer, and constructed response questions. A constructed response question requires students to show their work and/or explain their reasoning. Test results in reading, mathematics, and writing for grades 3 through 8 and 11 are usually available to schools at the end of January 2012.

The New England Common Assessment Program is one of the important tools available to parents and educators to determine how well our schools are helping students meet standards and grade level expectations. In every assessment, scores are only as meaningful as the effort students put into the tests. Encourage your child to take the tests seriously and to give his or her best effort. **You can best help your child prepare for the assessment by making sure that she or he is rested on the days the tests will be given. Students need to be in school on time so that they are prepared to take the test with the rest of the class. Students arriving late will not be allowed in class until the test is over. The dates for testing are as follows: Grades 3, 4 and 5 Reading on October 4, 5 and 6. October 11, 12 and 13 for Math grades 3, 4 and 5. October 18 and 19 Writing for grade 5.** As with every day, it is critical that students have a good breakfast before heading off to school. Thank you for supporting your child and our school during the testing period.

Please call me if have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Raptakis, Principal

Mrs. Jacqueline Costa, NECAP Co-Test Coordinator