



Online Assessments / Q&A

Advice for PCS Families / Fall 2020-21

Will students attending school remotely via MyPCS take part in district diagnostic assessments?

Yes, the district is excited to offer these opportunities early in the school year to all students to help our teachers better plan for instruction this fall. Teachers will provide guidance to students on when and how to access online assessments and will monitor them via live sessions scheduled through Canvas just like they would in the traditional classroom. Teachers will be available during the test sessions to provide technical support to students via Microsoft Teams.

When will these district tests begin?

The tests begin the second week of school and continue throughout September. To provide flexibility, each school schedules testing windows that works best for their school and grade level.

How will my son or daughter benefit from taking these tests?

Since schools have been closed for an extended period due to the COVID-19 health crisis, diagnostic tests are one way that our teachers use to know how each child is doing. Think of test answers as “information” that teachers use to help students learn better. That’s why it’s important that each student does the best they can when taking these tests. Each child is asked to take their time and answer all the questions they can.

What if my son or daughter comes across some questions that are too hard for them?

Don’t worry. In fact, that is the way these tests are designed. In fact, it’s normal for students to miss many of the questions asked. That is the only way a teacher knows what content a student has mastered and what they still need to learn. And, remember, a student cannot pass or fail these tests and the results will not affect their grade. It’s not that kind of test.

If my son or daughter gets stuck on a question, can they ask a family member or classmate for help?

No, please don’t do that. As with any test, we ask that students complete their own work. There is no way for our teachers to help their students if someone else is answering the questions. So just encourage your child to do the best they can without help from others and without visiting web pages and apps.

Can my child ask for help from their teacher during the test?

Yes, of course. Your teacher is always available to help. Though your teacher cannot help your child with the answers, he or she can clear up any confusion your child has about the test or technology problems they may run into during the test. They can pose a question to their teacher anytime via Microsoft Teams. And, remember, if a child’s test is interrupted due to technology problems, there is plenty of time to make up the test later. As with everything we are planning for the fall of 2020-21, flexibility is key.

Mistakes are
PROOF
that you are
TRYING