



MOUNT VERNON ELEMENTARY

4629 13th Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33713

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Principal: Nikishia Dixon

Assistant Principal: Julie Jones

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) is a progress monitoring system that is administered three times per year to track your student's progress in learning the Benchmarks of Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards throughout this school year. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that your student will participate in the first administration (PM1) of the Grade 3, 4 & 5 Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) ELA Reading the week of 9/8 and the mathematics assessments on the week of 9/15. Your teacher will share the exact date. Your students' results from PM1 are for informational purposes only, and you will be provided with information about how to access the results after testing is completed.

FAST assessments are computer-adaptive tests taken on a computer or tablet. The questions get easier or more difficult depending on how the student responds, and each student will see different questions from a common item bank. Each test attempt (PM1, PM2, and PM3) will present 35–40 items that will cover the entire test “blueprint,” meaning students will encounter items representative of the standards within the subject or grade level. For more information on the test design, please visit <https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/best/>. If you or your student would like to interact with the online testing platform or review FAST ELA Reading and Math sample items at home, sample test materials are available at <https://flfast.org/families.html>.

Please review the following policies with your student before testing:

- **Electronic Devices**—Students are not permitted to access any electronic devices, including, but not limited to, cell phones, smart glasses, and smartwatches, at any time during testing **or** during breaks (e.g., restroom). If your student is found with an electronic device or is found using Bluetooth/wireless headphones/earbuds during testing, his or her test may be invalidated.
- **Working Independently**—Students are responsible for doing their own work during the test and for protecting their answers from being seen by others. If students are caught cheating during testing, their tests will be invalidated.
- **Testing Accommodations**—If your student has an Individual Educational Plan (IEP), a Section 504 Plan, or is an English Language Learner (ELL) or a recently exited ELL, please contact the school to discuss any testing accommodations that will be provided for your student.
- **Extra Time**—Any student still working at the end of the allotted time for the session will be provided extra time, as allowed for each assessment, to complete the test. However, according to directions from the district, students who are not actively working (e.g., sleeping) at the end of regular time may be dismissed rather than being provided with extra time.

If you have any questions related to this test administration, you may contact Julie Jones (AP) at jonesjuli@pcsb.org. For more information about the FAST program, please visit the portal at <https://flfast.org/fsa.html>.

Thank you for supporting your student and encouraging him or her to do his or her best during this test administration.

Sincerely,

Nikishia Dixon
Principal