



February 26, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMTs) will be administered during the month of March. Our school schedule is as follows:

Grade	Test	Date	Session
3, 4, 5	Direct Assessment of Writing (DAW)	March 2	55 minutes
3, 4, 5	Reading Comprehension, Session 1	March 8	55 minutes
3, 4, 5	Degrees of Reading Power (DRP)	March 9	55 minutes
3, 4, 5	Editing and Revising	March 10	70 minutes
3, 4, 5	Mathematics, Session 1	March 11	70 minutes
3, 4, 5	Reading Comprehension, Session 2	March 16	55 minutes
3, 4, 5	Mathematics, Session 2	March 17	70 minutes
5	Science	March 18	75 minutes
5	Mathematics, Session 3	March 19	70 minutes

CMT schedules were created in accordance with State of Connecticut Department of Education guidelines. Our goal was to minimize educational impact and continue as much of a normal routine as possible. Academic instruction will continue to take place. Students will also continue to attend their Specials classes, lunch and recess. Students who miss any part of the CMT will have until March 26th to complete make-up testing. As a special treat, students will be offered snacks provided by the school as a reward for their hard work and diligence during the CMTs. We will have an ice cream celebration on the last day of testing, as well.

The CMT assesses students' skills in three main areas: Reading, Writing and Mathematics. Grade 5 students are also assessed on their Science knowledge. Following is a brief description of each test:

The CMT Mathematics Tests: Assess skills, concepts and applications in four broad areas: Numerical and Proportional Reasoning, Algebraic Reasoning, Geometry and Measurement, and Working with Data: Probability and Statistics.

The CMT Reading Tests: Contains two components: Reading Comprehension and the Degrees of Reading Power (DRP). Reading Comprehension tests how well students understand the content of literary and informational passages, interpret meaning, make connections to the world, and elaborate on the text. The DRP is a nationally normed test that identifies the level of text that students are able to read.



Totoket Valley Elementary School

Dr. Kris Lindsay, *Principal*
Stephanie DeFrance, *Lead Teacher*

The CMT Writing Tests: Includes the Direct Assessment of Writing (DAW) and Edition & Revising. Editing sections test students' understanding of the conventions of the English language including capitalization, punctuation, and usage of language and spelling, while Revising sections assess students' ability to read passages and identify errors in organization, syntax and word choice. The DAW requires students to write up to a three-page first draft. Students respond to a prompt that was designed to elicit a narrative (Grades 3 and 4) or expository (Grade 5).

The CMT Science Test: Assesses knowledge and abilities learned throughout the elementary grades. (Fifth grade) students are expected to understand and explain science concepts and how they relate to the real world in the areas of earth, physical and life science. In addition, students must be able to explain how scientific inquiry is conducted.

Parents can help their children prepare for the CMTs by ensuring they have a good night's sleep the night before CMTs are administered. It is also important that students eat a nutritious breakfast before coming to school. Please join us in encouraging your child to do his/her best on the test.

Our students have worked very hard throughout the school year to meet grade level expectations. The CMT is one way they can demonstrate all they have learned. I am proud of our students, and looking forward to celebrating their success!

Sincerely,

Dr. Kris Lindsay
Principal