

Dear Parents,

Welcome back from spring break. I hope you and your family enjoyed some well-earned rest and relaxation. When the students return to Engle, we will have one week of preparation and then we will begin the annual PSSA exams in both grades. All students will take the reading and math assessments during the week of April 12th. After this, the 8th grade students will take the writing assessment during the week of April 19th and the science assessment the week of April 26th.

To help prepare each student for the exams, Engle will hold “spring training” during the week of April 5th. By this time, the students will have been taught the eligible content of the exams, so we will be focusing on test-taking strategies and techniques. Through interactive games and directed instruction, each team will be working with its students on the specific areas of need as determined by teacher observation and formative assessments. Our goal for spring training is to help all students develop confidence in their abilities and therefore demonstrate their best on each exam.

As I have written many times over the year, we are invested in working together with you to help every student at Engle reach her or his potential. To help your child maximize her or his performance on these exams, please consider the following tips and suggestions:

- Encourage your child to get plenty of rest during the exam weeks.
- Have your child either eat breakfast before leaving for school or have her/him plan to eat in the cafeteria on exam mornings.
- Encourage your child to complete each section of the exam to the best of her/his ability.

As a school, we will be minimizing the workload on our students when they are testing. While there will still be instruction occurring in our classes, we plan to decrease the homework and projects asked of students outside of class time. We believe that coupling this with the suggestions above will create an environment in which each student will demonstrate her or his best.

On a different note, I want to thank everyone who participated in the Basketball Fundraiser at the beginning of the month. I would like to extend a special thank you to the PTO members and chairpeople who worked with our building teachers to put together such a wonderful night. To everyone who was in attendance, and saw the camaraderie of parents, teachers and students all working together towards a common goal, it was easy to see why Engle is such a wonderful place to grow and learn.

Among all of the other things happening at Engle during the spring, we will also continue the transition process for our 8th grade students. The eighth grade teams will have an opportunity to meet with their high school assistant principal as a group and learn about the opportunities and responsibilities awaiting them at Avon Grove High School. This comes after the students met with representatives of the high school guidance department during the course registration process. Both of these experiences, as well as the tours of AGHS that will take place in May, are designed to create a comfort level for our students when they begin their ninth grade years in just six short months.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Michael Snopkowski, Ed.D.