



Message from Dr. Edward Condon

ISAT Is Just One Part of the Whole Picture



Dear Parents, Colleagues, and Students,

As March approaches, public schools across Illinois are preparing to administer the annual ISAT (Illinois Standard Achievement Test) assessments. Students in grades 3 through 8 are tested, and the feedback we will receive from these important assessments is a source of valuable information about our students' individual and collective academic performance.

As you are undoubtedly aware, standardized testing has been a topic of great debate in recent years. Some express concern that students are over-assessed in contemporary schools. Others assert that without taking the time to measure student achievement, gauging academic progress is impossible. Still others believe that the main purpose of standardized assessment should be to provide oversight for schools to ensure that they are properly focused on the goal of high-quality instruction.

While each of these perspectives has merit, another important purpose of standardized testing is to inform instruction. Personally, I believe that when considering standardized testing, this is where the greatest opportunities exist. In addition to the ISAT, our D90 students take the MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessment twice each year, which provides us with longitudinal data that can be used to measure their growth over time. The resulting data, which can be used in tandem by both skilled teachers and engaged parents alike, indicate academic areas of relative strength and weakness--and can guide instruction to accelerate or bolster student learning. I can share with pride that this occurs on a frequent basis throughout our school district, and that it is one of the many reasons that our students continue to achieve at high levels.

Regardless of your perspective on the subject of standardized testing, it is important to emphasize that it is only one measure of how a student performs in school. Consideration must also be given to daily classroom performance, special projects, homework, unit and chapter tests, quizzes, class participation, and teacher observation. All of this information must be reviewed together in order to determine a child's genuine level of scholastic success.

Please be assured that whether the assessment is the ISAT, the MAP, or some other form of standardized test, our goal is to make sure that the students are prepared to put their best foot forward confidently on every occasion. However, effective instruction must always come first if successful standardized test performance is to follow.

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Important Dates

March 5
Casimir Pulaski Day
NO SCHOOL

March 6
School Board Committee of the Whole
7:00 P.M.
Roosevelt LLC

March 7
SAY Forum
5:30 P.M.
Concordia University

March 14
Parent-Child Café
7:00 P.M.
Roosevelt

Respectfully,

Edward Condon, Ph.D.
Superintendent

District News

Summer School Registration Begins April 2

Registration for summer school classes will begin the Monday after spring break, on the following schedule:

- April 2 - 15: Early registration for District 90 students and River Forest residents
- April 16 - May 25: Open registration
- May 25: Last day for registration

Information on specific classes and fees will be available online in mid-March; further information will be sent to families in the next couple of weeks.

Classes will take place during the following dates:

- Thursday, June 7: First day of summer school classes
- Wednesday, July 4: No classes
- Friday, July 6: Last day of classes

Kindergarten through grade 4 classes will take place at Willard Elementary School, while those for grades 5-8 will meet at Lincoln Elementary School. And don't worry, parents of incoming Roosevelt Middle School students! Although Roosevelt will be under construction this summer, we will once again be offering the annual Roosevelt Readiness class, as an after-school class in the spring this year. Further information will be coming soon.

Update on Roosevelt Middle School Construction

While this summer's construction plans for the Roosevelt school building are moving full steam ahead, the District has begun working with a task force of stakeholders to create an exterior campus plan. Roosevelt comprises five different wings constructed during different eras, leading to a lack of cohesion in the middle school's appearance. The task force is gathering input from parents, staff, students, neighbors, and a landscape designer to come up with a plan for an exterior that is more visually unified and easier to navigate.

Please Register Your Kindergartner

If you haven't yet registered your child for kindergarten for next year, please do so as soon as possible. The earlier we know our enrollments, the better able we are to secure the teaching positions of our current excellent teachers or find outstanding teaching candidates for any additional sections of kindergarten.

Families with students currently attending District 90 schools may pick up registration packets in the Lincoln or Willard school offices. Families who are new to the District--whether children will be in kindergarten or older grades--should pick up both a residency packet and a registration packet at the District Administration Building, 7776 Lake Street.

Success for All Youth Forum--March 7, 2012

March 19
School Board
Business Meeting
7:30 P.M.
Roosevelt LLC

March 22
Parent-Teacher
Conferences
3:40 - 7:45 P.M.

March 23
Parent-Teacher
Conferences
8:30 - 11:30 A.M.
NO CLASSES
FOR STUDENTS

March 26-30
Spring Break
NO SCHOOL



River Forest
Public Schools
District 90
Mission
Statement

Our Mission is...

To deliver excellence in education through an unwavering commitment to the whole child.

To fulfill our Mission...

We are committed to creating an environment for our children that provides a strong academic foundation, instills a love of learning, and prepares them for a changing world.

Fundamental to our Mission...

Is our commitment to an active partnership among students, educators, families

Under the leadership of the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation, District 90 has been collaborating with Oak Park Elementary District 97 and Oak Park and River Forest High School District 200 to examine the ways in which the community can participate in ensuring the success of all youth (SAY), particularly in the areas of student learning and physical, social, and emotional well-being. Community members have offered ideas as part of the process. To share what has happened with these ideas, the Community Works Partnership is holding a SAY forum at Concordia University on March 7, 2012, from 5:30 to 8:00 P.M. For more information, please [click here](#).

educators, families and the broader community; a high-performing faculty and staff who foster individual student growth; continuous assessment and improvement of our objectives, programs and services; and fiscal responsibility and the effective management of resources.

Parent-Child Café to Prevent Substance Abuse--March 14, 2012

IMPACT, a local grassroots organization dedicated to preventing substance abuse among young people, will be hosting a parent-child café at Roosevelt Middle School on Wednesday, March 14, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. Parents and children will have the opportunity to participate in facilitator-led small group discussions, as well as hear separate presentations.

River Forest Happenings

Visit Our Community Bulletin Board

As part of the District's efforts to go green, we no longer distribute paper flyers. To learn about local events, classes, and more, visit the **Community Bulletin Board** section of our website by [clicking here](#).

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