

# River Dell Middle School

Assistant Principal  
John Jasinski

230 Woodland Avenue  
River Edge, NJ 07661

(201) 599-7285  
Fax (201) 599-7257

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy Autumn and we hope you and your family are doing well. This letter is to provide an overview of the upcoming Start Strong Assessments this month. We will be administering these State Assessments on the following dates in the following content areas:

Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts  
Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics

Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts Make-up  
Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics Make-up

Each content area test runs approximately 45-60 mins and will take place starting at 7:50 am. By and large, students will be taking each test in their period 1 classrooms or a different pullout location. Information will be given to all students with their specific testing location by Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>.

Start Strong Assessments are brief tests designed to maximize instruction time and to provide important data to teachers and administrators in short order. These assessments provide schools the ability to address students' individual needs at the beginning of the school year. They are also used to meet federal assessment reporting requirements as New Jersey did not formally administer a standardized test in the Spring of 2021.

The Assessment platform students will be using to take the test is on 'Pearson Access Next'. This is the same digital platform, containing the same accessibility features and accommodations that students are familiar with from standardized assessments of the past such as NJSLA and PARCC.

To aid educators and families in making decisions about instructional assistance that may be needed for our 2021-2022 school year, the Start Strong assessment will utilize 3 overall performance levels:

\* Strong Support May be Needed \* Some Support May be Needed \* Less Support May be Needed

River Dell will be receiving paper copies of individual student score reports containing this information to be distributed to families later this fall. To prepare our students for a successful testing administration, please remind your children to get good rest each evening as well as to eat breakfast each morning before testing. I wish all students the best of luck with their state assessments and Go Hawks!

Best regards,



Mr. John Jasinski  
RDMS State Testing Coordinator