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August 27, 2020

Mountain Vista K-8 Families,

Our school year is up and running! It is time for us to administer our first round of benchmark testing. All students in Grades K-8 will complete their benchmark tests during the week of August 31 – September 4, 2020. Students in Grades K-2 will complete the Star Early Literacy assessment which measures reading as well as math. Students in Grades 3-8 will complete the Star Reading Assessment and the Star Math Assessment. The benchmark tests will help your child's teacher have a better understanding of the knowledge your child brings with them to their current grade level and will not be used for a grade.

If your child attended Mountain Vista K-8 School during the 2019-2020 school year, they participated in benchmark testing and are likely familiar with the tests. However, none of our students have completed benchmark testing from home and it is important to help students feel comfortable with the remote testing process while collecting reliable, accurate information from the assessment. By adhering to the following recommendations, you are helping teachers gather important data that enable them to create more meaningful learning opportunities for your child based on their strengths.

How families can help students prepare for benchmark testing:

1. **Preparation** – Ensure your child is well rested and has a good breakfast.
2. **Environment** – Provide a quiet environment in your home that is free from distractions. Students in Grades 3-8 will need a paper and pencil to solve math problems but should not use calculators.
3. **Support** – Students should complete the benchmark test independently. The purpose of the benchmark test is to help teachers understand what your child already knows and will not be used for a grade. If your child asks for help, simply encourage them to choose the best answer and then move on to the next question.
4. **Monitor** – Stay nearby where your child is testing to ensure they remain focused but avoid hovering or distracting.

Thank you for partnering with us through our benchmark testing process. For more information, please connect with your child's classroom teacher.

Thank you,

Darlene Cavanaugh
Reading Specialist

Shannon Soulé
Dean of Students

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