



The Parent Post

Facilitating Family School Partnerships

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Welcome to The Parent Post! This newsletter is published four times per year for students and families of the Douglas County School System. For more information, please visit dcssga.org or contact Patti Sullivan at (770) 651-2118 or email patti.sullivan@dcssga.org

News from the Douglas County School System Assessment Department

By William Marchant, Director of Assessment/MTSS, Douglas County School System

Spring is coming, and with that comes the Georgia Milestones Assessment System, usually referred to as GMAS. In elementary and middle schools, the students are given End of Grade assessments and at the high school level the students take End of Course exams.

For the last two years, either the assessments were not given or students who were engaged in School-Based Digital Learning were not required to take the tests. This year, however, the United States Department of Education has mandated that all students, regardless of whether they are face to face or virtual learners, are expected to take the test. Each school is required to have no fewer than 95% of their students participate in the assessment. If they do not, then they will receive lower scores on their accountability rating.

Why are students administered the GMAS?

The Georgia Milestones Assessment System is designed to provide information about how well students are mastering the state-adopted content standards in the core content areas of English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Importantly, Georgia Milestones is designed to provide students with critical information about their own achievement and their readiness for their next level of learning – be it the next grade, the next course, or the next endeavor (college or career).

Informing parents, educators, and the public about how well students are learning important content is an essential aspect of any educational assessment and accountability system. Parents, the public, and policy makers, including local school districts and boards of education, can use the results as a barometer of the quality of educational opportunity provided throughout the state of Georgia.

Georgia Milestones is administered primarily on the computer and includes the following features:

- ✓ Technology-enhanced items in all grades and courses,
- ✓ Open-ended (constructed response) items in English language arts in all grades and courses,
- ✓ A writing component (in response to passages read by students) at every grade level and course within the English language arts assessment,
- ✓ A reported Lexile score based on the English language arts assessment in all grades and courses, and
- ✓ Estimated norm-referenced performance ranges for all grades and courses.



Mr. Trent North
Superintendent

Douglas County
School System
Board of
Education

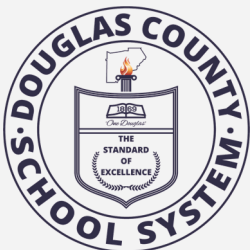
Ms. Tracy
Rookard
Board Chair
District Three

Ms. Michelle
Simmons
Vice Chair
District Four

Mr. Devetrian
Caldwell
District One

Mr. Glenn
Easterwood
District Five

Mr. D.T. Jackson
District Two



Which tests are given to students in the Douglas County School System?

Georgia Milestones	ELA	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
End-of-Grade (EOG)	Grades 3 through 8	Grades 3 through 8	Grades 5 and 8	Grade 8
End-of-Course (EOC)	American Literature and Composition	Algebra I	Biology	U.S. History

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE DISTRICT ASSESSMENT CALENDAR](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR RESOURCES TO ASSIST YOUR CHILD WITH TAKING THE GMAS](#)

Are any other assessments taking place this spring?

Yes, we are currently administering the ACCESS for ELLs used to determine the English language proficiency levels and progress of English Learners in the domains of speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

Beginning in April, we will also administer The Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) 2.0 which consists of standardized performance tasks and is intended to provide tiered participation within the assessment for students working at various levels of complexity. The GAA 2.0 is designed to measure the degree to which students with significant cognitive disabilities have mastered alternate achievement standards in the core content areas of English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

High School students also have the opportunity to take Advanced Placement (AP) courses. These are college-level courses offered by trained high school teachers in the regular high school setting. In May, the students enrolled in AP courses are given the opportunity to take the course assessment. Students attaining the required scores can earn college credit. For more information about the Advanced Placement Program, click [HERE](#).



Don't forget to
Spring Forward



Turn your
clocks forward
March 13, 2022
@ 2:00 AM

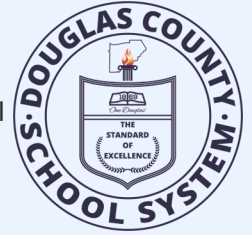
2021-2022 School Year - Upcoming Important Dates

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| March 14 | Teacher Work Day |
| March 16 | Progress reports: High schools
Report cards: Elementary and Middle schools |
| April 4-8 | Spring Break, Holiday for all |
| April 20 | Progress reports: Elementary and Middle schools |

DCSS One-to-One Technology: Device Care Guidelines

By Ginny Dixon, Instructional Technology Specialist, Douglas County School System

The Douglas County School system is excited to provide One- to- One technology for students. The One-to-One technology initiative provides an individual learning device (Chromebook or laptop) for each student and teacher and will serve to remove barriers to students' ability to access instructional materials from school and home. These devices are the infrastructure for DCSS Learning by Design – the instructional options offered to DCSS students and families for successful individualized learning. The Douglas County School System (DCSS) is committed to its mission, vision, and goals and to providing the resources and support necessary for student and teacher success. DCSS recognizes that to succeed in today's environment and compete in the 21st Century global community, students must be:



- digitally literate;
- strong critical-thinkers;
- strong problem-solvers;
- able to collaborate;
- connected to the world around them.

In order to maintain well-equipped devices that work properly, it is imperative that students care for their district-issued devices by adhering to the following guidelines.

Guidelines to Successfully Maintain District-Issued Learning Devices

- Cords and cables must be inserted and removed carefully to prevent damage to the cord and/or device.
- Avoid leaving the device in a vehicle where it can be seen and stolen and/or damaged by extreme temperatures.
- Report any software/hardware issues to your teacher as soon as possible.
- Keep the device in a well-protected, temperature-controlled environment when not in use.
- Never allow another individual to borrow or use a district-issued device.
- Do not share password(s) with anyone.
- Keep food and beverages away from all devices and accessories. Do not store beverages in the same backpack as your device.
- Do not disassemble, attempt to repair, or hack into any part of a district-issued device.
- Do not put stickers, marker drawings, or decorations or markings of any kind on any district-issued device or accessory.
- Do not deface the serial number sticker on any district-issued device.



Students will be expected to immediately report lost, stolen, or damaged equipment to the school. If a device is stolen, the parent/guardian must also immediately file a police report. If the device is not recovered, and/or sustains damage, the student/parent/guardian will be responsible for up to \$250.00 of the replacement cost of the device and its accessories. If full replacement cost is collected by the district, the device then becomes the property of the student. If it is found that the student intentionally damaged the device or its accessories or allowed another person to take possession of the device, they may be subject to DCSS disciplinary action.

For more information about DCSS student devices, please visit https://www.dcssga.org/one-to-one_devices

Douglas Jobs!
Local Companies. Now Hiring.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN DOUGLAS COUNTY

Are you looking for work in Douglas County? Click [here](https://www.douglasjobs.com) to go to DouglasJobs.com for local companies who are now hiring!

Testing and Technology in the New Year


By Drenay Everett , ESOL Teacher, Lithia Springs Elementary School and Turner Middle School

As we enter the new year and continue facing the challenges of the world around us, technology is certainly still an aspect we all must continually explore.




Students, teachers and parents alike have all had to familiarize themselves with many formal aspects of technology from Google Classroom, programs like Remind and ClassDojo to stay updated with your student's progress and the many programs offered by Douglas County to enrich English learners' learning. Even down to the basics like typing, keyboard shortcuts and learning how to find relevant clip art for a slideshow about reptiles.

Luckily, technology seems to come almost second nature to most young students. This natural inclination for technology lends a great advantage to 'digital native' students as important testing dates and milestones approach. Many digital programs are available to English learners, in and out of the classroom, to provide supplemental language instruction that can prepare them for state mandated testing including: GMAS, Star Reading and Math, and ACCESS for ELLs (for English language learners).




[Flocabulary](#) is a learning program for all grades that uses educational hip-hop music to engage students and increase achievement across the curriculum.



[Nearpod](#) is an interactive classroom tool to engage students by adding interactive activities to your lessons like polls, collaboration boards, and game-based quizzes.



[Freckle](#) provides Reading and Math supplemental instruction and it provides student self paced practice that adapts constantly to the student.



[Lexia® Core5® Reading \(grades K-5\)](#) and [Powerup \(6-12\)](#) are adaptive blended learning programs that accelerate the development of literacy skills for students of all abilities, helping them make that critical shift from learning to read to reading to learn.



Ways to Improve Test-taking Skills at Home using Technology

By Drenay Everett , ESOL Teacher, Lithia Springs Elementary School and Turner Middle School

1. Explore these programs together at home and create interest in your student's preparation for any standardized testing they may have. Ask your student to show you or even siblings, how to use the programs they often use during their daily class time. This encourages social interactions and learning.
2. Utilize highlighting and read-aloud to allow students to familiarize themselves with tools given to them. Websites such as Epic, Freckle and many more that are provided to your students, provide accommodations like a highlighter tool, read aloud and magnifying tools that can ease the usability and readability of text and images. Some programs even offer a line reader which provides a line that appears on the screen to guide young and new readers while reading.
3. Mediate test anxiety by exploring Social and Emotional Learning lessons. These lessons give students great test-taking strategies, provide tips for students to prepare mentally and physically for testing and maximize results on assessments. These lessons can be found on Nearpod and Flocabulary offers interactive content focusing on test-taking strategies, vocabulary and note-taking methods.



U P C O M I N G T I T L E I W O R K S H O P S

Parents of children being served with Title I funds may attend any workshop, regardless of location. Please check the schedule to determine if parent workshops will be virtual or in-person. For additional information, please contact your child's school at the listed phone numbers below.

Annette Winn Elementary School Parent Resource Center
3536 Bankhead Highway, Lithia Springs, GA 30122
(770) 651-3100 awes.dcssga.org

Academic Parent Teacher Teams Meeting 3 (VIRTUAL)

Tuesday, March 29 and Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 6:00 PM
Grades K through 5 will meet with the parents of their child's homeroom to discuss data based on foundational skills they have chosen. They will then create activities to work with their children at home and discuss goals for the summer and how to work with their children while school is on break.

Bright Star Elementary School Parent Resource Center
6300 John West Road, Douglasville, GA 30134
(770) 651-3400 bses.dcssga.org

Marvelous Math (IN-PERSON)

Thursday, March 24, 2022 at during lunch periods
Parents will be invited to eat lunch with their children while grade level teachers will conduct math fluency activities that can be put into practice at home. Parents will learn about the importance of working with their student at home on their math facts and math fluency and how it will help students as they move from grade to grade.

Burnett Elementary School Parent Resource Center
8277 Connally Drive, Douglasville, GA 30134
(770) 651-3500 bues.dcssga.org

GMAS Chat (VIRTUAL)

Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 5:30 PM
Parents will participate in a hands-on practice of the GMAS testing. Parents will be immersed in the testing process and try a practice of the test.

Chestnut Log Middle School Parent Resource Center
2544 Pope Road, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-5100 clms.dcssga.org

Literacy Night (VIRTUAL)

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 6:00 PM
Literacy night will engage students and families to read through themed and interactive books that will encourage families to read more and as a family unit.

Eastside Elementary School Parent Resource Center
8266 Connally Drive, Douglasville, GA 30134
(770) 651-3800 eses.dcssga.org

STEMulate Your Mind (VIRTUAL)

Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 5:30 PM
Families will learn to participate in STEM activities as well as learn how STEM has an impact on the world that we live in.

Factory Shoals Elementary School Parent Resource Center
2375 Mount Vernon Road, Lithia Springs, GA 30122
(770) 651-3900 fses.dcssga.org

Family Science Night (VIRTUAL)

Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 5:30 PM
Teachers will stimulate the imagination and interest in science through activities that use resources that are inexpensive and readily available.

Lithia Springs Elementary School Parent Resource Center
6946 Florence Drive, Lithia Springs, GA 30122
(770) 651-4100 lses.dcssga.org

GMAS Family Game Night (IN-PERSON)

Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 6:00 PM
We want to welcome our parents back into the building! Come join us for our GMAS Game Night! This is an opportunity to interact with your student and student's teacher while preparing for the upcoming GMAS.

North Douglas Elementary School Parent Resource Center
1630 Dorris Road, Douglasville, GA 30134
(770) 651-4800 ndes.dcssga.org

STEM Night (IN-PERSON)

Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 6:00 PM
We will engage our students and families in math, science, and technology related activities by exploring the Engineering Process and completing activities that involve real life scenarios. Students and families will also practice critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Stewart Middle School Parent Resource Center
8138 Malone Street, Douglasville, GA 30134
(770) 651-5400 sms.dcssga.org

Family Fun Night (VIRTUAL)

Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 6:30 PM
Families are invited to join us for a night of fun with and academic twist - games that focus on Math and Literacy will be available for families to play.

Sweetwater Elementary School Parent Resource Center
2505 East County Line Road, Lithia Springs, GA 30122
(770) 651-4600 swes.dcssga.org

Testing Tips (VIRTUAL)

Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM
Hear from school staff about how to support and prepare your child for the upcoming Georgia Milestones assessment. Learn how the scores impact your child's future. We will also cover testing for GKIDS and CDAs. All parents attending will receive free student workbooks (as long as supplies last).

Resources for Parents of English Learners!

The Douglas County School System has posted new resources for parents of English Learners on our website. Our goal is to provide effective outreach to parents of our English Learners and to assist them in being involved in their child's education. Please visit our website [here](#) or scan this QR code to access the website with the resources listed.



U P C O M I N G P A R E N T W O R K S H O P S

Please check the schedule to determine if parent workshops will be virtual or in-person. For additional information, please contact your child's school at the listed phone numbers below.

Arbor Station Elementary School

9999 Parkway South, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-3000 ases.dcssga.org

Real Men Read (VIRTUAL)

Friday, March 18, 2022 during the school day

This literacy event is designed to show our students how important it is to be good readers in order to succeed in every area of life.

Paint Night (IN-PERSON)

Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 4:30 pm

Family Paint Night is a magical event where students and their families have the opportunity to explore their creativity and relax. RSVP is required.

Movie Night (IN-PERSON)

Friday, April 22, 2022, doors open 7:00 pm Movie time - 8:30 pm

Movie Night is a family fun event. Families enjoy watching a movie under the stars while enjoying grilled hot dogs and hamburgers, popcorn, Kona Ice and Ice Cream from Sweet Sisters Ice Cream Truck.

Chapel Hill Elementary School

4433 Coursey Lake Road, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-3600 ches.dcssga.org

STEAM Night (VIRTUAL via Zoom)

Monday, March 21, 2022 at 5:30 pm

Students and families will have the opportunity to participate in four Science activities (materials will be provided) along with interaction with school staff and staff from the Georgia Youth Science & Technology Center (GYSTC). Event will be co-hosted with GYSTC.

College and Career Institute

4600 Timber Ridge Drive, Building D, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 947-7690 cci.dcssga.org

Apply to CCI Night (VIRTUAL)

Tuesday, March 22, 2022 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM

Join us at the CCI to tour the facility and learn about the programs that are offered.

Winston Elementary School

13691 Veterans Memorial Hwy, Winston, GA 30187
(770) 651-4700 wes.dcssga.org

GMAS Parent Nights (VIRTUAL)

5th Grade - Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 5:30 PM

4th Grade - Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 5:30 PM

3rd Grade - Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 5:30 PM

Yeager Middle School

4000 Kings Highway, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-5600 yms.dcssga.org

Yeager Middle School GMAS Game Night (IN-PERSON)

Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 6:30 PM

Prep for GMAS and wear your wacky Yeager green! Game prizes and prizes for best dressed!

FRESHMAN EXPO ~ March 17, 2022

FINALIZE ELECTIVES, MEET COACHES & JOIN CLUBS

ALEXANDER HIGH SCHOOL: Attendance times by last name:

A-L 6:00-7:00PM and M-Z 7:00-8:00PM. For more info, click [HERE](#)

CHAPEL HILL HIGH SCHOOL: 6:00-8:00PM Click [HERE](#) to register

COLLEGE AND CAREER INSTITUTE: 5:30-7:00PM (only students selected through the CCI Lottery can attend)

DOUGLAS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL: 6:00-8:00PM For more info click [HERE](#).

LITHIA SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL: 6:00-8:00PM For more info, click [HERE](#).

NEW MANCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL: Attendance times by last name:

A-F 5:00PM, G-N 6:00PM and O-Z 7:00PM. For more info, click [HERE](#) .