



**Students First**  
Inspire, Educate, Celebrate

March 26, 2021

Dear Dearborn families of 6th-8th grade students,

State and federal laws require schools to assess student learning every year in specific grade levels and subjects. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is not allowing for remote testing, therefore the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-Step) must be given at the schools. **This means that all assessments must be administered in person.**

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) submitted a request to waive testing administration and accountability this year due to COVID-19. MDE has not received any response as to whether or not that waiver will be approved. At this point we will move forward with planning the M-Step, MI-ACCESS, and PSAT testing as required by law.

Although State standardized assessments do not measure everything important about a student, it is one data indicator, among many others, about how much a student knows in terms of our state's content standards in that grade level. We encourage all families to make sure their children are present for testing.

On Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> 2021, Dearborn's Middle Schools and all other middle schools in Michigan, will be administering the PSAT8 assessments to all 8th grade students. All 8th grade students will be reporting to their home school on April 13 to take this assessment. **Grades 6 and 7 will have asynchronous work that day and will not be reporting to schools.**

The rest of the M-STEP assessments at OL Smith will be administered within the following testing windows.

|                  | M-STEP<br>ELA      | M-STEP<br>Math | M-STEP<br>Science   | M-STEP<br>Social Science |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>6th Grade</b> | May 3rd - May 26th |                |                     |                          |
| <b>7th Grade</b> | May 3rd - May 26th |                |                     |                          |
| <b>8th Grade</b> | PSAT8 on April 13  |                | April 19 - April 23 |                          |

More information regarding assessments will be sent to families from their home school principals. All testing will follow Dearborn's safety protocols.. Thank you for your continued support and have a relaxing Spring Break.

If you have any questions please contact your school administrator.

Sincerely,

Daniel L. Patterson, Ph.D.  
Director of Assessment, Research and Evaluation