

**J.W. Sexton High School**

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March 5, 2015

Dear Sexton Families,

This spring, the State of Michigan is replacing the 44-year-old Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) and Michigan Merit Exam (MME) with an assessment called the **Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP)**. In prior school years, students in grades 7-9 were given the MEAP test over a two-week period in October, and students in grade 11 were given the MME over three days in March.

**This school year, students in grades 7, 8 and 11 will complete the new M-STEP online assessments between April and June**, during windows established by the State of Michigan. Students will be tested in the following subjects:

* English Language Arts: Grades 7, 8, and 11; includes both open-ended and multiple choice questions
* Math: Grades 7, 8, and 11; includes both open-ended and multiple choice questions
* Science: Grades 7 and 11; multiple choice questions only
* Social Studies: Grades 8 and 11; multiple choice questions only

Open-ended questions challenge students to explain their answers by providing written responses.

We ask that you please avoid scheduling any appointments for your student(s) that involve time out of the classroom during the assessment administration window. This is especially important because time for make-up assessments is limited and some required components cannot easily be done in a make-up setting. The complexity of scheduling these assessments is much greater than in the past due to the variation in test item types, required classroom activities, and available technology.

**Sexton’s M-STEP Testing Dates**

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| **7th grade: May 5-7th** |
| **8th grade: April 21-23rd** |
| **11th grade: April 14-16th** |

Teachers will be working with our students over the coming weeks to prepare them for the new online testing format and structure. You can also help your student(s) prepare for the assessments by looking at and practicing with the English language arts and math sample items found at: <https://wbte.drcedirect.com/MI/portals/mi/ott1>. More detailed information about M-STEP can be found at <http://www.michigan.gov/mstep>.

Again, thank you for your help in ensuring our students are in class on these important dates.

Sincerely,

Sandra Noecker, Principal

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