

September 2008

Dear Parents of Russell Students:

During the three years that your student attends *Russell Middle School*, a number of assessments are administered to the students for the purpose of evaluating student progress. This letter is being sent to explain the types of assessments and the timeline for the administration of the assessment. The assessments for each of the three grades are outlined below. A calendar of assessments is included on the reverse side. A parent report/summary will be mailed home after the assessment has been scored. Please note that in some cases, your student might be scheduled to “retake” an assessment. Your *parent report* will indicate if this is a necessity. Another letter will be sent to you letting you know if and when this will occur.

GRADE 6

The **TERRA NOVA** (norm reference test – week of October 27) measures ability and achievement. Your 6th grader is compared with peers in the district and at the state and national levels. Overall academic ability as well as achievement in the areas of language arts, mathematics, social studies and science will be measured.

The **ELO ASSESSMENTS (Essential Learner Outcomes - April)** in math and reading help show your student’s progress to date after a school year of learning the curriculum.

Reading Benchmarks will be given to each 6th grader in the fall, winter and spring. These short reading measurements will provide baseline data of student strengths and/or weaknesses in the area of reading.

GRADE 7

The **ELO ASSESSMENTS (Essential Learner Outcomes)** are given in reading comprehension (April), mathematics (April), and analytical writing (January). The assessments help show your student’s progress to date after a school year of learning the curriculum.

DAP (Developmental Asset Profile) is a self-reflection assessment for students to identify the presence of the developmental assets in their lives. The results will be reviewed with parents during fall conferences.

GRADE 8

ANALYTICAL WRITING ASSESSMENTS (AWA – September) are re-administered to all students who did not meet the cutscore for analytical writing. It is also administered to all 8th grade students who are new to the Millard district. Students are given additional instruction prior to their second attempt (or first, if new to district) as part of an extensive reteaching program.

STATE WRITING ASSESSMENT (February) is given to all 8th graders in Nebraska. The 6-trait writing model, which is taught in the Millard curriculum, will be used to score the test.

LIFE SKILLS ASSESSMENT is a self assessment that 8th graders complete with their advisors. Parents are also asked to complete the assessment for their child. The results will be reviewed during fall conferences.

The **ELO ASSESSMENTS (Essential Learner Outcomes)** in science (October), social studies (March), along with math and reading (April), help show your student’s progress to date after a school year of learning the curriculum. The science assessment is given to current 8th graders in October with retake opportunities in March.

The **NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)** is administered in March to specified 8th grade students. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as "the Nation's Report Card," is the only nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas.

(A calendar of assessments is included on the reverse side.)

ASSESSMENT CALENDAR of RUSSELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

2008-2009

Analytical Writing Assessment (for retesting and for new students to the district in 8th grade)	September 29, 30, October 2
DAP for 7th graders	Mid September through October 1
Life Skill Assessment for 8th graders	Mid September through October 3 (completed in Packtime with advisor)
Science Assessment for all 8th graders	October 8
Terra Nova Assessments for all 6th graders	Week of October 27
Speaking & Listening for all 8th graders	December through March (on-going, classroom based)
Analytical Writing Assessment for all 7th graders	January 20 - Narrative January 22 – Persuasive January 27 - Expository
Analytical Writing Assessment (for retesting and for new students to the district in 8th grade)	January 27, 28, 29
State Writing Assessment for all 8th graders	February 2, 3
NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) testing for selected 8th graders	March 3
Social Studies Assessment for all 8th graders	March 9
Math Assessment for 7th graders	March 23
Science Assessment (for retesting and for new students to the district in 8th grade)	March 24
Math Assessment for 6th graders	March 30
Reading Assessment for 8th graders	March 30
Math Assessment for all 8th graders	April 14
Reading Assessment for all 6th, 7th graders	April 14
Retesting Math/Reading for all 6th, 7th and 8th	May 12-27
Retesting Social Studies - 8th grade	May 12

If you have questions, please call Micky Gehringer at 715-8500.

Sincerely,
Mitch Mollring
Principal

Micky Gehringer
Assistant Principal
Assessment Coordinator

Len Sagenbrecht
Assistant Principal