

## **ASSESSMENTS:**

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District has adopted and implemented forms of assessments to provide parents and teachers with a measure of the students' overall academic growth. There are three forms of assessment implemented in the elementary schools. Two are designed by the State Department of Education (the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge [NJASK] for third and fourth graders, and the New Jersey Proficiency Assessment of State Standards [NJPASS] for second graders), and the third is a District-designed assessment for first-grade students. Indicated below is a brief synopsis of the testing practices that will be implemented during the school year, and the instruments that we are utilizing.

Students in first grade will be assessed each spring through the use of an assessment instrument developed by our District's teachers. The testing procedures occur as part of everyday instruction and take place in small time segments based upon the discretion of the grade level. The language arts component is scheduled for a weekly period of time, and the math component is implemented during a different week. In addition, all students have the opportunity to read orally in a one-on-one situation with their classroom teacher using the Developmental Reading Assessment. The objective of the testing program is to provide useful information about our students' achievement and ability. A copy of all students' test scores is sent home either through the mail or with their report cards on the last day of school.

The New Jersey Proficiency Assessments of State Standards (NJPASS) is a set of criterion-referenced tests designed to measure students' mastery of the NJ Core Content Standards for language arts and mathematics as deemed developmentally appropriate for second-grade children.

The testing program for our third- and fourth-grade students, entitled New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJASK), has been mandated by the State of New Jersey. The NJASK is designed to assess students' knowledge and skill levels in language arts literacy and mathematics. In addition, students in Grade 3 take will take a cognitive abilities test pending Board of Education approval. The grid below reflects the assessment practices for each grade level:

<b>GRADE</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT</b>
Grade 1	District Assessment
Grade 2	NJPASS
Grade 3	NJASK & Cognitive Abilities Test
Grade 4	NJASK

New students in Grades 1 through 4 whose cumulative records do not include standardized testing results are tested in reading and math to assess their knowledge and understanding of basic skills in these subjects and to determine appropriate instructional levels. Diagnostic testing and formative assessments may be administered during the school year to identify specific skill needs or to assess overall student progress and performance.