



February 20, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians of Grade 8 Students;

In 2003, the provincial and territorial ministers of education, through the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), agreed to undertake the development of the Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP) to assess the knowledge and skills of students across Canada in the core subjects of reading, mathematics, and science. The reports for the PCAP assessments are available on the CMEC Web site (www.cmec.ca).

PCAP is administered to **Grade 8** students. The actual and proposed PCAP administration schedule is below.

Components	Actual and Proposed Dates of PCAP Assessments					
	Spring 2007	Spring 2010	Spring 2013	Spring 2016	Spring 2019	Spring 2022
Major	Reading	Math	Science	Reading	Math	Science
Minor	Math	Science	Reading	Math	Science	Reading
Minor	Science	Reading	Math	Science	Reading	Math

For the fifth assessment in 2019, **mathematics is the primary domain**, and reading and science are the minor domains. In order to assure the validity of PCAP 2019, field testing of the items was carried out in spring 2018 in a select number of schools. PCAP is administered by school staff and will take place between April 29 and May 24, 2019.

Newfoundland and Labrador is participating PCAP 2019 assessment. A number of NLESD schools have been randomly selected. Hillview Academy's **Grade 8** class has been chosen as one of the participating schools.

The pan-Canadian summary report of the assessment results will be published in 2020. Please note, information about the administration of the assessment, such as response times, is collected to improve future iterations of PCAP and is a common part of assessment development. With regard to confidentiality, please be aware that no results by school district, by school, or by student will be published. The results will be published only on pan-Canadian and provincial/territorial levels for both language groups. Therefore, this assessment will not affect your child's grades nor student file.

Thank you for supporting your child's participation in PCAP 2019.

Sincerely,

Principal

Pan-Canadian Assessment Program

Information for Parents, Guardians, and Students

What is the Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP)?

The Pan-Canadian Assessment Program is an assessment that measures the knowledge and skills of Grade 8 (in Quebec, Secondary II) Canadian students in three subjects: mathematics, science, and reading.

This assessment was developed by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC).

PCAP 2019 will focus mainly on mathematics. However, students will also respond to science and reading questions.

What is the purpose of the PCAP assessments?

The PCAP assessments have two main purposes: to help policy-makers make informed decisions about education and to determine how prepared Grade 8/Secondary II students are for future academic challenges.

Each province and territory has its own education system, and school programs differ from one part of the country to another. However, all Canadian students study mathematics, science, and reading, and PCAP assessments identify the knowledge and skills in those subjects that are common to students across the country.

Who will take part in the PCAP assessment?

Approximately 32,000 Grade 8/Secondary II students from more than 1,600 schools across the country will participate between April and May 2019. The assessment will be given to both Anglophone and Francophone students.

What will participating students have to do?

Students will complete either an on-line or paper-based assessment that assesses their knowledge and skills in mathematics, science, and reading. The assessment will take about 90 minutes to complete.

An additional 30 minutes will be required for students to complete a contextual questionnaire intended to collect information on students' characteristics and attitudes toward learning.

Do students need to prepare for the PCAP assessment?

No. Students do not need to study for this assessment. Normal classroom activities in these subject areas provide ample preparation for this assessment.

For more information about PCAP, please visit <http://www.cmec.ca>.

Will the results affect students' marks?

No. The results of this assessment will not affect students' academic records in any way. The results will be compiled only for provinces/territories, not for individual students, schools, or districts.

Will the PCAP assessment be fair to all students?

Yes. Teachers from across the country have developed and reviewed this assessment. The assessment is designed to give all students a chance to show their knowledge and skills. It has been tested for bias based on culture, gender, and regional differences, and has been found to be fair, appropriate, and bias-free.

A Personal Note to Students

Thank you in advance for taking part in PCAP 2019.

When you take this assessment, you will help us make education better for all students in Canada.

We're counting on you.

Please do your best!