



March 27, 2019

## Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)

Dear Parents/Guardians of Grade 4;

Your child's class has been chosen at random to participate in the **Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)**, an important educational research project investigating student achievement in mathematics and science. More than 60 countries, including Canada, are participating in this project.

Hillview Academy is one of many selected in Canada. Your child's participation in this project will not affect his or her grades or progress in school and the results will not be reported for individual students or schools. Students will respond to questions in mathematics and science and will complete the assessment on a computer. The assessment will take place at our school during regular school hours on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

TIMSS is an important activity to keep us, as parents/guardians and citizens, informed about how our students in Canada are performing in comparison with their peers in other countries. This study will allow us to compare curricula and teaching practices as well. We will then be able to obtain the latest provincial, pan-Canadian, and international information, which will help improve the teaching and learning of mathematics and science in our province.

As a parent/guardian, you will also be asked to complete an on-line questionnaire; the login information to access the questionnaire will be provided to you later in April. The questionnaire covers home and school factors related to your child's learning environment and experiences. It should only take about 30 minutes to complete, and all responses will remain confidential. This questionnaire, along with your child's responses, will be used to gain a better understanding of factors related to how children learn at home and at school.

More information on this project is available on the Web at: <https://cmec.ca/526/Overview.html>. You may also refer to the IEA Web site at <https://timssandpirls.bc.edu/> (available in English only).

**We appreciate your child's participation and thank you for your support as we work to enhance the learning experience of our young students across Canada!**

Sincerely,

Mr. P. Wheeler - Principal

# Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study

## Information for Parents/Guardians and Students

### What is TIMSS?

TIMSS is an international assessment that measures the knowledge and skills of Grade 4 and Grade 8/Secondary 2 students in mathematics and science, sponsored by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA).

TIMSS has been conducted every four years since 1995. More than 60 countries will be participating in TIMSS 2019. In Canada, provincial/territorial participation in TIMSS is coordinated by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC).

### What is the purpose of TIMSS?

TIMSS assessment results are used for research and policy purposes. The information obtained through TIMSS is valued by policy-makers, administrators, schools, teachers, and researchers. This data helps to determine how prepared Grade 4 and Grade 8/Secondary 2 students are for future academic challenges and to enable evidence-based decisions for educational improvement.

### Who will take part in TIMSS?

Approximately 29,000 Grade 4 and Grade 8/Secondary 2 students from approximately 1,170 schools in Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador will participate in TIMSS 2019. In each school, one or two entire Grade 4 and/or Grade 8/Secondary 2 classes will be chosen at random.

The assessment will take place between April 8 and May 10, 2019. The assessment will be administered to both Anglophone and Francophone students.

### What will participating students have to do?

Students will complete either a computer-based or a paper-based test that assesses their knowledge and skills in mathematics and science. The test takes about 70 minutes to complete at the Grade 4 level and about 90 minutes at the Grade 8/Secondary 2 level. 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.

The parents/guardians (Grade 4 only), teachers, and school principals of the participating students will also be asked to respond to a questionnaire. The questionnaires collect valuable information that expands the results and scope of the assessment and helps to understand the factors that may influence student achievement. The questionnaire responses will remain confidential and will not permit individual participants to be identified.

### Do students need to prepare for TIMSS?

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

### 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 aggregated at the provincial level only.

### What are the benefits of participating?

TIMSS provides school administrators, teachers, and students with an opportunity to be involved with a high-quality assessment that will influence how mathematics and science are taught and learned in the future.

More information on TIMSS is available on the Web at: <https://cmecc.ca/526/Overview.html>.

**Thank you in advance for taking part in TIMSS 2019!**

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