



## Somerdale Public School District

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[Mr. Jarod Claybourn](#)  
Vice-Principal

[Dr. Dennis Vespe](#)  
Superintendent/Principal

[Ms. Melissa Engelhardt](#)  
Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Attached are your child's results from a new state test in English language arts/literacy (ELA) and/or mathematics known as the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) test that your child participated in last spring. These online tests were designed to replace the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK) and the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) and match the content and skills outlined in the new standards that are guiding instruction. These new tests moved away from fill-in-the bubble tests and asked questions that require students to explain their answers. The results from PARCC, along with your child's overall educational learning experience, including performance in the classroom, provide an overall picture of his or her academic success and progress towards graduating high school ready to succeed at college level work.

Your child's performance level, as well as the school and district's performance levels, may look lower this year. These new tests measure more complex, real-world skills such as critical-thinking, writing, and problem solving. For these reasons, these scores cannot be compared to previous test scores. Instead, they are setting a new, more accurate baseline from which progress can be measured moving forward.

This first year of testing is a transition year. We went to great lengths to make sure scoring was done accurately, involving teachers from across the nation, and since this is the first time it is being done, it took longer. This year, you are receiving your child's report in the Fall but the goal for next year is to have results available during the summer next year.

I hope you will find that the attached report provides you with more detailed information about your child's learning. Each subject is broken down into categories of skills and content to identify where a student is doing well and where he or she needs some additional help. We encourage you to talk to your child's teacher for additional information on how your child is performing in class as well as discuss how he or she can be further supported in school. In addition, you can find grade level learning resources that can be accessed at home at the following websites:

- Video explaining the score reports: <http://www.understandthescore.org/>
- Additional resources for parents: <http://www.bealearninghero.org/>
- Information about the PARCC assessment: <http://www.parcconline.org/resources/parent-resources>
- New Jersey specific information: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/>

Please note, the 2015 PARCC results are being mailed home this year, but will be sent home via the students during homeroom in future years. If you have any questions, please contact the Vice Principal's office.  
GO CAVS!

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