



# Ware Junior Senior High School

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A member of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges

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Mr. Darren C. Elwell, M.S.Ed.  
Principal

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## PARCC and MCAS Assessment Information

March 3, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This letter is to inform you of the changing assessment landscape at Ware Junior Senior High School. As you may already know, the Ware Public Schools will be piloting the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC), including both the Performance Based Assessment (PBA), and the End of the Year Assessment (EOY). These challenging assessments will be entirely computerized at Ware Junior Senior High School. Additionally, PARCC differs from MCAS in that it is a timed test, and only students with Individualized Education Plans or 504 Plan accommodations are entitled to additional time. I strongly recommend that you visit <http://www.doe.mass.edu/parcc/> to learn more about the PARCC assessment, especially the accessibility features and accommodations that are available to students, and the ways in which the assessment differs from the MCAS examinations.

At this time, all grade ten students must still pass the Math, English Language Arts (ELA), and Biology MCAS exams in order to graduate. Therefore, students in grades nine through twelve will not be participating in the PARCC pilot. In addition, students in grade eight will still be administered the MCAS Science and Technology exam. For further clarification, please see the breakdown below, including testing dates and windows, for each grade level:

### **Grade 7 – PARCC Only**

PARCC PBA ELA: April 2, 6, 7

PARCC PBA Math: April 8, 9

PARCC EOY: May 4 – 29 Testing Window, Exact Dates TBD

### **Grade 8 – PARCC and MCAS Science and Technology**

PARCC PBA ELA: March 23, 27, 30

PARCC PBA Math: March 31, April 1

MCAS Science and Technology: May 5 – 19 Testing Window, Exact Dates TBD

PARCC EOY: May 4 – 29 Testing Window, Exact Dates TBD

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### Ware Junior / Senior High School Mission Statement

Ware Junior / Senior High School strives to provide a safe, supportive environment of mutual respect where students can achieve academic success and develop into responsible, self-sufficient, open-minded participants in a global society.

Adopted October 20, 2004

**Grade 9 – MCAS Biology, if applicable**

MCAS Biology: June 8, 9

**Grade 10 – MCAS Math and ELA, MCAS Biology, if applicable**

ELA: March 24, 25, 26

Math: May 19, 20

MCAS Biology: June 8, 9

As always, students should receive a good night's sleep, and eat a healthy breakfast prior to testing. In addition, it is imperative that students arrive on-time in order to begin the scheduled assessments promptly. PARCC and MCAS sessions will begin shortly after homeroom, and at the conclusion of each day's unit, students will resume a modified schedule of their regular courses. **There will be no delayed start days for students in non-tested grades, as was the case in the past.**

Although the coming weeks will present a series of challenging assessments for students, we are confident that they will rise to the occasion. Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you have any questions regarding these upcoming, mandatory state assessments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darren C. Elwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Darren C. Elwell  
Principal