

April 26, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

On May 31st and June 1st, all students taking Biology throughout the state of New Jersey are required to take the New Jersey Biology Competency Test (NJBCT). This test is designed to measure how well our students are achieving the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards in Biology, which were designed to establish the content and skills students throughout New Jersey should master. We have developed specific procedures for the testing days. It is imperative that students sitting for the test arrive to school at the regular time to keep disruption of the school to a minimum.

Each test will take over 2 hours to administer. The test consists of two types of questions, multiple choice response questions and open ended performance task questions. Students have been provided with opportunities to practice similar questions throughout the year. Additional information and a link to the NJ Department of Education are located on the district web site, [www.mcts.edu](http://www.mcts.edu). NJBCT results will be shared with you when received from the State, and they will also be entered as part of your child's permanent record, although they are not a graduation requirement.

Test examiners and proctors will collect any electronic devices - including cell phones - at the beginning of each testing period. Any student found with such a device during testing will have his/her test voided and be subject to the appropriate disciplinary action. Students are not to bring any food or drink to the testing rooms, and any bags or jackets will be stored at the front of the testing rooms. Please note that make-ups for the Biology Competency Test will take place on Wednesday, June 7th and Thursday, June 8th.

As a parent, you can always help by making sure that your child eats well and gets plenty of sleep in preparation for the test. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Students who are not taking the Biology test will attend their regularly scheduled classes.

Sincerely,

Anne Z. Benoit  
Supervisor of Secondary Education  
District Test Coordinator  
609 586 5144 ext. 2146