

## DAC Meeting January 28, 2016

Dr. Elizabeth Alves (Chief Academic Officer) spoke at length about TNReady. An overview of this assessment was provided along with tools for helping students. We were all provided with a chromebook and were able to log in and do a practice test to get an idea of what it is like for the students. One thing I realized when I was checking a question that had two answers - if I got one of the two answers correct, I still received one point.

Part 1 of the assessment will begin in February and run through March. The questions will be written in such a way that the students will “drag and drop” their answers, select their response, and they must provide “evidence based” responses. The students are being tested on skill, not speed. According to HS students/teachers who have already taken part 1, there is more than enough time allowed to complete the test. Instead of being a week long test, there is a much longer time period of testing which allows for more flexibility and the school does not appear to “shut down” during the testing period.

There are two parts to Part 1 - math and english/language arts. According to Dr. Alves, the students are tested on how to apply math in real life. They are permitted to use a calculator in some portions of the test and are prohibited from using it in others. They must graph things, drag and drop answers and explain how they solved equations.

In ELA, reading and writing skills are integrated and there is one score. It is performance based where the student will read a passage and write an extended response citing evidence from the text. The assessment will include both fiction and nonfiction passages. The assessment is graded using a rubric and the scorers are rigorously trained. Two people score one essay and if the two scores differ a certain amount, a third scorer will score it as well. One thing I noticed that was positive is that if there is a question that requires two answers and the student gets one answer wrong, he/she will still get credit for the correct answer.

The second part of the assessment is in April/May. There are four components to this test, although it is my understanding that the science and social studies portion are still in TCAP form.

The math and ELA are designed to mirror how students are learning in the classroom. The teachers are provided with the standards set by the state. The standards are all online on the Knox County Schools website.

Go to [www.knoxcountyschools.org](http://www.knoxcountyschools.org) and click on Departments, click on English/Language Arts/Reading or Mathematics and then Elementary (PreK-5). From there parents can navigate around whatever grade they chose and can see the standards and corresponding curriculum. This is great because you can see exactly what your child is learning. There are also resources for students/parents who speak languages other than English in the English Language Learner tab (this is listed above the English/Language Arts/Reading tab). In math there is homework help available and vocabulary cards. I encourage parents to browse the

Department Directory page as there is a ton of information available. Students are studying Module 3 right now. Another great family resource can be found on the home page - click on the For Families tab and there are many family resources listed.

One suggestion given by the ELA staff was to work on summarization with students at home. Discuss homework, read various things with your children at home and have them summarize what they read. The ELA teachers are emphasizing “read about it, write about, talk about it”.

Practice/sample questions can be found at <http://support.micatime.com>

Thank you for the opportunity to attend this meeting. I found it to be very informative!

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