



Dear TRJHS Families,

Happy autumn! It's hard to believe that we are now completing the fifth week of school already. Progress reports will be distributed to students on Tuesday, October 17th. As always, please view the progress reports as a snapshot of your child(s) achievement through the first half of the first trimester. If you have questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to our staff. Together we will make a difference; together we will be "Champions" for all students.

When a natural disaster or traumatic event occurs, such as the tragic shooting in Las Vegas last week, it can be stressful for people of all ages. Children tend to react to traumatic events based on their past experiences and what they know of the current situation. While we know that there are no words which can adequately explain this horrific event it's helpful for parents to talk to children about what is happening in a way that they can understand.

Talking to your children about their worries and concerns is the first step to help them feel safe. It is important also to limit the amount of time spent watching the news because constant exposure may actually heighten their anxiety and fears. Developmentally inappropriate information can cause anxiety or confusion, particularly in young adults.

As we go forward, it's important for students to understand that bad things do happen, but there are more good people out there than bad helping - and we're strong enough to get through this together. Providing your child that message will fosters resilience and helps teach them that they're able to cope with difficult circumstances should it come their way in life.

Important dates:	October 6 -	No School- Professional Development Day
	October 9 -	Columbus Day Holiday
	October 13 -	Student of the Month Presentation
	October 17-	TRSD School Committee Meeting- JH library- 7pm Progress Reports distributed to students
	October 20 -	UMass Amherst Multi-Bands field trip
	October 24 -	Sports Physicals- 9:15am- Nurses office
	October 25-	Fall Band Concert- HS Auditorium- 7pm
	October 27-	Picture retakes Halloween Dance- 6-8pm

Sincerely,
Sean Gilrein, Principal

Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System

Letter to Parents about the Next-Generation MCAS Results

October 18, 2017

Dear Parent,

You will soon receive your child's MCAS scores, which include results from the next-generation MCAS tests that were given in English language arts and mathematics to students in grades 3-8 in spring 2017. Due to the new testing format and scoring, we write to share some important information for parents and students to understand the scaling and context of the results.

The next-generation MCAS is a reformatted test from the old MCAS, and the scores are not comparable to the prior tests your child has taken. On the legacy MCAS, the four scoring categories were Advanced, Proficient, Needs Improvement, and Warning/Failing. On the next-generation MCAS, the four scoring categories are Exceeding Expectations, Meeting Expectations, Partially Meeting Expectations, and Not Meeting Expectations. The new categories emphasize readiness for higher-level work at the next grade level.

Roughly half of Massachusetts grades 3-8 students are already scoring in the Meeting Expectations category or above, but many students will find that they scored in the Partially or Not Meeting Expectations categories. As you look at these scores and help your child understand them, please note:

- The next-generation MCAS establishes high expectations to better reflect whether students are on track for the next grade level and ultimately for college and a career.
- 2017 is the baseline year - the first year of a new assessment - and we expect that over time, more students will score Meeting Expectations or above. Students in grades 3-8 do not face any negative consequences as a result of their scores.
- The next-generation MCAS is a new test with a different approach to assessing student performance in grades 3-8, and this year's results cannot be compared to last year's.
- MCAS results are only one measure of your child's growth and achievement. Your child's teacher can also talk to you more broadly about your child's academic growth and about his or her social and emotional development.

Massachusetts has the best public school system in the country, and giving students a clearer signal of their readiness for the next grade level is an important part of that.

Learn more about the [next-generation MCAS and your child's score](#).