

Arcadia Elementary School

HOME OF SCHOLARS AND LEADERS

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Dear 3rd & 4th Grade Family,

In March 2020, our 3rd and 4th grade scholars will complete the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR), the state assessment and accountability measure for Illinois students enrolled in a public school district. IAR assesses the new Illinois learning standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics which incorporates the Common Core. I am writing to ask you for your partnership as we approach this experience at Arcadia School.

Illinois Assessment of Readiness Background

As you know, students in grades 3-8 are required by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to participate in a statewide performance assessment. Again this year, that assessment is called the Illinois Assessment of Readiness with test questions taken from the same PARCC bank of high quality, Common Core questions, that have been used over the past five years. This means the Illinois Assessment of Readiness measures the same Illinois Learning Standards that teachers and students have become familiar with over the past years.

Preparing for the Illinois Assessment of Readiness

While your student cannot study for a standardized assessment like they would for a regular classroom assessment, there are ways you can help prepare at home:

- ✓ Practice the Illinois Assessment of Readiness sample items with your student. Use the folder sent home or the online sites:
<https://il.mypearsonsupport.com/practice-tests/>
<https://www.lumoslearning.com/llwp/resources/iar-practice-tests-and-sample-questions.html>
Reviewing these questions will help familiarize your student with the format, structure, vocabulary, and questioning style of the exam.
- ✓ Make sure your student gets plenty of rest each night.
- ✓ Make sure your student eats a healthy and hearty breakfast each morning.
- ✓ Remind your student of his/her strengths, and that he/she is strong, persistent, and capable of achieving his/her goals each and every day.
- ✓ Remind your student to take his/her time, listen to and read all directions, and tackle one question at a time.
- ✓ Make sure your student arrives on time to school.

If your student brings in the completed paper and pencil practice tests for reading and mathematics OR a print out of his/her online scores, he or she will receive a prize. If you have questions about the Illinois Assessment of Readiness, please reach out to your student's teacher or to Mrs. Healy, Mrs. Banger, or Mrs. Ransford via phone at (708) 747-3535, via note, or via e-mail. Let's knock the Illinois Assessment of Readiness out of the PARCC!

Stephanie Newman Healy