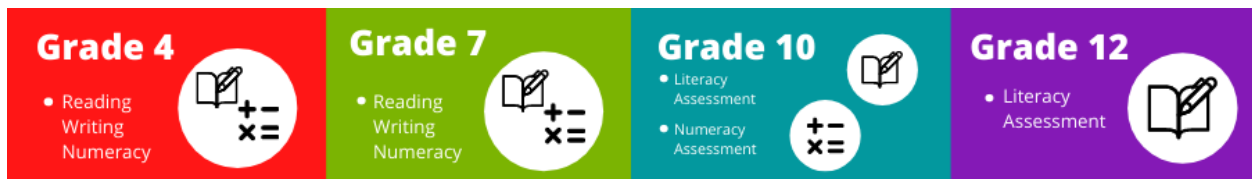


January 13, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

**Re: The Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA)**

The Foundation Skills Assessment is an annual assessment of reading, writing and numeracy in Grades 4 and 7. The FSA is based on B.C. curriculum and is designed in collaboration with teachers, educational experts and the Ministry of Education.



For the current school year, the FSA will be administered in February and March. This is not an assessment that requires students to prepare in advance. Students answer interactive online questions and complete written work in a booklet in class that is sent home to parents with the student's assessment results.

**What is the purpose of the FSA?**

As part of a series of provincial assessments that continue into high school, the FSA is a "snapshot" of how well students are doing by measuring skills they have learned over the past several years. The FSA does not provide a complete picture of your child's ability nor does it count towards students' marks. Individual student performance is determined through ongoing assessment by educators and communication with parents. The information provided by the assessment is used by the province, school districts and schools to make plans to improve student learning.

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*The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.*

## Do all children write the FSA?

The Ministry of Education expects all children in Grades 4 and 7 to write the FSA. The only exceptions are:

1. Students whose personalized learning standards significantly differ from provincial curricular standards and are documented in their Individual Education Plan (IEP).
2. English Language Learners who have not reached a level of proficiency sufficient to provide meaningful responses to the reading or writing or numeracy sections of the FSA.
3. Students experiencing extenuating circumstances (e.g., a family emergency or lengthy illness).

Your child's school principal will determine which students, if any, may be excused from participating in the FSA. Parents or guardians will be notified by the Principal prior to the administration date if your child meets the Ministry's criteria for exemption.

If you have not heard from your child's principal about an exemption and continue to have questions or concerns about the FSA, please contact your principal for further information or clarification.

If you are interested in additional information regarding the FSA, please refer to this video:

<https://youtu.be/E83RwUAz-zw>

Sincerely,



Shelley Green  
Superintendent of Schools

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One *Learning* Community

