



**CEDAR GROVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION**  
520 Pompton Avenue  
Cedar Grove, New Jersey 07009



September 13, 2021

Cedar Grove Families,

We hope that this letter finds you healthy, rejuvenated by the summer break, and excited as we enter our next school year in Cedar Grove.

After quite an inconsistent school year, one of our district goals is to address the question: *Where are we academically?* To best evaluate student understanding and meet students at their incoming levels, it is essential that meaningful assessments are administered throughout the school year, and particularly within the first few weeks of school. The data collected from both state mandated and district assessments will guide instruction, allow teachers and administrators to develop plans to move forward, and give students the opportunity to appropriately reflect on their own learning.

The year-long Cedar Grove Assessment Calendar can be accessed at the following link:  
<https://www.cgschools.org/calendars/>

The first assessment being administered in all grade levels in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics is a Benchmark Assessment (Form A) generated from our district “data warehouse” program *LinkIt*. The tests will be administered on assigned Chromebooks during the regular school day and take approximately 1 hour to complete. Questions are based on the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS).

This past spring, the State of NJ was granted a federal waiver to postpone standardized testing to a fall administration. The *Start Strong Assessments* are a required series of tests which are based on previous year’s standards in the areas of ELA (Grades 4 - 12), Math (4 - 12) and Science (Grades 6, 9, 12 only.) For example, a current 7th grader will be evaluated on Grade 6 standards and a Geometry student will be tested on Algebra I standards. More information can be found here:

<https://www.nj.gov/education/assessment/resources/parents/docs/Fall%202021%20Administration%20Information%20for%20Parents.pdf>

Anticipated testing dates for both of the aforementioned assessments are detailed below. It is also important to note that IEP/504 accommodations are applicable.

Please reach out to the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at [cgdci@cgschools.org](mailto:cgdci@cgschools.org) should you have additional questions.

We wish you all a successful school year!

**Janine Barboza**  
Supervisor of Elementary Education

**Bart Pierson**  
Supervisor of Secondary Education

**Start Strong Assessments:**

North End (Grade 4 only) - 9/21 & 9/22

South End (Grade 4 only) - 9/21 & 9/22

Memorial Middle School - 9/27 - 10/1

Cedar Grove High School -

Tuesday, 10/5 - ELA (Grades 9 and 10 only)

Wednesday, 10/6 - All students currently enrolled in Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II

Thursday, 10/7 - Science (Grades 9 & 12 only)

**LinkIt Benchmark Form A:**

North End - 9/20 - 9/27

South End - 9/20 - 9/27

Memorial Middle School - 9/13 - 9/24

Cedar Grove High School - 9/13 - 9/22