

March 27, 2019

Dear Parents:

The Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS) is a comprehensive summative assessment program spanning grades 3 through high school. Georgia Milestones measures how well students have learned the knowledge and skills outlined in the state-adopted content standards in English Language Arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Students in grades 3 through 8 take an end-of-grade assessment in English Language Arts and mathematics while students in grades 5 and 8 are also assessed in science and social studies.

For elementary and middle school students, state law requires that students in grade 3 earn an At/Above Grade Level designation in reading to be promoted to fourth grade. In grades 5 and 8, state law requires that students earn an At/Above Grade Level designation in reading as well as score in the Developing Learner achievement level or above in Math to be promoted to the next grade.

The Georgia Department of Education has given local school systems scheduling flexibility for the FY19 Georgia Milestones End of Grade assessments. Emanuel County Schools has opted to use this flexibility. Students in grades 3 through 8 will take the GMAS End of Grade assessments on the following days in 2019:

Dates	Elementary School	Middle School
Wednesday, April 10	ELA Section 1 - Grades 3, 4, 5	
Thursday, April 11	ELA Section 2 - Grades 3, 4, 5	
Friday, April 12	ELA Section 3 - Grades 3, 4, 5	
Monday, April 15	Math Section 1 - Grades 3, 4, 5	
Tuesday, April 16	Math Section 2 - Grades 3, 4, 5	ELA Section 1 - Grades 6, 7, 8
Wednesday, April 17	Makeup Day - Grades 3, 4, 5	ELA Sections 2 and 3 - Grades 6, 7, 8
Thursday, April 18	Science Sections 1 and 2 – Grade 5	Math Sections 1 and 2 - Grades 6, 7, 8
Friday, April 19	Social Studies Sections 1 and 2 – Grade 5	Makeup Day - Grades 6, 7, 8
Monday, April 22	Makeup Day – Grades 3, 4, 5	Makeup Day - Grades 6, 7, 8
Tuesday, April 23	Makeup Day – Grades 3, 4, 5	Science Sections 1 and 2 - Grade 8
Wednesday, April 24		Social Studies Sections 1 and 2 – Grade 8
Thursday-Friday, April 25-26		Makeup Days – Grades 6, 7, 8

Students who are prepared, calm, and rested perform better on tests. Here are some of the many ways to help your student approach Georgia Milestones in a relaxed, positive way:

- Encourage your student to employ good study and test-taking skills. These skills include following directions carefully, avoiding careless errors, and reviewing work.
- Explain the purpose of the tests. The assessments give students an opportunity to show what they have learned in school. They also give teachers information that helps them plan instruction. Point out that some items may be more difficult than others.
- Be certain your student gets plenty of sleep and has a healthy breakfast and lunch. Taking tests is hard work for many students and can require a lot of energy.
- Be certain your student is at school on time. Rushing and worrying about being late could affect performance on the tests.
- Remember to ask your student about the testing at the end of each day.
- Encourage your student to practice using the online system at: <http://www.gaexperienceonline.com/>

For more information, please contact your child's school or visit the following pages online:

Georgia Milestones Resources	
Emanuel County Schools Assessment page	<a href="http://www.emanuel.k12.ga.us/administration/8">http://www.emanuel.k12.ga.us/administration/8</a>
Georgia Department of Education Georgia Milestones Assessment Page	<a href="http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/Georgia-Milestones-Assessment-System.aspx">http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/Georgia-Milestones-Assessment-System.aspx</a>
Georgia Department of Education End of Grade Assessment Page Grades 3-8	<a href="http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/Georgia-Milestones-EOG-Resources.aspx">http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/Georgia-Milestones-EOG-Resources.aspx</a>
Georgia Department of Education End of Course Assessment Page Grades 9-12	<a href="http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/Georgia-Milestones-EOC-Resources.aspx">http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/Georgia-Milestones-EOC-Resources.aspx</a>