

Office of Curriculum and Instruction



A Regional Collaborative of the Communities Served by the
Monmouth Beach, Oceanport, Shore Regional, and West Long Branch Districts

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Dear Parents,

This school year, our school's Assessment Committee, comprised of department representatives and administrators, resumed our pre-pandemic work to research and develop a recommendation for internal assessment practices. Specifically, we were reviewing the value of quarterly versus midterm/final examinations. We began meeting in August, and continued during this school year, reading and discussing educational research in summative assessments.

The following summarizes the committee's findings regarding midterm and final examinations:

- Participation in lengthy, high-stakes exams does not increase stamina for future exam experiences. In other words, taking midterms and finals in high school has no positive effect on students' experiences in college.
- The review of internal pre-pandemic school data demonstrates that overall our students perform at least one letter grade below their course average on midterms and finals, which negatively impacts their final grade.
- Midterm and final exams do not increase long-term retention of the course material.
- High-stakes tests increase stress levels for teachers and students.

The following summarizes our findings regarding quarterly assessments:

- Quarterly assessments allow the teacher and student to monitor progress in mastering the learning objectives more frequently.
- Students experience more timely, explicit feedback from their teachers about their learning and how to improve retention to impact their learning through quarterly assessments.
- There are various types of quarterlies, including projects, performance and traditional assessments, to compliment different types of test-takers and disciplines.

For this spring, we will not have final examinations. Our teachers are discussing end-of-year culminating experiences for students to take place in their classes during the last few days of school. Therefore, June 20 and 21 will be early dismissal days for students.

Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, we will implement quarterly assessments. A committee will meet this spring and summer to develop the structure and guidelines. This information will be communicated to parents and students at the start of the school year. Please reach out to me if you have any questions about this information. Otherwise, I wish you a wonderful end to the school year and a restful summer.

Sincerely,
Dineen Seeley, Ed.D.