



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AT DMS

After spring break in Tiger Connections we will engage our students in a common presentation and conversation about our approach to emergency preparedness. Students will be presented an emergency scenario and then have opportunities to ask questions, seek clarification, and become even more familiar with their surroundings around our school campus. In advance of our students engaging in the presentation after spring break, you are welcome to view it [HERE](#).

2017-18 ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

At Farmington Area Public Schools, we are committed to providing our students with personalized learning experiences. To best achieve this, we regularly assess students' growth. Various classroom and standardized assessments aid teachers in providing for individual instructional needs and identifying class trends. We strive to consider the whole picture when serving our students. Having multiple types of assessments helps provide a fuller picture of each student's needs.

Farmington Area Public Schools administer two sets of large scale standardized assessments: the Minnesota State Accountability tests and the NWEA MAP tests. We highly encourage you to read more about what each assessment provides for your student(s), and [have provided a chart](#) for this purpose.

Parents and guardians do have the right to request their student(s) not participate in a scheduled assessment. If you wish your child not to take one or more of the planned assessments, please make sure you understand the role of the assessment and complete the appropriate form.

2018 MCA TESTING SCHEDULE

We will begin our MCA testing the week of March 19th with 8th Grade Science. You can view the "Detailed Testing Calendar [HERE](#) for the full district schedule. The specific detail for Dodge Middle School will be posted in Schoology for students to access. Science testing will take place in our computer labs while the Reading and Math test will take place on students' iPads. In order for students to be able to test on the iPad they need to have their iOS system updated to the most recent version and free up at least 1 GB of space. They may need to delete photos, videos and/or apps to free up enough space. Thank you for your assistance in preparing your student's iPad for testing!

NEW this year is that students will need to use headphones in order to view and hear the MCA directions prior to testing. Please ensure that your student has a set of headphones that plug into their iPad and work correctly. If you are not able to secure headphones, please contact our main office at 651-460-1500.

How to Have Better Family Meals at Every Age

Between school, work, hockey games and band practice, how is a family ever supposed to sit down and enjoy a home-cooked dinner at six o'clock at night? The former idea of a family meal does not always apply to our societies' hectic and busy schedules. However, research shows that eating family meals can have a large



impact on a child's social, emotional and physical health, as well as performance in school. So how can we achieve this lofty goal? [Click here to find out more.](#)

Sponsored by the Farmington Area Wellness Committee

Enjoy the time during spring break and please know that our office will be closed when students are not in school. Thanks!

Chris Bussmann, Principal

DID YOU KNOW?

Attendance Line: 651-460-1505

If a student will be absent, a parent/guardian must call Dodge Middle School's attendance line at 651-460-1505 between 7:00 AM and 8:15 AM each day of the absence. We ask that parents/guardians provide the reason for the absence at the time they call. The school determines if the absence falls within the excused or unexcused parameters. If the school does not receive a call from the parent/guardian the day of the absence, the student's absence is automatically unexcused.

To request a pre-excused absence, a parent/guardian needs to complete the online "[Request to Waive Unexcused Status of Absence](#)" form (a link to the form is provided here).

You can access this link by visiting the Dodge Middle School webpage and clicking on the green icon located on the bottom right of the page titled "Pre-Arranged Absence". Below is the image of the icon on the DMS website:



Please note that the form should be submitted at least 5 school days in advance of the absence.

Assignments & Homework Shortcuts

We've created a shortcut for you to view your child's weekly assignments and homework that are maintained in a Google Doc organized by grade level houses.

You can access these shortcuts by visiting the Dodge Middle School webpage and clicking on the yellow icon located on the bottom right of the page titled "Assignments". Below is an image of the icon on the DMS website:



You can also click [HERE](#).

The most recent information is located at the top of the document while past week's information can be viewed by scrolling down the document. This information is also present through Schoology.



Should you have a need to access specific assignments, please use your Parent Schoology Access Code or have your student visit the specific course in Schoology. Questions related to specific assignments should be directed to your student's teacher.

Upcoming Events

- Mar. 26th – Apr. 2nd: NO SCHOOL – Spring Break
- April 4th: 3rd Quarter Ends
- April 17th: District Jazz Night Band Concert – FHS – 6:30 pm (Grades 6, 7 & 8)
4th Quarter Classes End for Grades 6 & 7

COMMUNITY RESOURCES HIGHLIGHTS

We're always updating the [Community Resources page](#) on our website with new events and activities that support our Farmington community. Click to learn more!

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We're always updating the [Community Resources page](#) on our website with new events and activities that support our Farmington community. Here are a few that are ongoing or coming soon:

- **THE EDGE**
"This Edge" is a summer youth program for students entering grades 6-9- (up to age 16). The program is run through Burnsville Community Ed and in partnership with Farmington, Lakeville, Shakopee and New Prague Community Education departments. The Edge provides daily field trips and experiences that help kids develop their independence, gain responsibility, and accountability, and improve interpersonal communication. Please open the attached PDF for more information!
- **YOUTH THEATRE OPTIONS**
Please visit [Community Resources page](#) to learn more about the various theatre options we have available for Theatre-Acting-Singing.
- **FARMINGTON TIGERS BOYS SOCCER CLINIC**
Sessions will take place on: April 7, April 28, May 5, May 19, and May 26. Please visit the [Community Resources page](#) for more information.