



St. Francis of Assisi Middle School

March 2024

Dear Parents,

Each year in Grades 6 and 9, Provincial Achievement Tests are administered in May and June in a variety of core subjects. At St. Francis of Assisi, our students will write these English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies tests. These Provincial Achievement Tests assist our school as they help us to evaluate and determine if students are learning what they are expected to learn and assist us in monitoring and improving student learning aligned with the provincial program of studies.

These tests are an important component of our school improvement and are highly valued by our team to improve our daily instruction. Teachers and Grade teams take time in professional development each year to analyze how their student achievement compares to schools across the province and tweak their pedagogical and assessment practices to better deliver the curriculum. At St. Francis of Assisi, the Provincial Achievement Test scores are reported as a final exam mark as a part of the student's end-of-year report card.

We recognize that any test can cause anxiety for students. As a result, we work hard to ensure that the Provincial Achievement Tests are low-risk exams for students.

As a school, we do this by:

- Using the PAT as a final exam, rather than having an in-class final.
- Setting the weightings for the Grade 6 & 9 PAT at 15% of a student's final grade
- Help our students prepare for these exams with many opportunities to complete practice exam questions before writing any exams
- Assisting our students with learning good test-taking strategies and techniques to help them feel more prepared for this exam
- Offering our students the same opportunities they have had all year for accommodations, if necessary
- Providing a comfortable and familiar classroom environment with snacks when students write their exams
- Ensuring staff share with students that the Provincial Achievement Tests are as much a tool for their learning as it is for the students

As parents, you can help your child by:

- Having the conversation that 'their best' is good enough and to reinforce *effort* rather than a definitive *final mark*
- Remind your child that this is a low-risk exam and although doing their best is important, the exam is only worth 15% of their final grade for the whole year
- Encourage your child to review in small manageable chunks of time. Being prepared for a final cumulative exam (PAT or not) is an important skill, as this is how final assessments are typically done from Grade 6 until post-secondary
- Discuss the importance of establishing a schedule for review a few weeks before the exam. I'm sure many of us remember 'cramming' for exams the night before. We have an opportunity to help our students build good habits early on by allocating a small amount of time for review each evening leading up to the test
- Being proud of how hard your child has worked this year and acknowledging this to them. Kids thrive on verbal praise and encouragement
- Ensuring your child is getting enough rest and is up and not rushed on the morning of an exam. Having a good breakfast is also important to their concentration

A final exam schedule is shared below for your reference as well you will also find information and website links from Alberta Education related to Provincial Achievement Tests.

Quick Links for Parents:

[Provincial Achievement Test Overview](#)

[Grade 6 Parent Guide](#)

[Grade 9 Parent Guide](#)

[Practice PAT Questions](#)

We thank you for your continued support and as always, if you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me at the school. **Please see the exam schedule on the next page and keep it handy for future reference.**

Yours In Christ,



Rori-Lynn Daniel

RDCRS May and June 2024 PAT Schedule

Monday, May 13, 2024 Grade 9 ELA Part A Exam _____	Wednesday, May 15, 2024 Grade 6 ELA Part A Exam _____	Wednesday, June 12, 2024 Grades 6 & 9 ELA Part B Exam _____	Thursday, June 13, 2024 Grades 6 & 9 Math Part A Exam _____	Friday, June 14, 2024 Grade 6 Math Part B Exam _____
Tuesday, June 18, 2024 Grade 9 Math Part B Exam _____	Wednesday, June 19, 2024 Grades 6 & 9 Social Studies Exam _____	Thursday, June 20, 2024 Grades 6 & 9 Science Exam _____	Friday, June 21, 2024 Regular Classes National Indigenous People's Day _____	Monday, June 24, 2024 Regular classes _____
Tuesday, June 25, 2024 Regular classes Grade 6 Field trip _____	Wednesday, June 26, 2024 Last Day of classes _____			