

NAEP 2016 PARENT/GUARDIAN NOTIFICATION LETTER



ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

December 7, 2015

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Horace Mann Magnet Middle School will participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) on (date). NAEP is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what students know and can do in various subjects. It is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics, within the U.S. Department of Education. NAEP is different from our state assessment because it provides a common measure of student achievement across the country. The results are released as The Nation's Report Card, which provides information about student achievement to educators, parents, policymakers, and the public.

Your child might take a mathematics, reading, or writing pilot assessment on a tablet. The assessment also asks students questions about their daily routine and their educational experiences. For example, students are asked if there is a computer at home and about the amount of reading they do. Student responses provide context and meaning to the assessment results. Please visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/booklets.asp> to review sample questions.

The assessment takes about 120 minutes for most students. The results are completely confidential (in accordance with the Confidential Information Protection provisions of Title V, Subtitle A, Public Law 107-347). The information collected is used for statistical purposes only, and the results are anonymous. Your child's grades will not be affected. Students may be excused for any reason, are not required to complete the assessment, and may skip any question. While the assessment is voluntary, NAEP depends on student participation to help policymakers improve education. However, if you do not want your child to participate, please notify me in writing by **December 16, 2015**.

There is no need to study in preparation for NAEP, but please encourage your child to do their best. A brochure that explains what participation in NAEP means for you and your child is available at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/parents/2012469.pdf>. Contact Dr. Pamela Byrd, NAEP State Coordinator, at 479-414-4725 or at pamela.byrd@arkansa.gov if you have any questions.

We are excited that our school is participating in NAEP. We know that Horace Mann Magnet Middle School's students will show what our nation's students know and can do.

Sincerely,

School Principal