

OSBORN HILL SCHOOL



"A Family of Friends"

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Our school has an exciting opportunity. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has invited us to pilot new test questions in science this May. The questions are aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

The Connecticut State Board of Education adopted the NGSS in November 2015. These standards identify core scientific ideas, practices, and concepts that all students should master. School districts throughout Connecticut are implementing the NGSS in classrooms. You can learn more at www.nextgenscience.org.

The CSDE is developing statewide NGSS assessments for students in grades 5, 8, and 11. Students will take these new assessments in spring 2019. In Fairfield, we are in the process of revising our curriculum to include the new standards.

The new assessments will require students to use information, observations, and data to think and act like scientists. Questions will include a variety of new interactions, simulations, and animations. They will challenge students to show a deeper understanding of their scientific knowledge by making sense of the natural world and solving problems. Sample NGSS assessment items are available at <https://airscience.tds.airast.org/student>. Students can try these before the pilot test.

For our school, the CSDE has selected students in grade 5 for the pilot test. The pilot test will take place Wednesday, May 10th and will last about one hour. Students will also have the opportunity to provide feedback about the experience.

Participation will not affect your child's grades. Since this is a pilot test, students and school districts will not receive results. Rather, the CSDE will use the results to develop and improve science assessments.

If you do not want your child to take part in the pilot test or if you have questions about your child's participation, please contact me at (203) 255-8340

This is an exciting opportunity to shape the future of science education in our state. Thank you for your cooperation in this effort.

Sincerely,

Frank Arnone

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