



K-6

Skyline

ISSUE #8 April 2022

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Monthly message from Skyline Math and Science Academy director, Abdirahman Abdulle on self-care, reflection, challenge and staff appreciation.

2

Exciting news! Skyline MSA to expand Saint Thomas tutoring program in 2022-2023. Seeking more corporate and non-profit partnerships as way forward to benefit school and community.

3

Testing: MCA
Students are once again taking the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments. All grades have shown improvement in reading scores! Well done skyline scholars!

A colorful illustration of many hands of different skin tones and wearing various bracelets and watches, stacked together in a circle to form a human pyramid shape.

Community partnerships keeping Students engaged

Skyline's ELL department has partnered with the creators of Math Seeds to offer highly structured lessons with fun motivational elements for students. In STEAM classes Skyline students are engaged in hybrid learning from a real engineer!



Leadership Message

Abdirahman Abdulle

Executive Director of Skyline Math & Science Academy

I hope all is well.

I hope we all have taken the time to rejuvenate and re-energize our momentum.

It is very critical for all of us to have self-care time to recharge our vigor so we can maintain healthy living conditions. We can only support our students properly when we are able to take care of our own mental, social and physical well-being. I hope that the spring break was an opportunity for everyone to debrief, replenish and introspect about the last few months. According to B. Trilling and C. Fadel's book *21st Century Skills: Learning for Life in Our Times*, reflection is the best way of learning, relearning, and unlearning our human behaviors, habits, and practices. In fact, reflection is the most effective way to inspect what is working and what is not working in our lives and practices.

Shortage of staff is still something we are grappling with as a school district and it will most likely be like that till the school year ends. Let us all work together and help one another coordinate and streamline the academics and operations of the school. We stand for a unified mission and that is one school; one community.

Again, I would like to appreciate all the hard work you have put forth and everything you have done so far for the Skyline community.

Best regards,

Abdirahman Abdulle



St. Thomas University Tutors and Expansion of the Tutoring Opportunity for Next Year

We are excited to inform you that Skyline MSA is again partnering up with St. Thomas University for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year. This time, the university tutors will come to Skyline MSA four days a week. This will surely be great news for our parents, students and staff members. We know that students learn more when they have extra people in the classrooms. The behavior issues also get minimized when students have extra teachers in the classrooms. In addition, Skyline MSA is anticipating to form partnerships with other corporations and nonprofits in Minnesota. During the 2021-2022 school year, we have formed partnerships with United Way. Skyline MSA executive director understands the best way to serve students is to build resources by forming partnerships with like minded organizations.





Testing, testing, 1, 2, 3!

MCA's are underway!

Types of assessments

Classroom-based: Individual tests given by teachers as needed throughout the year to assess knowledge and skills in specific areas

Interim: The same test repeated at set intervals to measure student growth over time

Summative: End-of-year assessments administered by the state to measure student performance against a common set of standards

This document addresses summative assessments.

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) are the state tests that are given every year to measure student progress toward Minnesota's K-12 Academic standards in the areas of reading, mathematics and science. Reading and mathematics tests are administered in every year in grades 3–8. In high school, students in grade 10 take the reading MCA, and students in grade 11 take the mathematics MCA. The science MCA is administered to students in grades 5 and 8. In high school students take the science MCA whenever they take a life science or biology course.

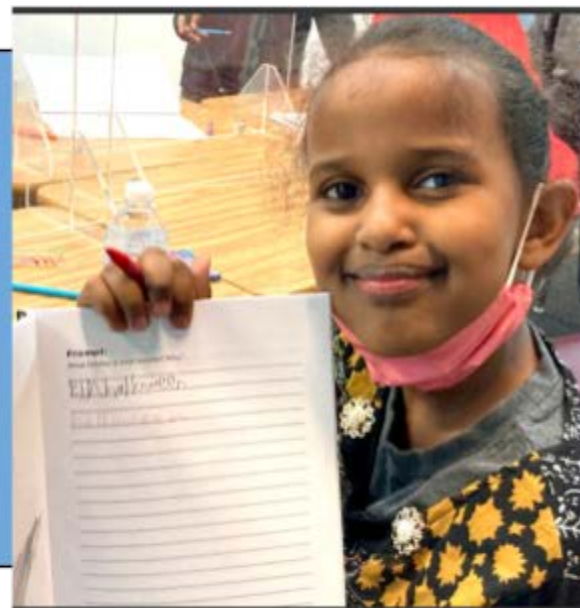
Why test?

The assessments gauge how well students are mastering the standards—and ultimately how ready they are for the next grade and for college and careers after graduation.

(<https://www.pta.org/docs/default-source/uploadedfiles/ptaupload/minnesota-assessment-guide-2016.pdf>)



Department News: ELL and STEAM student engagement



ELL Department News:

With ACCESS testing successfully completed, the ELL department has resumed services for EL students in grades K-6. In the upcoming weeks, the goal is to assist students in preparing for taking the MCAs. Going into the last portion of the school year, finding interactive engaging ways for students to learn was a priority. Reading eggs, an interactive online phonics-based program has proven to be successful among our students. Since the reading program seemed to be such a hit, we started a month-long trial for the math version of the program called Math Seeds. Not only will these programs help students prepare for the MCA's, but both combine highly structured lessons with fun motivational elements that keep children engaged and keen to learn.



STEAM Department News:

Skyline students in 3rd-6th grade classes are receiving weekly glimpses into the life of a real life engineer, Cody Steuck. Cody appears in classrooms on Fridays via pre-recorded video and teaches students about some of the challenges engineers face (like deflection and calculating shelf space for jumbo paper rolls!). Through the engineering program students are seeing first hand the power of mathematics for problem solving...and how to get the best deal on pizza by finding the area of a circle! Along with the videos students are receiving reinforcement in their google classrooms with weekly challenges which encourage students to explore further and share their thoughts in online forums, writing assignments and short quizzes. Ms. Zamzam's students recently shared some great ideas



on what they would do to make improvements to our world including ways to take care of the earth by solving pollution problems; ways to take care of others by becoming teachers and doctors and addressing homelessness; and ways to make everyone's life better by designing robots and improving public transportation. Way to go 6th grade! While learning about different engineering professions all students are exposed to the engineering mindset of solving problems, innovating and improving.

Don't Miss It!



Upcoming Events:

- Parent Teacher conferences
May 19-20
- Mn Department of Transportation
(MnDOT)
Bridge building visit
- School Carnival
May 20 (May change)
- NWEA
May 9-29

Contact Us:

Skyline Math & Science Academy 2600
26th Ave S #100, Minneapolis, MN
55406

<https://skylinemsa.org>
Phone: (612) 200-9916



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