

March is reading month! To show the importance of reading to our students, we hosted several special events throughout the month to promote literacy. As we all know, "It takes a village to raise a child." At home and at school, it is our responsibility to promote basic skills, such as reading, to our children. It is my pleasure to take part in the month's festivities; one of the highlights of the school year is to visit and read to as many elementary classes as I possibly can.

As the month of April approaches, I would like to remind everyone that our spring break is March 30th – April 3rd; school will resume on Monday, April 6th. Shortly after we return from spring break, our Spring 2020 State Assessment window opens.

Spring state assessments affect 3rd through 11th graders. Please see the chart below which shows the assessments that each grade level is required to take. To learn more about the testing program and to access practice questions, please visit <http://www.michigan.gov/mstep>.

2020 Spring State Assessment Information

Grade(s) Affected	Assessment	Testing Window/Date
3 rd , 4 th , 6 th & 7 th Graders	M-STEP	May 4-May 29 (window)
5 th , 8 th , & 11 th Graders	M-STEP	April 13-May 8 (window)
8 th , 9 th & 10 th Graders	PSAT	April 14
11 th Graders	College Entrance SAT Test	April 14
11 th Graders	ACT WorkKeys Test	April 15
11 th Graders	M-STEP	April 16

The general assessment window for grades 3-11 are shown above. Please note that although we do not plan to test daily during the testing windows, **attendance is extremely important**. Please consider this when planning any absences (such as appointments, vacations, etc.). We understand that illnesses happen unexpectedly, and we want our students to be at their best when testing. There will be make-up testing days if needed. Please contact your child's school if you have any specific scheduling questions during the testing windows or if you know of any absences ahead of time.

Please contact District Assessment Coordinator, Mrs. Joanna Czymbor at 810-638-5054, if you have any additional questions. Thank you for your continued dedication to our district's success, and we look forward to helping your children through these spring assessments.

We had several events take place from February into early March which brought our district and community great pride and excitement! Our wrestling team finished in the Semi-Finals losing to Clinton at Team States in a hard fought battle. Also, our girls' and boys' bowling teams participated at Regionals in Bay City where our girls' placed 9th our boys' 6th in Division IV and we have one bowler, Raphael Woods, that will compete at the state meet for individual honors this upcoming weekend. Good luck to our girls' basketball team as they begin District play this week and boys' basketball beginning Monday, March 9th. Additionally, we have 12 students from our FFA program competing at states this week at MSU, along with several students who are delegates for our FFA chapter. I would also like to recognize our Odyssey of the Mind High School Team who participated in the regional competition, which qualified for the state final. And finally, our first Robotics Team competed in their initial competition at Kettering University this past Friday! Congratulations to our students, coaches, and advisors for their outstanding performances this season. Great job Hornets!

It is our goal to keep the high standards that New Lothrop has set forth in and out of the classroom, and focus on preparing students for their future successes. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. My office phone number is 810-638-5091.

Sincerely,

Anthony Berthiaume, Ph.D.
Superintendent

