



# Holyoke High School

## Dean Campus

1045 Main St. – Holyoke, Ma 01040  
(413) 534-2071/2072 | (413) 536-9694 FAX

Alan Gates, Associate Principal  
Elizabeth Cortes, CTE Director  
Angel Coriano, Director of Culture & Inclusion  
Linée Perroncel, Special Education Coordinator

## North Campus

500 Beech St. – Holyoke, Ma 01040  
(413) 534-2020 | (413) 534-2098 FAX

Lily Newman, Associate Principal  
Nissette Gonzalez, Assistant Principal  
Lori McKenna, Assistant Principal

Stephen R. Mahoney, Executive Principal

March 20, 2019

Dear Families,

As the district MCAS letter explains, MCAS is around the corner. This assessment is one of multiple important measures of student learning. Along with classroom-based assessments, projects and more, MCAS specifically

- Helps us ensure our students are getting as great an education as their peers across the state and country,
- Helps students and families gauge academic progress towards the essential knowledge and skills in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks
- Clarifies key elements of student learning and gaps or areas that require more support to guide our teaching

**Requirement and Opportunity:** At the high school level, MCAS is a graduation requirement for students. Strong results can also earn students valuable scholarships to Massachusetts colleges and universities. Please encourage students to bring their best and support them to get plenty of rest the nights before exams, to arrive on time on exam days, to answer each and every question as thoroughly as possible and to check their answers at least once before finishing the test.

**Please note cell phones are not allowed** in testing rooms unless held in a teachers' secure bin. Please remind students that having a cell phone will invalidate their tests. Thank you!

**Students Tested Spring 2019:** All current sophomores will take all 3 exams. Any juniors or seniors who have not yet taken or passed an MCAS exam will only take the exam they need to pass.

### Testing Dates:

English Language Arts	March 26th and 27th
Mathematics	May 21st and 22nd
STE-Biology	June 4th and 5th

**Modified Schedule for Testing:** Although students can take *as much time as they need in a day* for testing, most finish within a few hours. In order to give MCAS the resources and focus needed, we will be running a modified schedule at the North and Dean campuses as follows. **Please ensure all test takers arrive on time!**



*“A pathway for every student”*

**English Language Arts: March 26th-27th**

We will follow a similar late start schedule for Math and Biology assessments.

**\*PLEASE NOTE: Late Start for all freshmen, and for juniors and seniors** who do not need to take an exam.

Schedule	Tues Mar 26th	Wed Mar 27th
Arrival Time for Test Takers Only	North: 7:55 am Dean: 7:30	North: 7:55 am Dean: 7:30 am
<b>*Arrival for All Other Students</b>	<b>North: 11:00</b> <b>Dean: 10:00</b>	<b>North: 10:45</b> <b>Dean: 10:00</b>
Lunch (follows typical schedule)	North: 11:25 Dean: 11:52	North: 11:00 Dean: 11:52
Classes/Blocks	North: A, C, D Dean: A, B, C, D	North: E, F, G Dean: E, F, G

Thank you for helping us make MCAS run smoothly so students can focus on bringing their best efforts. Please join us in encouraging them and reminding them that giving this assessment their best opens opportunities and enables teachers to better help them succeed.

**Additional MCAS resources for families:**

Next Generation MCAS Parent Resources <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/parents/>

MCAS Interactive Parent Guide <http://www.doe.mass.edu/odl/e-learning/mcas-parentguide/content/index.html#/? k=ltewl7>

MCAS Parent Assessment Information <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/>

MCAS Released Items (from previous tests) <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/release.html>

Please reach out directly to your student's counselor with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Lily Newman, Associate Principal of Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Stephen R. Mahoney, Executive Principal

Alan Gates, Associate Principal, Dean Campus



---

*"A pathway for every student"*