

# Parent and Family Newsletter

We are now in the season of MCAS testing. While standardized tests, for some students, can be stressful, we tell students that the MCAS tests are a way for students to show what they know. We also try to minimize any anxiety students have by identifying students who need social emotional support, specialized preparation and/or supportive testing conditions. Some TAG students love the challenge and opportunity to outperform their peers across the state, however, we don't put that pressure on students individually or collectively. There is no doubt that the MCAS tests are high stakes tests for schools, but they should not feel high stakes for 11-13-year-olds. To that end we try to frame these assessments around putting into practice and applying the skills our students have worked so hard to master over the last seven months and emphasizing effort and growth as what matters most. Our MCAS tests are as follows:

**ELA:** April 23 & 24

**Math:** May 15 & 16

**Science:** May 21 & 22

Dr. O' Connor  
Principal

## Upcoming Important Dates

March 13: LifeSkills and LINKS to CT Science Museum

March 15: No School (Teacher PD)

March 28: TAG Band to WSU

March 29: TAG 8th Grade to WSU

April 3: Q3 Closes

April 12: Q3 Report Cards Go Home

April 15-19: April Vacation

April 23: Spring Student-Led Conference

## Spring Afterschool Wellness

Girls on the Run-GOTR Coaches

Rugby-Mr. Lessard

Swimming-Mr. N. Campbell

Yoga-Ms. Torres

Badminton/Board Games-Ms. Bowker

LGBTQ Club: Ms. Jones

Chestnut Volleyball: Ms. Smith

## TAG Spirit Week

Every year to get students engaged and excited for MCAS TAG hosts a week long spirit week. Each day is themed and staff and students are

allowed to come to school representing the daily theme. This year Spirit Week will be

April 1-5. We also have contests and other games during the week to build up excitement. Below are this years themes

**Monday:** Pajama Day (Pajamas must be school appropriate)

**Tuesday:** Duo Day (represent famous du-

os)

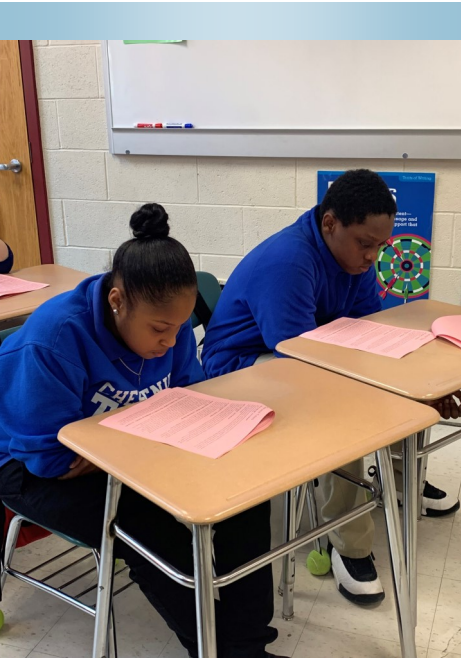
**Wednesday:** Character Day (represent your favorite character from movies, tv, or books)

**Thursday:** Throwback day (represent your favorite past decade)

**Friday:** Color War (represent grade level color)



# Links to Learning: MCAS



The 2019 MCAS season is quickly approaching. Here at TAG we believe that parent and families support at home will help each student bring their best selves on each MCAS testing day and perform at their high capacity. Below are some tips that families can do at home to support with test taking strategies as well as the anxiety that comes along with it.

- Maintain routines: keep up your daily schedule for consistency
- Studies suggest that students aged 12-18 receive 7-8 hours of sleep each night. Work with you student around creating good sleeping

habits. This can include limiting technology use before bed time.

- Ask questions: ask your child what will be expected from MCAS and how they are prepared
- Test anxiety is real. As students get closer to their 10th grade MCAS those nerves can grow. Talk to your student about the test and what emotions they go through.
- Reach out the school: If you know your child struggles with test taking, let us know so we can better support them here

## 100 Days Attendance Ice Cream Social

In February we celebrated students who have had perfect attendance for the first 100 days of school. These students have been at school everyday, on time, and never dismissed early. Check out some pictures below of the celebration!



## Staff Spotlight

**Mr. Hurst** is one of our 7th grade Math teachers. He works hard to motivate students to learn in different ways by using data to back up his knowledge. He holds high expectations and keeps students accountable. As a Springfield native he takes pride in the city and giving back in many ways.

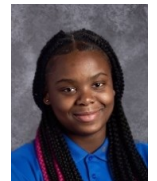
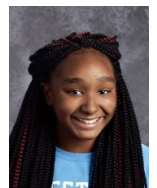
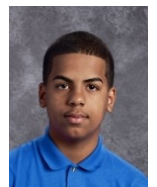


## Student Spotlight

**6th Grade: Franciso V.** has been kind, polite, patient, and consistent. He works hard everyday and it shows.

**7th Grade: Nyasia A.** has made great improvement and has been working really hard. She continues to be compassionate and caring for herself and others.

**8th Grade: Key-Aurah L.** continues to grow and show her preparedness for high school. She takes advantage of supports offered to her and it helped her make tremendous gains in her academics.



**Chestnut Middle School: Talented & Gifted**

355 Plainfield St  
Springfield, Ma 01107  
413-750-2333  
Chestnutttag.com



*Caption describing picture or graphic*

## Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 150-200 words.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find “filler” articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Publisher offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you’re finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.

This story can fit 100-150 words.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

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Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content to your newsletter.

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or enhances the message you're trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft Publisher includes thousands of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your newsletter. There are also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the image near the image.

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*“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”*

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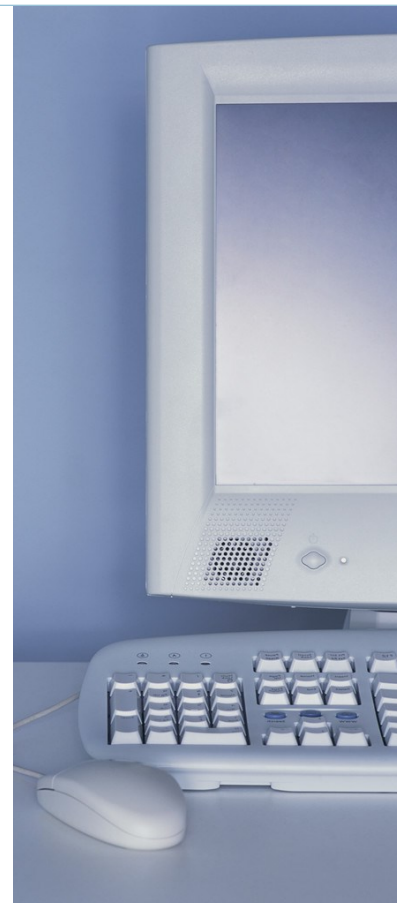
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## Your Organization

This would be a good place to insert a short paragraph about your organization. It might include the purpose of the organization, its mission, founding date, and a brief history. You could also include a brief list of the types of products, services, or programs your organization offers, the geographic area covered (for example, western U.S. or European markets), and a profile of the types of customers or members served.

It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.

## Back Page Story Headline

This story can fit 175-225 words.

If your newsletter is folded and mailed, this story will appear on the back. So, it's a good idea to make it easy to read at a glance.

A question and answer session is a good way to quickly capture the attention of readers. You can either compile questions that you've received since the last edition or you can summarize some generic questions that are frequently asked about your organization.

A listing of names and titles of managers in your organization is a good way to give your newsletter a personal touch. If your organization is small, you may want to list the names of all employees.

If you have any prices of standard products or services, you can include a listing of those here. You may want to refer your readers to any other forms of communication that you've created for your organization.

You can also use this space to remind readers to mark their calendars for a regular event, such as a breakfast meeting for vendors every third Tuesday of the month, or a biannual charity auction.

If space is available, this is a good place to insert a clip art image or some other graphic.

## Your Organization

Primary Business Address

Your Address Line 2

Your Address Line 3

Your Address Line 4

Phone: 555-555-5555

Fax: 555-555-5555

E-mail: someone@example.com

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Mailing Address Line 1

Mailing Address Line 2

Mailing Address Line 3

Mailing Address Line 4

Mailing Address Line 5