

MCAS NEWS

For planning purposes, please mark the following dates for MCAS testing on your calendars. Please make every effort to have your students attend school on the dates when MCAS tests will be given for their grade. If absent, they will have to miss class time to make up these state-mandated tests. **NOTE:** Juniors and seniors have Late-Start days on March 25, 26 and are expected to report promptly to their period four classes. In addition, on March 27, juniors and seniors are to report at the beginning of period 3. **THERE ARE NO ADDITIONAL BUS RUNS ON LATE START DAYS. JUNIORS AND SENIORS NEED TO PROVIDE THEIR OWN TRANSPORTATION. THOSE WHO CANNOT ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT AT THE USUAL START TIME.** Thank you. Mrs. Ecclestone

Day	Date	Test Name	Students Taking Test	Notes
Monday	March 3	MCAS Math Retest 1	Juniors and seniors who have not yet earned a Competency Determination or those new to HRHS who have never taken MCAS tests.	*Calculators allowed on 3/4. Dictionaries are allowed on 3/5.
Tuesday	March 4	MCAS Math Retest 2*		
Wednesday	March 5	MCAS ELA Composition		
Thursday	March 6	MCAS ELA Reading Comp. 1/2		
Friday	March 7	MCAS ELA Reading Comp 3		
NOTE: MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2010 MUST PASS ELA, MATH AND BIOLOGY IN ORDER TO GRADUATE. THOSE WITH SCORES IN ELA AND MATH BELOW 240 WILL HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE PROFICIENCY AS JUNIORS OR SENIORS ACCORDING TO NEW STATE REGULATIONS.				
Tuesday	March 25	English Language Arts Composition Sessions A and B	7 and 10	Dictionaries are allowed.
Wednesday	March 26	English Language and Literature Reading Comp. Sessions 1 and 2	7 and 10	
Thursday	March 27	English Language and Literature Reading Comprehension Session 3	7 and 10	
Monday	March 31	English Language and Literature Reading Comp. Sessions 1 and 2	8	
Tuesday	April 1	English Language and Literature Reading Comprehension Session 3	8	
Monday	April 2	English Language Arts Composition Make-up	Students in grades 7 and 10 who did not take this test on March 20.	Dictionaries are allowed.
Monday	May 12	Math Session 1	7	
Tuesday	May 13	Math Session 2*	7	*Calculators are allowed.
Wednesday	May 14	Math Session 1	8	
Thursday	May 15	Math Session 2*	8	*Calculators are allowed.
Thursday	May 16	History & Social Science Pilot Test Sessions 1 and 2	7	
Monday	May 19	Science and Technology/ Engineering Sessions 1 and 2	8	
Wednesday	May 21	Math Session 1	10	
Thursday	May 22	Math Session 2	10	*Calculators are allowed.
Tuesday	May 27	U.S. History Pilot Test Sess. 1/2	11	
Tuesday	June 3	High School Science (Biology) 1	10	
Wednesday	June 4	High School Science (Biology) 2	10	

What is MRSA?

MRSA, a germ that was first identified in 1968 and an unknown term to many people is suddenly in the news nearly every day.

Staphylococcus aureus, often referred to simply as “staph,” is a bacteria commonly found on the skin and in the nose of healthy people. About 25-30% of the U.S. population carries staph on their bodies and yet the bacteria do not always cause an illness or infection. Occasionally, staphylococci enter the body and cause an infection. The infection can be minor (such as pimples, boils and other skin conditions) or serious and sometimes fatal (such as blood infections or pneumonia).

MRSA are staphylococci that are resistant to the antibiotic methicillin, and other commonly used antibiotics such as penicillin and cephalosporins. Therefore, alternate antibiotics must be used to treat persons infected with MRSA. Staph, including MRSA is spread by direct skin-to-skin contact, such as by shaking hands, sharing personal items and contact with secretions from infected skin lesions or nasal discharge.

What is the school doing to prevent staph/MRSA infection?

- Encouraging students and staff to practice regular hand washing.
- Encouraging the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers when soap and water are not available.
- Educating students and staff on infection control.
- Proper cleaning and disinfection of athletic equipment between users.
- Updating infection protocol in the school nurse’s office.
- Updating custodial department cleaning protocols and using only EPA acceptable disinfectants.
- Discouraging the sharing of personal items such as towels, toothbrushes, razors, soap, water bottles and athletic equipment in the gym or on the field.
- Following the school physician’s recommendations for infection control.
- Following the MA Department of Public Health guidelines for reducing the risk for infection in schools.

What can you do at home to prevent a staph/MRSA infection?

- Keeping your hands clean by washing them frequently with soap and warm water or hand sanitizer.
- Keeping cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage until they have healed.
- Avoiding contact with other people’s wounds or bandages.
- Avoiding sharing personal items.
- Keeping your skin healthy, and avoid getting dry, cracked skin especially during the winter.
- Consulting your primary provider if you have a skin infection that does not improve.

Source: Centers for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa_invasive_FS.html)
MA Department of Public Health (www.mass.gov/dph)

Become a Friend of HRHS Library!
Commemorate your child's birthday, a special
event or honor an individual

Friends, parents, and/or relatives may donate funds to purchase a book to commemorate their student's birthday or other special occasion, or to honor a teacher, parent or friend with the donation of a book to the library collection. Budget cuts have made it difficult to keep our collection as up-to-date as we would like. We have prepared a wish list of titles that focuses on supporting outside reading selections for various subjects. Parents and friends may choose from this list to donate a book to the media center. The list is available at the HRHS Library and soon will be available on the library web site.

These books will be processed into the collection and will bear a Book Plate inside the front cover indicating who donated the books and for whom the books are dedicated.

Friend of the HRHS Library

1. Select a book from the Hampshire Regional Library Wish List
2. Include a check made out to HRHS Library or purchase a hardbound or library bound edition of the book and give it to Mrs. Belanger, Librarian.
3. Name of person donating the book: _____
4. Fill out the following information:

Reason for donation

To Honor a Teacher: (name) _____

Student's Birthday: (name) _____

In memory of: (name) _____

Dedicated to: name) _____

Other: _____

Place dedication card inside the front cover of the book: Yes _____ No _____

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