



**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**LAUREL NOKOMIS SCHOOL**

1900 East Laurel Road

Nokomis, Florida 34275

Dear Parents,

A new state test called FSA, Florida State Assessment, was developed and administered for the first time to our students in grades 3-8 last spring. The test reports enclosed with your child's report card on November 13<sup>th</sup> are the results of your child's efforts on the spring 2015 test in English language arts and math.

The change in assessments has created some unusual situations with the reporting of results for the test this year. Delays in clearing the test as valid resulted in a much later release of test scores for the Florida Department of Education. Instead of receiving results in May or early June, they were not released until September. There are also significant changes in the way these results are reported to parents.

In previous years, with FCAT, a student's scores placed them in one of five levels of performance. If a student scored in levels 1 or 2, they were considered to be below level, not passing. This year the traditional levels will not be reported, since those cut levels have not yet been established by the state. What will be reported is a percentile rank for each student. For example, if a student receives a percentile rank of 65 in math, it means they scored better than 65% of the students statewide at their grade level that took the same test.

This method of reporting will just be for the spring 2015 test. The spring 2016 results will return to the traditional five levels used for FCAT reporting. While the percentile ranking method of reporting does not give parents a clear line of pass/fail performance, it does provide some feedback on how their child's performance compared to others in the state of Florida.

If you have any questions about the FSA results, please contact me at 941-486-2171.

Sincerely,

Nancy Dubin  
Principal  
Laurel Nokomis School