Dear Parents/Guardians:

Next school year, public schools in the State of Illinois and in several states across the nation will be transitioning to a new statewide assessment. Students will no longer take the ISAT test. Instead they will be taking the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment. The PARCC assessment will be aligned to the Common Core State Standards and will provide information on the full range of knowledge and skills needed to be career and college ready or on track toward that goal. These improvements from current tests will help teachers guide instruction and give more information to students and their parents.

The new PARCC assessment will consist of a Performance Based Assessment (PBA) and an End of Year Assessment (EOY). The PBA will be administered in March and the EOY will be administered in May.

In preparation for full implementation of the PARCC assessment next year, schools have been selected to participate in a pilot test this school year. CCSD #46 was selected to participate in a pilot of both the PBA and EOY in several grades across the district. The pilot for the PBA must occur between March 24, 2014 and April 11, 2014, and the pilot for the EOY must occur between May 5, 2014 and June 5, 2014.

The Illinois State Board of Education has provided the following as the purpose for the field test:

- Examine the quality of items so that PARCC can build assessment forms for the 2014-2015 school year
- Pilot assessment administration procedures
- Give schools and districts the opportunity to experience the administration of PARCC assessments

The 2014-2015 PARCC assessment is intended to be a computer-based assessment. Classes in CCSD #46 have been selected to take part in both the computer version of the test and the paper/pencil version of the pilot test. Schools and classes within the district were selected on a random basis by the State. If your student is in one of the classes selected to participate, you will receive notification of that and additional information from your Principal in the upcoming weeks.

Further information regarding PARCC can be found on the Illinois State Board of Education website http://www.isbe.net/assessment/parcc.htm. Please feel free to contact me with questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Amanda August
Curriculum Coordinator

Community Consolidated School District 46 will provide an educational environment that maximizes the potential of ALL students to be prepared for life’s opportunities while developing a lasting appreciation for learning.