



Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

As we approach the District and state testing period, I want to take a moment to address the importance of these assessments and the dedication required from our students, parents, faculty, and staff to ensure we demonstrate growth on our assessments.

This year, our theme is “Excellent is the Expectation”. All our activities as a learning community have been aligned with practices that will help us achieve an “Excellent” rating on the South Carolina School Report Card. We have focused on our culture, climate, communication, collaboration, and celebration with emphasis on improving our instructional capacity and professional accountability at HGMS. Our mid-year STAR assessments and benchmarks have indicated that we are moving in a positive direction in terms of student learning.

While the tests are just one measure of your child's abilities, they serve as a valuable tool to assess academic progress and identify areas where additional support may be needed. As a learning community, we should embrace District and state testing as an opportunity for our students to demonstrate that they are among the best and brightest in South Carolina.

To our parents and guardians, your support during this time is crucial. Encourage your child to get plenty of rest, eat healthily, and approach the tests with **confidence**. Your encouragement plays a significant role in helping them feel prepared and capable.

At our school, we are committed to providing a supportive testing environment where students feel encouraged to showcase their knowledge and skills. We will continue to offer resources, incentives, and support to help students succeed.

Thank you for your partnership in your child's education. Together, we can help every student reach their full potential and demonstrate why Heyward Gibbes Middle School is one of the premier learning environments in South Carolina.

Professionally yours,

Dr. Gregory T. Pickett

Principal

Heyward Gibbes Middle School