



Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District

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December 3, 2020

Parents and Families,

As you know, due to the statewide school closure during this past spring, students in the Class of 2022 did not participate in the annual administration of the 10th grade MCAS exam. **Nevertheless, it is important that all members of the Class of 2022 and their parents/guardians understand that earning a passing score on the English Language Arts and Mathematics MCAS exams is still a graduation requirement for high school students.** Therefore, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has created several opportunities for students to earn that passing score. **The first MCAS testing opportunity for all juniors (ELA and Mathematics) will occur in January 2021.** Importantly, families should be aware that sitting for this initial January opportunity is OPTIONAL this year. For those students who are fully remote, or for any other reasons, parents and families may choose to opt-out of the upcoming January 2021 MCAS sessions. **However, any student opting out in January is still required to test at a later date in order to meet the graduation requirement.**

The MCAS testing days for juniors are currently scheduled for *January 14, 15, 21, 25, and 26*. **All juniors will be scheduled to take both the ELA and Math MCAS unless families elect to opt out of the January 2021 testing. In order to opt out, you must fill out the “MCAS Opt Out Form” by Tuesday, December 22, 2020. You can access that form at this link - <https://forms.gle/uoPpP43xMNwu1Mqq9>. This form is additionally located on our main page at www.montytech.net.** Students who choose not to participate in the January 2021 administration should plan to take the MCAS in May 2021. Additional testing opportunities will also be provided to students during their senior year. This testing may also be used to determine whether a student qualifies for the Adams and Koplik scholarships. It is most beneficial to maximize the number of opportunities a student has at successfully meeting these graduation requirements.

We are providing this initial information to keep you as up-to-date and as informed as possible, but it is possible that conditions may change due to the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic. Monty Tech will continue to follow DESE guidelines, and we will update our plans and schedules as needed. We will also continue to administer statewide tests following all health and safety requirements, particularly around physical distancing. In addition, if you are interested in student tutorials, practice

tests, and other resources, they can be found at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's MCAS Resource Center at: <http://mcas.pearsonsupport.com/student/>

Should you have any questions regarding MCAS, or the opt out procedure, please contact Noemi Robertson, Assessment Coordinator, via email at robertson-noemi@montytech.net or by phone 978-345-9200, ext. 5201.

Respectfully,

Tom Browne

Principal