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Questions on the new SOL tests reflect increased rigor to more closely assess student's critical thinking and problem solving skills. Many concepts are now being taught at an earlier grade level than in previous years. For example, some topics previously taught in 5th grade are now taught in 4th grade. For students taking the test online, the new assessments include technology-enhanced questions. Simpler multiple-choice questions have been replaced by problems that require students to apply multiple strategies to solve prior to deciding on an answer.

Lower test scores are common when new standards and assessments are introduced, and we are confident scores will rebound as students and teachers become more familiar with the changes. Over the long term, these changes will have a positive impact on student achievement by raising expectations for all.

Since the beginning of the school year, our teachers have been preparing our students for the more rigorous tests. Parents can view narrated demonstrations of the new test items, online SOL practice tests, and grade level content reviews to help their children prepare for the tests by visiting http://www.fcps.edu/is/news/mathsol.shtml. Parents are reminded that students test better when they are prepared physically and emotionally. FCPS' Family and School Partnerships share these tips for test takers from The Parent Institute: don't stay up late, get plenty of rest during test weeks, and eat healthy meals to keep mind and body nourished.

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如果您需要一份中文的曼图亚小学校园新闻周刊,请联系雷晓春女士。电话:703-425-1097

电子信箱: <u>sabrina lei@yahoo.com</u>

한국어로번역된뉴스를받아보시기원하시는분은 크리스티씨께연락주세요. 전화 703-865-8065, 이메일<u>choichristie@yahoo.com</u>.

Nếu qúi vị muốn nhận tin tức "the Alert News" được dịch ra tiếng Việt , xin liên lạc <u>sonha60@hotmail.com</u>

Si desea recibir una copia de esta informacion en Espanol, porfavor llame Gabriella Numbela a 703-573-6375 or e-mail a <u>ganumbela@hotmail.com</u>.

For more information, please visit our website: <u>www.MantuaPTA.org</u> Sincerely, Mantua Elementary School PTA



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