



September 8, 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The school year is off to a great start, and we are anticipating a wonderful year full of learning and inspiration. The North Carolina Department of Public Education and Faith Academy Charter School is committed to evaluating how students are learning and where we must make improvement based on various performance indicators. The *NC General Statute 115C-174.10* defines the core purposes of the Statewide Testing Program, which include measuring minimum skills for graduates, finding strengths and weaknesses to improve teaching, and holding state and local school systems accountable. The purpose of this letter is to inform families on the assessments that students will participate in at FACS this school year and to share important dates for these administrations. The school testing calendar can be found on the [Faith Academy Charter School Website](#) under the “Families” link. There is one master calendar for all K-12 assessment dates, a calendar for Grades 3-8 assessment dates, and a calendar for Grades 9-12 assessment dates.

North Carolina Testing Program

The following tests will be given during the 2026-2027 school year. It is required that all students participate in the state testing program.

Elementary and Middle School Grades 3-8

- ❖ Students at *grade 3* take the Beginning-of-Grade 3 English Language Arts/Reading Test must be administered by the 20th day of the school year.
- ❖ Students at *grades 3, 4, 6, and 7* take End-of-Grade tests in English Language Arts/Reading and Mathematics during the last 10 days of the school year.
- ❖ Students at *grades 5 and 8* take End-of-Grade tests in English Language Arts/Reading, Mathematics, and Science during the last 10 days of the school year. Students in 8th Grade that are enrolled in NC Math 1 will take the End-of-Course Exam during the last 10 days of the school year.

High School Grades 9-12

- ❖ Students who are enrolled for credit in courses where End-of-Course (EOC) tests and North Carolina Final Exams are required shall take the appropriate End-of-Course test and NC Final Exam.
- ❖ End-of-Course tests and CTE Exams are given during the last 5 days of the instructional period for 4X4/semester courses or the last 10 days of the instructional period for traditional/yearlong courses.
- ❖ Students at *grade 10* take the PreACT (curriculum-based educational and career planning assessment that measures achievement in English, Math, Reading, and Science) in November.
- ❖ Students in *grade 11* take the ACT (college admission and placement test evaluating learning in English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and Writing) in February.
- ❖ Students at *grade 12* who are identified as Career and Technical Education concentrators are required to take the WorkKeys assessments.
- ❖ For 2026-27, EOC tests are available for the following subjects: NC Math I, NC Math III, Biology, and English II.
- ❖ Per State Board of Education policy, schools are to use results from all End-of-Course, Career and Technical Education State Assessments, NC Final Exams, and teacher-made Final Exams as at least twenty (20%) of the student's final grade for each respective course.
- ❖ All students identified as limited English proficient must be annually assessed to determine progress and level of English language proficiency.
- ❖ The PSAT will be offered to any interested student that would like to take it as a preparation for the SAT.



Additional Local Testing

- **Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT - Grade 3 and Grade 5)**
 - *The CogAT is a brief assessment to measure three separate cognitive domains for a more complete perspective on a student's reasoning abilities. The three domains include non-verbal, verbal, and quantitative tests to measure a student's school ability. It is used locally to provide information for the Exceptional Children's Program, which includes the Academically or Intellectually Gifted Program. Students in grade 4 are tested during the month of April.*
- **Naglieri**
 - *The Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT) is a standardized cognitive test used by schools to evaluate reasoning and problem-solving skills in students. The NNAT measures general nonverbal reasoning and potential, often used to identify students for gifted and talented program. The format of the test includes abstract shapes, designs, and visual puzzles rather than spoken or written language, making it culturally neutral and accessible to all learners. Students in grade 2 are tested during the month of April.*
- **NC Check-Ins**
 - *FACS conducts benchmark testing for students at various times during the school year. These assessments are aligned to the NC Standard Course of Study. They pinpoint student needs down to the sub-skill level, and ongoing progress monitoring shows whether students are on track to achieving end-of-year targets. Teachers, administration, and support staff will use the data to drive instruction. After each benchmark, parents will be able to view student achievement levels on their Infinite Campus Parent Portal.*
- **mCLASS**
 - *mCLASS is a teacher-administered literacy assessment and intervention suite for kindergarten through fifth grade. mCLASS Literacy has a universal and dyslexia screener and offers intervention options. Assessments are administered 3 times a year at the beginning, middle, and end of year.*
- **iReady**
 - *iREADY is a research based curricular program for students in Grades K–5 and includes individualized plans for mathematics and literacy instruction based on each student's performance on the iREADY Diagnostic test. Once students complete the Diagnostic, i-Ready builds a unique lesson plan with a starting point for each learner based on their individual results. Assessments are administered 3 times a year at the beginning, middle, and end of year.*
- **IXL**
 - *IXL is an online learning platform for students in grades 6-12 that provides benchmark assessments targeted skill practice in core subjects like math, language arts, science, and social studies. FACS administers 3 diagnostics for students in grade 6–8 at the beginning, middle, and end of year.*

For additional information about the North Carolina Testing Program, visit the Accountability Services Division website <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/>. Parents may also view the video, [NC Family Guide to Assessments](#) for additional information and explanations of the testing program.

Please contact any of the *Administrative Team Members* listed below if you have further questions. Thank you for choosing Faith Academy Charter School and entrusting us to provide the best quality education possible for your child. Cheers to a wonderful year!!

Chad Mitchell, Lead Administrator/High School Principal
Amy Wise, Associate Lead Administrator for Accountability & Student Services
Jeff Street, K-4 Principal
Stacy Bryd, Gr 5-8 Principal
John McNeil, High School Assistant Principal