



February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The Wake County Public School System's Vision2020 Strategic Plan is focused on graduating students who are ready to be successful in college, in the workforce, and as productive citizens in our communities. To meet that goal, we know students must develop their knowledge in reading, mathematics, science, and other subjects. We also know that key skills such as critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication (sometimes called the "4 Cs") are just as important for our students for life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Knowing how our students are developing in these key areas will help us create learning experiences that better prepare them for their futures.

To assess our students' abilities to think critically, solve problems, and communicate clearly, all 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will participate in a performance task on **March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020**. A performance task is not a standardized multiple-choice test. Instead, the task presents students with a realistic situation or problem and includes related information. Students will be asked to read, analyze the information and provide a written response to address the situation or problem. Students will have up to 90 minutes to respond to the task.

Students who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP), Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Educational Plan, or Section 504 Plan will also participate in the performance task. If you have questions concerning your student's accommodations, please contact your child's case manager.

Participation in the performance task will not impact your student's grades or academic standing in any way. The information gathered will be used by your student's school to evaluate how well they are preparing all students to be effective communicators and critical thinkers.

More information about the performance task can be found on the WCPSS website at [www.wcpss.net/performancetask](http://www.wcpss.net/performancetask). You may contact Karen Frazier at 919-363-1870 or [krfrazier@wcpss.net](mailto:krfrazier@wcpss.net) if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Amanda Boshoff