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Dear Middle School Parents,

The school year is half over, and the traditional period of mid-terms is almost upon us. Mid-term exams are a tool designed to assess a student's cumulative knowledge of the content they have learned thus far in the school year. This year we are looking at the way we assess our students in different content areas and are making some changes.

- In English Language Arts, Social Studies and Science a common assessment aligned to the Common Core State Standards and consistent with the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme will give our students the opportunity to analyze and synthesize new information.
 - English Language Arts assessments will take place the week of January 26th.
 - Social studies and science assessments will be end of unit common assessments. The teachers will communicate dates for these assessments.
 - Mid- term exam and final exam grades will not appear on the progress report for Language Arts, Social Studies or Science. The grade will count towards the second or third marking period.
- Traditional cumulative mid-term exams will be given in mathematics and Spanish the weeks of January 26th, as originally scheduled.

The schedule for assessments is as follows for the week of 1/26:

	Week of 1/26-30
Language Arts	Monday & Tuesday
Math	Thursday (Gr. 6 only) Friday (Grades 6, 7 & 8*)
World Language	Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

*A separate letter regarding mid- term schedule for grade 8 students who take Geometry at CHS will be sent directly from the teacher.

Assessments are an integral part of teaching and learning, designed to help teachers adjust teaching practices and help our students identify areas they may need to focus on to master. If your child has been attending school regularly, completing assignments on a consistent basis, and participating in class, they will be well prepared for the new IB-MYP common assessments and the more traditional midterms.

Sincerely,
Susan Grierson

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