Our 7th grade students will be finishing their argument writing this month. They will be working hard on the editing and revision process to better understand that writing is a process that requires much effort in order to improve. We are providing students with graphic organizers and rubrics to assist them as they reflect on their own writing.

During the week of March 13, our students will participate in the Reading Inventory assessment that measures the quantitative reading abilities of each student. This assessment is computer based and takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. The data from this assessment will help schools determine which students may need further support in reading comprehension next year and will be a factor when scheduling student classes for the 2017-18 school year.

Teachers will also take some time this month to introduce students to the new format of the MCAS which requires all students to write text-based narratives and essays. Seventh grade students will have the opportunity to review important and sometimes challenging concepts and skills that they have learned throughout the school year.

EXTENDING THE LEARNING AT HOME

ELA and Math MCAS testing will take place during April and May. These assessments are aligned to the skills and concepts Westfield Public Schools has been teaching all year. If you would like more information regarding the standards that are taught in English Language Arts, please visit:

http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/current.html.

Here you will also be able to access curricula for a variety of other disciplines.

If you are interested in learning more about the new ELA and Math MCAS assessments that students in grades 3-8 will be taking this year, you can find more information and practice tests at:

http://mcas.pearsonsupport.com/

MCAS is only one measurement of a student’s academic ability, but it is a source of information that allows us to better support student learning and continuously improve upon our curriculum.