

Dear Gate City Families,


As we move into the spring season, we are launching a schoolwide initiative called **Rise & Shine** to help our students feel confident, prepared, and encouraged as we approach the New Hampshire State Assessment (NH SAS). Our testing window this year begins May 11th.


At Gate City Charter School for the Arts, our mission has always been to nurture creativity, curiosity, and growth through arts-integrated learning and that mission will always remain the same.


However, standardized testing is an increasingly important factor in the evaluation of our school. We are required to demonstrate increasing progress in order to continue making ours a funded, public school option. The great news is that we KNOW that our students are capable of demonstrating the incredible thinking and problem-solving they do every day!


The GCCSA Rise & Shine initiative is focused on helping students become more familiar with the **tools, language, and format** of the state assessment so they can show what they truly know. Together Gate City WILL RISE AND SHINE!


Rise & Shine will focus on:

 **Preparation** – Giving students opportunities to practice with testing tools and question formats so the assessment feels familiar. These skills will purposefully develop vocabulary and skills valuable and transferable.

 **Confidence** – Encouraging students to approach testing with a positive mindset and a belief in their abilities.

 **Whole Community Support** – Incorporating community spirit through encouragement, schoolwide activities, and classroom strategies that make learning engaging and meaningful. This effort involves K-8 students, families, community, and staff!

 **Growth Mindset** – Helping students understand that assessments are simply one way to demonstrate progress and learning.

 **Full Participation**– Every student matters for our NH SAS participation. Each student not completing the test will factor in as a zero for our school's official score. We expect that, with preparation, support, and planning, every student will participate. Please reach out with questions and concerns.

At Gate City, we believe that when students feel **supported, prepared, and encouraged**, they can truly shine.

Thank you for your continued partnership within our community as we RISE to every challenge and watch our community SHINE academically, creatively, and confidently.

With appreciation,

Jenn Blanchette, Director
Gate City Charter School for the Arts

