



GEORGIA ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL
4416 Ethan Allen Highway
Saint Albans, Vermont 05478

Principal PreK—4
Principal 5—8

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May 4, 2022

Dear Parents, Families, and Guardians,

As part of our continued effort to support our learners, we will be asking educators to assess students in grades K-4 using a tool called DESSA, which stands for Devereux Student Strengths Assessment. In our Recovery Plan, our data identified the need for additional support for Social Emotional Learning. The DESSA will measure your student's grasp of important skills that will help them grow and succeed throughout their school years and even after they graduate from high school. These skills include taking responsibility for their actions, working well with others, and more. The 8 skills measured by the DESSA can easily be taught and learned by students of all ages. They are listed below.

8 Skills Measured by the DESSA



Self-Awareness



Self-Management



Personal Responsibility



Decision Making



Goal-Directed Behavior



Social Awareness



Relationship Skills



Optimistic Thinking

Skills

Self-Awareness
Self-Management
Personal Responsibility
Decision Making
Goal-Directed Behavior
Social Awareness

Relationship Skills
Optimistic Thinking

The purpose of the DESSA is to identify which life skills your child has already learned and what skills they might still need to develop. Once our teachers identify the skills their students still need to learn, they will teach those skills. Our goal is to ensure that your student is continuously developing the skills they need for lifelong success.

While the DESSA is just one component of our program this year, we want to make sure that you are informed of our use of this instructional tool. We believe that the information gathered from the DESSA will be beneficial to your child's overall success both inside and outside of the classroom.

As with surveys we are providing an opt-out option. If you prefer to not have your student be part of this work, you can indicate that [here](#).

Educators will be completing this rating starting May 18th.

The questions we will be considering are:

How often did the child

1. Accept responsibility for what he/she did?
2. Do something nice for someone?
3. Speak about positive things?
4. Pay attention?
5. Contribute to the group effort?
6. Perform the steps of a task in order?
7. Show care when doing a project or school work?
8. Follow the advice of a trusted adult?

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Scott Thompson
Director of Curriculum, FWSU