



Dear Parents of Students in Grades 2 - 8,

**From April 3 – April 12, your child will take the *Iowa Assessments*™.**

The *Iowa Assessments* help determine how students are performing based on national standards. These assessments measure achievement in several important content areas including Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. The exact tests that your student takes will depend on his or her grade level. Third grade students will also take a Word Analysis subtest.

The *Iowa Assessments* help teachers identify a student's strengths and areas that may need additional emphasis. Over time, the *Iowa Assessments* also measure student growth and progress in the content areas assessed each year.

For most tests, students read the questions and mark their answers by filling in a circle for each question. All test questions are multiple choice, and the tests last from 10 to 35 minutes on average.

**How your student can prepare for test taking—and what you can do to help**

A student who is well rested, receives a good breakfast and has a positive attitude about testing is best prepared for testing. You can help your student do his or her best by considering these tips:

- Make sure that your student **is in school and on time** on test days. Reschedule dentist appointments and other out-of-school time to non-testing days.
- Make sure your student gets a **good night's sleep** and eats a **healthy breakfast** each day of testing. All students in the school will have a scheduled daily snack break. Help your child choose a healthy snack to enjoy at this time to keep their energy up!
- Remind your student that these tests are only one measure of learned skills. Emphasize that **you have confidence in his or her ability to do the best job possible.**
- Remind your student to **listen to the directions and read each question carefully** during testing. Encourage your student to ask the teacher for help if he or she does not understand the directions.

As we prepare for the tests, the teachers have and will continue to review effective test-taking strategies. They will also talk about the testing schedule for each day and using a practice test to help students feel more confident for testing. Your positive message to your child will also help them to build confidence for this experience.

The school will receive test scores in early June. We will send your child's test results home with their final report card. The school will use the results to help inform instruction and evaluate our programs. This year we considered applying to become a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, our scores have to meet required guidelines to be able to do this. The teachers and students have been working hard and we hope to reach the mark to apply in the coming year. With everyone's help we can do this! Thank you very much for encouraging and supporting your student during these days of testing.

Sincerely,

*Sister Brenda Monahan*  
*Principal*