Tips For Taking Tests for Parents/Guardians

Standardized testing season can be intimidating, but with a little preparation and the right attitude, you can keep stress from getting to your children! All parents/guardians want to see their student(s) perform well in school. Parents/Guardians play an important part in helping their children give their best performance on a test. The ideas presented below may serve as a guideline for parents/guardians when helping their student(s) prepare for testing.

During the weeks leading up to the TEST, begin to talk with your child about the importance of giving their best effort during testing. The following thoughts will help you in preparing your child for being ready to give the test his or her all.

Before the Test:
1. Help your child get to bed on time. Research shows that being well-rested helps students do better.
2. Help children resolve immediate arguments before going to bed.
3. Keep your routine as normal as possible. Upsetting natural routines may make children feel insecure.
4. Mention the test to show you’re interested, but don’t dwell on it.
5. Plan ahead to avoid conflicts on the morning of the test.

The morning of the test:
1. Get up early to avoid rushing. Be sure to have your child at school on time.
2. Have your child eat a good breakfast but not a heavy one. Research shows that students do better if they have breakfast before they take tests.
3. Be positive about the test. Acknowledge that tests can be hard and that they’re designed so that no one will know all of the answers. Explain that doing your best is what counts. The important thing is to make your child comfortable and confident about the test.
4. Relax your mind before the test begins.

Tell Your Child to follow these Strategies During the Test:
1. Read the instructions carefully.
2. Read each question carefully, paying attention to details.
3. Pay attention to time passing in relation to the time allotment.
4. Don’t get distracted by other testers in the room.
5. Eliminate the answers that you know are wrong.
6. If you come across a question that is difficult, don't spend all of your time on it. Move on and come back to it at the end.
7. Don't second guess yourself by changing your first answers unless you are 100% certain.
8. Don't fall into the trap of looking for patterns in the answers. There really can be three (or more) "C" answers in a row.
9. When you are finished, look closely to make sure that you haven't overlooked any questions and JUST DO YOUR BEST!!!!

After the test:
1. Talk to your child about his or her feelings about the test, making sure you acknowledge the effort such a task requires.
2. Discuss what was easy and what was hard; discuss what your child learned from the test.
3. Discuss what changes your child would make if he or she were to retake the test.
4. Explain that performance on a test is not a condition for you to love your child. You love your child just for the person he or she is.

The 2021 state test is now named OCBA (formerly known as AIRS). Please take note of the testing weeks and grade levels currently planned. There will be more specific details shared with you when the test dates get a little more closer. Be sure you mark the dates below as you make your future family appointments Classroom teachers will send a REMIND for the exact date and times.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Grade levels Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 22-26</td>
<td>3,4,5,6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 29-30</td>
<td>7,8</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Make-ups</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2-9</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 12-13</td>
<td>Make-ups</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 19-23</td>
<td>Math 3,4,5,6</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 26-27</td>
<td>Math 7,8</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 29-30</td>
<td>Science 5,8</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 3-4</td>
<td>Make-ups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 6-7</td>
<td>Make-ups</td>
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</tbody>
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Testing Schedule ~ELA OCBA

Testing Schedule ~Math & Science OCBA

For your scholar’s grade level, please click on the following link for practice test questions and it will also give you an idea as a parent what the test questions are like: https://oh.portal.cambiumast.com/users/students-and-families.stml

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact your classroom teacher as well as the Title I Teachers: Ms. McElroy in grades K-3 Travelle.McElroy@youngstown.k12.oh.us and Ms. Bernard in grades 4-8 Regina.Bernard@youngstown.k12.oh.us. The best way to reach during our Hybrid/Remote learning schedule is to send an email to the Title Teacher and/or a Remind message to your student’s classroom teacher. We will be happy to assist you in any way we can! Thank you for the opportunity to service your scholars!