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School District

NEWS



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YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD PREPARE FOR STANDARDIZED TESTS

By Dr. R. Scott Pierce, Superintendent of Schools

Tests are important, especially to school children. A test may measure a basic skill. Other tests measure the ability to learn, and basic skills the child has already acquired. Regardless of the kind of test, it is always important for children to try their best on tests.



Tests are yardsticks. Schools use them to measure, and then improve education. Some tell schools that they need to strengthen courses or change teaching techniques. Other tests compare students by schools, school districts, or cities. All tests determine how well “your child” is doing. And that’s very important.

We are all keenly aware of the increasing emphasis on standardized testing for children and the greater emphasis that will be placed on standardized testing in the future. With the introduction of the new federal law, “No Child Left Behind” that was signed by President Bush in January of 2002, beginning in the 2002-03 school year, schools must administer tests in each of three grade spans: grades 3-5, grades 6-9, and grades 10-12 in all schools. Beginning in the 2005-06 school year, tests must be administered every year in grades 3 through 8 in math and reading. Beginning in the 2007-08 school year, science achievement must also be tested. As parents, we should keep in mind how we may help our children prepare for these tests.

In the coming months many children in the Jefferson School District will take “**standardized**” tests. These use the same standards to measure student performance across the country. Everyone takes the same test according to the same rules. This makes it possible to measure each student’s performance against that of others. The group with whom a student’s performance is compared is a “norm group” and consists of many students of the same age or grade who took the same test.

It’s good to be concerned about taking a test. It’s not good to get “**test anxiety**.” Excessive worry about doing well on a test can mean disaster for a student. Students who suffer from test anxiety tend to worry about success in school, about the future, and can be extremely self-critical. Instead of feeling challenged by the prospect of

success, they become afraid of failure. This makes them anxious about tests and their own abilities. Ultimately, they become so worked up that they feel incompetent about the subject matter or the test.

Long-term Strategy

To help children prepare adequately for tests (whether teacher-made or standardized), you can do several things to provide support and create a positive test-taking experience.

1. The best way to prepare for tests is to study, know the work, and take the right courses.
2. If your child is nervous at test time, ask her/his teacher for tips on helping her/him relax.
3. Make sure that your child is in school during the testing sessions. Do not plan any doctor or dental appointments on test dates.
4. Make sure that you are aware of your child’s performance and that you can help interpret the results when they become available.
5. Remember to keep well-informed about your child’s tests. Know how test results are used, and how they

Senior Citizens' Lunch Days

November 6 & 20 - 11:00 a.m.

Jefferson High School (675-1100) or
Sullivan Elementary School (675-1500)

See back page for menu items.

will affect your child's placement in school.

6. If there are major differences between standardized test scores and school grades, find out why.
7. Encourage your child to study over a period of time rather than "cram" the night before.

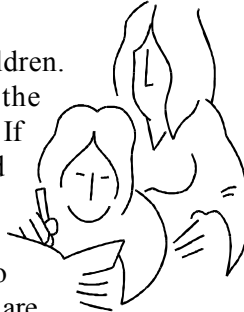
The Day of the Test

8. Encourage your child to listen carefully to all test-taking directions given by the teacher and to ask questions about any directions that are unclear.
9. See that your child gets her/his regular amount of sleep before the tests and is well-rested.
10. Make sure that your child eats her/his usual breakfast on the day of the test. Hunger can detract from a good test performance.
11. Encourage your child to do her/his best.

Tips for Parents

You can be a great help to your children if you observe these **do's** and **don't's** about tests and testing:

- Don't be too anxious about a child's test scores. If you put too much emphasis on test scores, this can upset a child.
- Do encourage children. Praise them for the things they do well. If they feel good about themselves, they will do their best. Children who are afraid of failing are more likely to become anxious when taking tests and more likely to make mistakes.
- Don't judge a child on the basis of a single test score. Test scores are not perfect measures of what a child can do. There are many other things that might influence a test score. For example, a child can be affected by the way he or she is feeling, the setting in the classroom, or the memory of a problem at home



or on the playground.

- **Talk to your child's teacher** when problems arise. Ask the teacher to suggest activities for you and your child to do at home to help prepare for tests and improve your child's understanding of schoolwork. Parents and teachers do their best work together.
- It's important for children to **review test results**. This is especially true when they take teacher-made tests. You and the child should read and discuss all comments written by the teacher. If there are any comments that aren't clear, the child should ask the teacher to explain.

By keeping in mind a few simple strategies as our child(ren) prepare for testing in the weeks to come, it will help your child *and* yourself toward a valuable experience.

Should you have any questions about the testing that will be occurring in the weeks to come, feel free to contact your child's teacher or your building principal.

TESTING ARTICLE REFERENCES: www.familyeducation.com and <http://pmct.org/helpsucceed/testing.html>

2003-04 OPEN ENROLLMENT TIMELINES

For parents and/or students who are considering open enrollment for next school year, the following information is provided.

What is Public School Open Enrollment?

Wisconsin's inter-district public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend school districts other than the one in which they live.

Who may participate?

Wisconsin residents in 5-year-old kin-

dergarten to grade 12 may apply to participate in open enrollment. Students in prekindergarten may participate only in limited circumstances; parents should call their resident school district administrator to find out if their preschool-aged children qualify.

How and when may parents apply?

Parents must submit application forms to the nonresident school district during a three-week period in February. For the 2003-2004 school year, parents must apply no earlier than February 3, 2003, and no later than February 21, 2003. Late

applications will not be accepted for any reason. A student may apply to no more than three non-resident school districts.

Application forms may be obtained (after December 16, 2002) from any school district or from the Department of Public Instruction.

The following parental timelines should be carefully reviewed and followed:

February 3 to February 21, 2003

- Parent submits application to non-resident school district. Application may include request to attend specific school. Application includes

request for transportation assistance for low-income parents.

On or before April 11, 2003

- Non-resident school district must notify applicant, in writing, of whether it has accepted the application.
- Resident school board must notify the applicant and the non-resident school district, in writing, if it denies the application.

April and May, 2003

- Parent may appeal a rejection or denial to the DPI **within 30 days after receiving the decision.**

On or before May 16, 2003

- Non-resident school district notifies the applicant, in writing, of the specific school or program the pupil may attend.
- DPI provides each parent requesting transportation assistance an estimate of the amount of reimbursement the parent will receive.

On or before June 6, 2003

- Parents whose applications were accepted must notify non-resident district whether the pupil will attend the

non-resident district in the following school year.

July, 2003

- Parents requesting part-time enrollment for a course beginning in the first semester must apply no later than six weeks before the starting date of the course.

August, 2003

- Non-resident district must notify applicant of acceptance or rejection for part-time open enrollment no later than one week before start of the course.
- Resident school district must:
 - Notify applicants of denial for participation in part-time open enrollment.
 - Notify applicants if course does not satisfy high school graduation requirements.

August & September, 2003

- Parent may appeal a rejection or denial of a part-time open enrollment application to the DPI within 30 days after receiving the decision.

the time to attend parent/teacher conferences.

This year's conferences are scheduled as follows:

Elementary & Middle School:

November 14 & 21, 4-8:00 p.m.

High School:

November 14 & 19, 4-8:00 p.m.

Parents are encouraged to visit the schools.

JHS DRAMA DEPT. TO PRESENT:

Ten Little Indians

(an Agatha Christie Mystery)

November 7-9

7:00 p.m.

HS Auditorium

Tickets: \$5.00 - Adults

\$4.00 - Students & Senior
Citizens

SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

Parents are reminded that schools may be closed or dismissed early on days when the weather presents hazardous conditions. Please refer to the following resources for up-to-date school closing information:



- WFAW, 940 AM, Fort Atkinson
- WSJY, 107.3 FM, Fort Atkinson
- WTTN, 1580 AM, Watertown
- WTMJ, 620 AM/Channel 4, Milwaukee
- WMTV, Channel 15, Madison
- WTSO, 1070 AM, Madison
- WSLD, 104.5 FM, Whitewater
- Log on to: www.cancellations.com
- Dial the district's **News and Information Service Line** (Dial any school telephone number, listen to the prompts, and dial the number indicated for the News & Information Service.)

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK



MAKING PUBLIC SCHOOLS GREAT FOR EVERY CHILD!

TEACHERS & EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS
November 17-23, 2002 • ESP Day November 20, Wednesday, 2002

During the week of November 17-23, public school districts across the nation will be celebrating American Education Week. It is a time to reflect on the many accomplishments of our students and staff.

If you have an opportunity, please take time to visit our schools to see the many wonderful initiatives taking place.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

One of the indicators of success for children in school is the level of parent interest/involvement in education. Although parent contact with school personnel should not be limited only to parent conferences, these are important events. Whether your children are enrolled at the elementary, middle, or high school levels, please take

MENUS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p><i>Lunch menu includes assorted fresh vegetables with dip and fresh fruit.</i></p>			<p><i>Breakfast menu includes juice or fruit.</i></p> <p><i>All meals include choice of milk.</i></p> <p><i>*Item may contain pork.</i></p>	
<p>4</p> <p><u>Breakfast:</u> Mini Bagels & Ham</p> <p><u>Lunch:</u> Hamburger, French Fries, Mixed Vegetables, Peaches</p>	<p>5</p> <p><u>Breakfast:</u> Biscuit, Scrambled Eggs</p> <p><u>Lunch:</u> French Toast, Hash Browns, Cheese Omelette, Pineapple</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Senior Citizens' Lunch Day</p> <p><u>Breakfast:</u> Pancakes and *Sausage</p> <p><u>Lunch:</u> Chicken & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Roll, Fruit Cocktail</p>	<p>7</p> <p><u>Breakfast:</u> *Breakfast Pocket</p> <p><u>Lunch:</u> Chickenburger, Cauliflower w/Cheese, Pears</p>	<p>1</p> <p><u>Breakfast:</u> Hard Boiled Egg, Tater Tots</p> <p><u>Lunch:</u> Grilled Cheese, Tomato Soup, Green Beans, Cake</p>
<p>11</p> <p><u>Breakfast:</u> Egg Burrito</p> <p><u>Lunch:</u> Hot Dog, Tater Tots, Baked Beans, Peaches</p>	<p>12</p> <p><u>Breakfast:</u> Bagel w/Cheese</p> <p><u>Lunch:</u> *Soft Shell Taco, Corn, Cinnamon Churro, Juice</p>	<p>13</p> <p><u>Breakfast:</u> Waffle Sticks</p> <p><u>Lunch:</u> SACK LUNCH: *Sandwich, Applesauce, Carrots, Yogurt</p>	<p>14</p> <p><u>Breakfast:</u> Donut Day</p> <p><u>Lunch:</u> Chicken Nuggets, Broccoli w/Cheese, Sliced Bread, Pears</p>	<p>8</p> <p><u>Breakfast:</u> Cinnamon Oatmeal</p> <p><u>Lunch:</u> *Pizza, Garden Salad, Orange Wedges, Cookie MS & HS: Ravioli w/Cheese</p>
<p>18</p> <p><u>Breakfast:</u> Hard Boiled Egg, Tater Tots</p> <p><u>Lunch:</u> *Mini Corn Dogs, Curly Fries, Peaches, Mixed Veggies</p>	<p>19</p> <p><u>Breakfast:</u> Pop Tart or Cereal</p> <p><u>Lunch:</u> *Nachos w/Meat & Cheese, Corn, Red Grapes</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Senior Citizens' Lunch Day</p> <p><u>Breakfast:</u> Pancakes & *Sausage</p> <p><u>Lunch:</u> *Stromboli w/Sauce, Cauliflower w/Cheese, Fruit Cocktail</p>	<p>21</p> <p><u>Breakfast:</u> Muffin and Cereal</p> <p><u>Lunch:</u> Chickenburger, Cauliflower w/Cheese, Pears</p>	<p>15</p> <p><u>Breakfast:</u> Peanut Butter & Jelly Saucer</p> <p><u>Lunch:</u> Cheese Sticks w/Sauce, Mixed Vegetables, Apple Wedges</p>
<p>25</p> <p><u>Breakfast:</u> Bagel with Cheese</p> <p><u>Lunch:</u> Cheeseburger, Potato Wedges, Peaches</p>	<p>26</p> <p><u>Breakfast:</u> Sweet Soft Pretzel</p> <p><u>Lunch:</u> Sloppy Joe, Cauliflower w/Cheese, Pears, Ice Cream</p>	<p>27</p> <p><u>Breakfast:</u> French Toast</p> <p><u>Lunch:</u> Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Peas, Sliced Bread, Fruit Cocktail</p>	<p>28</p> <p><u>NO SCHOOL</u></p>	<p>22</p> <p><u>Breakfast:</u> Stuffed Graham Crackers, Yogurt</p> <p><u>Lunch:</u> *Pizza, Garden Salad, Orange Wedges, Cookie MS & HS: Meatball Sub</p>
<p>29</p> <p><u>NO SCHOOL</u></p>	<p>29</p> <p><u>NO SCHOOL</u></p>	<p>29</p> <p><u>NO SCHOOL</u></p>	<p>29</p> <p><u>NO SCHOOL</u></p>	<p>29</p> <p><u>NO SCHOOL</u></p>

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS:
NOVEMBER**

- 1 * G VB Sectional (H)
- 2 * V FB WIAA Level 2 Playoff
- * B Soccer Sectional @ McFarland
- * G Swimming @ Platteville
- * G VB Sectional @ Mount Horeb
- * CC State @ Wisc. Rapids
- 4 * 8th B BB (H); 7th @ Watertown
- 5 * **ELECTION DAY**
- * MS PTO Mtg., 7:00 p.m., MS Cafeteria
- 6 * End of First Quarter
- 7 * 8th B BB (H); 7th @ L. Mills
- * HS Fall Play, 7:00 p.m., Auditorium
- * B Soccer State @ Madison
- * G VB State @ Neenah
- 8 * V FB WIAA Level 3 Playoff
- * HS Fall Play, 7:00 p.m., Auditorium
- * B Soccer State @ Madison
- * G VB State @ Neenah

**SULLIVAN ELEM. BOOK FAIR:
Nov. 8 - 14**

**WEST ELEM. BOOK FAIR:
Nov. 11 - 22**

**AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK:
Nov. 17 - 23**

**THANKSGIVING BREAK:
Nov. 28 - 29 (No School)**

- 9 * V FB WIAA level 3 Playoff
- * HS Fall Play, 7:00 p.m., Auditorium
- * B Soccer State @ Madison
- * G Swimming Sectional @ Cudahy
- * G VB State @ Neenah
- 11 * Sullivan PATHS Mtg., 3:15 p.m., Sullivan Cafeteria
- * JHS Booster Club Mtg., 7:00 p.m., Room M1 @ HS
- 12 * 8th B BB @ Fort; 7th (H)
- * West P.A.T.H.S. Mtg., 6:30 p.m., West Library
- 13 * **3 Hour Early Dismissal**
- 14 * **P/T Conferences: Elem., MS & HS, 4-8:00 p.m**

- * East PTO Mtg., 6:30 p.m., Library
- 15 * V FB WIAA Level 4 Playoff
- * G Swimming State @ Madison
- 16 * V FB WIAA Level 4 Playoff
- 18 * HS National Honor Society Induction, 7:30 p.m., Auditorium
- 19 * **HS P/T Conferences, 4-8 p.m.**
- * 7th & 8th B BB @ J. Creek
- * G BB (H) Oregon
- 21 * **P/T Conferences, Elem. & MS, 4-8:00 p.m.**
- * V FB WIAA State Tournament
- 22 * V FB WIAA State Tournament
- * G BB @ Evansville
- 25 * **School Board Mtg., 7:00 p.m., HS Library**
- 26 * Flu Shot Vaccines, 2-4:00 p.m., HS Cafeteria
- * 8th B BB @ L. Mills; 7th (H)
- * G BB @ L. Mills
- 29 * **Newsletter in Advertiser**
- 30 * B BB (H) Monona Grove