

March 30, 2010

Dear Parents of 5th Graders,

We are one week away from the 5th grade Math and Reading TAKS Test. The Math portion will be April 6th and the Reading portion on April 7th, 2010. The state of Texas mandates that all students in the 5th grade be assessed in their level of mastery of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). During the course of this semester, students enrolled in the 5th grade are required to take the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS).

Due to heightened security of testing procedures and policies, we request that you not eat lunch with your student on testing days. Students will be required to have silent lunches during the TAKS test. The office will not be calling or interrupting classrooms during testing except for emergencies. Please be sure to send your child a lunch if they are bringing their lunch on testing days. Otherwise, lunches will be available in the cafeteria. We will provide a snack for students each day of testing.

We will begin testing at 8:30 AM and continue throughout the day. Students will be allowed to test all day. If your child needs more time than the regular school day they will be allowed to test until 5:00 PM. Parents will be called before school lets out and arrangements will be made for you to pick up your child.

We ask that you not schedule your child for any appointments on April 6th or 7th. Students in the 5th grade are required to pass the Math and Reading portions of the TAKS Test to be promoted to the 6th grade.

Please review the following hints and reminders with your child the night before the TAKS test:

- Eat a healthy dinner and drink lots of water (Monday and Tuesday night)
- Go to bed early the night before each test
- Eat a healthy breakfast at home or in the school cafeteria
- Bring several sharpened # 2 pencils (**no mechanical pencils**)
- Arrive at school by 8:00 AM**
- Bring a reading book for after the test

Test taking strategies:

- Take your time – you have all day-read the problems and passages as many times as needed
- Read all of the questions and passages slowly and carefully
- Look up and prove all answers for Reading Test
- Finish test and circle answers in the test booklet **before** filling in bubble sheets (scantrons)

Test Taking Expectation:

- All students will do their best
- Students will not cause any distractions that might impact other test takers
- Students will follow all expectations and guidelines throughout the testing day

I have great confidence in our students. I know that your child has been prepared and will be successful. Please review this letter the night before testing and help us have a great testing day.

Respectfully,

Conrad Streeter - Principal