

February 26, 2010

Dear Parents,

On **Monday, March 8th**, we will begin the **Iowa Tests of Basic Skills**. These tests will be given each day of that week until **Friday, March 12th**. **Third and Sixth grades** will begin the week prior beginning on **Tuesday, March 2** and work for two weeks. These grades take the additional cognitive tests. These standardized tests are very important as they help us identify our school's and students' strengths and areas for growth. We want all the children to do their best so we can target our instruction toward their needs. Therefore, I am writing to ask your cooperation in seeing that your child comes to school well prepared.

We ask that students get enough rest, eat breakfast before coming to school and arrive at school on time. This is very important as the testing begins promptly at 8:15 a.m. and will continue through break. **Students who come later than that will miss the first part of that day's test and will not be able to make up the missed portions.** The regular academic schedule will continue after break when all classes have finished their testing.

Students should come prepared by bringing **two number 2 pencils** with erasers, already sharpened and a book to read while waiting for the next section to begin. Also, please send in nutritious food as sugary foods for breakfast and snack can lead to a sugar crash once metabolized.


Teachers will not assign tests during March 8 through March 12. However, several classes have projects assigned at an earlier date, and it is fine for students to continue their work on these. No new projects or tests will be given during this week. Short homework assignments may be assigned.

Parents, scout leaders, and coaches are asked to curtail all evening activities and practices after 6:00 p.m. from March 8th – 12th and in addition, March 2nd – 5th (3rd & 6th). This is so the children will be able to focus completely on the testing and get plenty of rest.

Tests will be made up only in case of serious illness or other unusual circumstances. Testing **will not** be made up for students who are tardy, choose to travel or take off during this week for appointments or other events that can be rescheduled.

Last, the children can feel pressure thinking that they should know all the answers or that this tests tells them how "smart" they are. Please encourage them to try their best as the results are important but to not panic. The results are not who they are, just the areas where they should continue to focus their learning and we can support them by targeting our teaching.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Peace

Tracey Williamson
Administrative Support Team

TW/jnv