

Test Taking Tips for Parents

What are standards-based tests?



The DoDEA standards-based test is called Terra Nova. Terra Nova is a norm-referenced achievement test developed by CTB/McGraw Hill. It contains a battery of questions designed to assess specific skills in each core subject area and determine whether your child's performance meets specific standards.

How can you minimize Test Anxiety?



Let your child know that it is normal to be nervous about the "unknown", but the more he/she knows about the test the less nervous he/she will feel.

How can students gain confidence in test-taking?



The KEYS to replacing stress with a feeling of confidence are:

- Know what to expect
 - ❖ Monday: Reading Parts 1-3
 - ❖ Tuesday: Reading Part 4
Language Arts Part 1&2
 - ❖ Wednesday: Math Parts 1-3
 - ❖ Thursday: Science Part 1 and 2
 - ❖ Friday: Social Studies Part 1 and 2

What types of questions will be on the tests?



- Know what types of questions will be asked
 - ❖ Multiple Choice
 - ❖ Fill in the Blank
 - ❖ Short Answer
 - ❖ Open Response

Encourage your child to read all the choices for multiple choice questions and then use the process of elimination to *eliminate* incorrect responses. This will help them make an informed choice or a good guess when they feel they do not know the answer. A strategy for short answer and fill in the blank is to read the question first before reading the passage.

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		<p>This will help your child to look for clues during reading of a passage or a math problem solving question.</p> <p>Open response questions require a paragraph or multiple sentences for the answer. Encourage your child to write in complete sentences and use details to support their answer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Know there will be some challenges</u> <p>This test will have some questions designed to challenge the limits of your child's knowledge. Some of the questions will be at a grade level <i>above</i> their current grade level.</p>
<p>Will there be enough time to do all that is required?</p>		<p>Students will have enough time if they maintain a consistent pace throughout the test. They should not get "bogged-down" on any one question. Encourage your child to answer every question (make their best guess if necessary) and then go back and check as time permits. They can come back to a tricky question in a section but they should make their best guess before they go on to another question. They are not allowed to work ahead in another section, to go back and check or to finish a previous section once the time for a section is over. This makes it important for your child to pace themselves, answer each question confidently and then move on at a consistent pace.</p>
<p>What should you do on the nights and days of the test?</p>		<p>Be sure your child has adequate rest and a healthy breakfast. The night before follow a normal routine and try to have an enjoyable evening (watch a movie or play games). Send your child to school with some words of encouragement and make sure he/she is relaxed, confident and positive.</p>