

Good Afternoon,

We are in our final weeks of preparation for the Performance Based Assessment (PBA) portion of the PARCC assessment (Math and English Language Arts Tests) as well as the AIR (Science and Social Studies Tests). As a reminder, all first time freshmen (enrolled after July 1, 2014) will take the upcoming performance based assessment for Mathematics, English Language Arts, and Physical Science. Students currently enrolled in US History and/or Government this school year will take the upcoming PBA.

It is critically important for your child to be in school, on time, on testing days. All appointments should be scheduled around the testing dates. Make-ups will be scheduled for absences, but it is always in the best interest of the student to test within the original testing window. Our teachers have been collaborating and using best practice instruction and assessments to prepare our students for higher education. This instruction, at times, utilizes technology into a blended learning environment which helps prepare our students for our ever-changing technological world. These practices also coincide with how to prepare for Ohio's Next Generation Assessments. We are confident that the teaching our staff is currently utilizing will enable our students to experience success in future endeavors as well as state testing. While our teachers are preparing students at school, we will be asking for your help at home as well:

- Ensure your child has headphones that they bring to school during testing
- Ensure your child charges their Chromebook fully at home the night before a test (do not plug other devices into the Chromebook to charge as this drains the life of the battery)
- Ensure your child has at least 8 hours of sleep
- Ensure your child eats breakfast
- Ensure your child attends school, ON TIME, on all testing dates-avoid making appointments during this time

On following pages of this document you will find our PBA testing calendar and our daily bell schedule for testing. Furthermore, you will find some helpful tips on how you can help your student prepare for the upcoming exams. Again, I am confident in the work our teachers do on a daily basis to help prepare our students for their futures!! Please do not hesitate to contact our Guidance Department @ 440-285-4060 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Andrew R. Fetchik

Monday 3/2/15	Tuesday 3/3/15	Wednesday 3/4/15	Thursday 3/5/15	Friday 3/6/15
ELA PBA I	Mathematics PBA I	ELA PBA II	Mathematics PBAII	ELA PBA III
Monday 3/9/15	Tuesday 3/10/15	Wednesday 3/11/15	Thursday 3/12/15	Friday 3/13/15
AIR TESTING -PHYSICAL SCIENCE -US HISTORY -GOVERNMENT	MAKEUP TESTS (Normal Tues. Schedule)	MAKEUP TESTS (Normal Bell Schedule)	MAKEUP TESTS (Normal Bell Schedule)	MAKEUP TESTS (Normal Bell Schedule)

Bell Schedule for PARCC and AIR testing March 2nd -March 9th

PARCC/AIR Testing Schedule		
Testing	7:30 AM	9:00 AM
1st Period	9:03 AM	9:37 AM
2nd Period	9:41 AM	10:15 AM
3rd Period	10:19 AM	10:53 AM
4th Period	10:57 AM	11:31 AM
5th Period	11:35 AM	11:57 AM
6th Period	12:01 PM	12:23 PM
7th Period	12:27 PM	12:49 PM
8th Period	12:53 PM	1:15 PM
9th Period	1:19 PM	1:53 PM
10th Period	1:57 PM	2:31 PM

Standardized tests play a major role in today's schooling. Odds are your child will take two or more standardized tests each year and it is important that he/she do his/her best.

The state tests your student takes in High School really do matter — they're an important way to monitor how your child's learning is progressing. When students perform well on the state tests of reading, writing, science, history, government, and mathematics, it is an indicator that they are on track for graduation and are progressing towards the ultimate goal of becoming college and career ready.

How you can help your child prepare: Successful test-takers tend to be students with good attendance, homework, and study habits; therefore, your daily assistance with homework and attitude toward school has the biggest impact on your child's performance.

Optimize brain power. Teachers say the students who struggle the most on testing days are the ones who didn't have **enough sleep** or a **good breakfast** the day of the test. Make sure that your child is in school during the testing sessions. Do not plan any doctor or dental appointments on test dates.

Encourage good study habits and challenge critical thinking skills. Good reading skills factor heavily in a timed test, so encourage reading as much as possible. Testing also measures **critical-thinking ability**, so ask him/her to discuss ideas or voice his/her opinion often to stimulate these thought processes.

Look at your child's past performance. If your student scored low in a particular area, you may want to provide exercises which reinforce that subject. Aim for activities that simulate the testing experience, such as multiple choice math questions or vocabulary practice that asks him/her to identify antonyms or synonyms. Avoid areas where your child excels; you run the risk of boring him/her and losing patience with testing.

Provide practice opportunities. You can access the "PARCC Practice Test" online at <http://parconline.org/takethe-test>. "AIR Practice Tests" can be accessed online at <http://oh.portal.airast.org/ocba/students-and-families/>. It is important to note that we have been busy providing practice opportunities in class during the weeks leading up to the exams. Be sure to time any practice tests so he/she is not surprised by time constraints on test day. Start practicing several weeks before the date and keep study sessions short. Setting small goals will help your child measure their progress and boost their confidence. Make sure your child takes the night off before the test – cramming may increase their stress level.

Review test-taking strategies. Encourage your child to listen carefully to all test-taking directions given and to ask questions about any directions that are unclear. Advise your child to go through the test question by question. When answering multiple choice questions, look for key words such as "always" or "never," which often indicate that the question or a potential answer is false or incorrect.