

The Parent Post

Parent Involvement, Title I

Volume VIII, Issue 3

Welcome to The Parent Post! This newsletter is published four times per year and sent home with students being served with Title I funds at Douglas County schools. These schools include Annette Winn Elementary, Beulah Elementary, Bright Star Elementary, Burnett Elementary, Eastside Elementary, Factory Shoals Elementary, Lithia Springs Elementary, North Douglas Elementary, Stewart Middle, Sweetwater Elementary, Turner Middle and Youth Villages - Inner Harbour Campus. For more information, please contact Patti Sullivan at (770) 651-2118 or email patti.sullivan@douglas.k12.ga.us

Testing Tips for Parents and Students

By Pam Bates, Instructional Lead Teacher, Lithia Springs Elementary School and
Barbara Lark, Parent Outreach Facilitator, Lithia Springs Elementary School

Parents it's time to get a jumpstart on preparing your students for our upcoming Georgia Milestones Assessment in April! As a parent, there are a number of ways that you can support your child before and during the time they are taking a standardized test.

Below are some helpful tips for early preparation that you can incorporate into your student's daily routine:

On a Daily Basis:

- Assist with and check your students homework assignments
- Make sure your students are in attendance and prepared for a day of learning
- Stay in communication with your child's teacher
- Read with your students
- Play educational games as well as watch TV programs that will enhance their knowledge
- Stress the importance of reading and following directions
- Remind students to always ask for help if needed from their teachers about classroom assignments

During Testing:

It is very important to ensure your child has plenty of sleep and eats a healthy breakfast on testing days. Students who do not have a good night sleep and/or eat a well-balanced breakfast will not perform at their full capacity. To ensure that this does not happen, please assist students in preparing for a good night sleep and eating a well-balanced breakfast the mornings of testing.

Staying calm before, during, and after testing will help your child stay calm. Children can become nervous about taking a standardized test and some are likely to experience anxiety during the test. Parents can help by practicing some relaxation techniques to try once testing has begun. It is important to be supportive of your child's efforts on standardized tests, and to help them do their best.

Remember: Your attitude towards testing may become your child's attitude, so it's important to stay positive!

Finally, as you help your child to do their best on the tests they take and in all of their schoolwork, also remind them that testing is just one part of their education. With your support and involvement, they will be well on their way to a bright future.

Dr. Gordon Pritz
Superintendent

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Lisa Dunnigan
Title I Director

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Patti Sullivan
**Parent Outreach
Specialist**

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“It’s Time to Show What You Know”

By Tameka Scott, Instructional Lead Teacher, Sweetwater Elementary School

Welcome to our favorite time of the year – end-of-grade testing! Actually, I don’t know anyone who loves the testing process, but it’s necessary, and it gives our kids a chance to show what they know and gives our teachers validation for all their hard work over the last year.

What test will my student take? The Georgia Milestones Assessment System (Georgia Milestones) is a comprehensive summative assessment program spanning grades 3 through high school.

Features the Georgia Milestone Assessment System include:

- ◆ open-ended (constructed-response) items in English Language Arts and mathematics (all grades and courses);
- ◆ a writing component (in response to passages read by students) at every grade level and course within the English Language Arts assessment;
- ◆ norm-referenced items in all content areas and courses, to complement the criterion-referenced information and to provide a national comparison; and
- ◆ transition to online administration over time, with online administration considered the primary mode of administration and paper-pencil as back-up until the transition is complete.

What is the purpose of the Georgia Milestones Assessment? The Georgia Milestones Assessment System is designed to provide information about how well students are mastering the state-adopted content standards in the core content areas of English Language Arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Importantly, Georgia Milestones is designed to provide students with critical information about their own achievement and their readiness for their next level of learning – be it the next grade, the next course, or endeavor (college or career).

Informing parents, educators, and the public about how well students are learning important content is an essential aspect of any educational assessment and accountability system. Parents, the public, and policy makers, including local school districts and boards of education, can use the results as a barometer of the quality of educational opportunity provided throughout the state of Georgia.

As such, Georgia Milestones serves as a key component of the state’s accountability system – the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI).

When will my child be tested?

- ◆ Grades 3-8 (End of Grade or EOG) will be tested April 11-21. Students in Grades 3-4 and 6-7 will not be assessed in Science and Social Studies.
- ◆ Grades 9-12 (End of Course or EOC) will be tested April 24- May 9.

How are the test results used? The Georgia Milestones will be used as one of the criteria for promotion in certain grade levels. The results of the Georgia Milestones are also an important part of the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) score that each school receives. The CCRPI is like a yearly report card for a school and shows how successful the school is in many areas. We want all of our schools to have high CCRPI scores! Teachers are also affected personally by their students’ scores on the Georgia Milestones because student growth shown by standardized testing is now a part of every teacher’s job evaluation.

What can I do to help my child prepare for this test? Testing can be stressful for some children. Try to keep your

child as calm and positive as you can. A great attitude can go a long way! As you would on any school day, make sure your child has a good night's sleep and a substantial breakfast. Remind your child that he or she has been working all year on the skills that will be tested and that you feel sure the teacher has done a terrific job of preparing the class. If you would like for your child to have additional practice at home, ask your teacher for advice and log-in information for websites like MyOn and iLearn. Any practice and review tied to standards for your child's grade level will be helpful. You can also visit the Parent Resource Center and check out electronic devices like Study Buddies that will give your child valuable practice. There are some wonderful free websites such as www.readtheory.org for reading comprehension and www.ilearn.com for math. To see sample questions for the Georgia Milestones in the online format, you can go to <http://www.gaexperienceonline.com/>. For practice questions by grade level, go to www.georgiaaoas.org and click on "parents" for log in information.

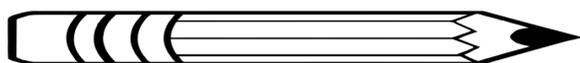
If you want to know more ... You can find additional information about the Georgia Milestones test on the Georgia Department of Education website. Go to <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/Georgia-Milestones-Assessment-System.aspx>. On this page you can watch an informative video, and under Helpful Resources, you can access the Georgia Milestones Parent Question and Answer Brochure and the Parents' Guide to New Tests in Georgia which is published by the National PTA. Both of these documents contain excellent information. If you're feeling really ambitious, you can take a look at the Georgia Milestones EOG Assessment Guides for grades 3-8, also under Helpful Resources. On this GADOE webpage, you can also link to many other presentations and documents. You may end up knowing more about this test than the experts!

Finally ... Encourage your child, work with your child, and trust your child to do the best he or she can on this new test. Please know that your child's teacher, administrators, and the entire staff are doing their best to prepare your child. It's an exciting time to be in education!

Spring 2017 Georgia Milestones Testing Calendars

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Date	Test (Grade)
Tuesday, April 11	ELA Writing (3,4)
Wednesday, April 12	ELA Section 2&3 (3,4)
Thursday, April 13	ELA Writing (5)
Friday, April 14	ELA Section 2&3 (5)
Monday, April 17	Math Section 1&2 (3,4)
Tuesday, April 18	Math Section 1&2 (5)
Wednesday, April 19	Science Section 1&2 (5)
Thursday, April 20	Social Std Section 1&2 (5)



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Date	Test (Grade)
Tuesday, April 11	ELA Writing (6,7,8)
Wednesday, April 12	ELA Section 2&3 (6,7,8)
Thursday, April 13	Math Section 1&2 (6,7,8)
Tuesday, April 18	Science Section 1&2 (8)
Wednesday, April 19	Soc Std Section 1&2 (8)

For more information on the upcoming Georgia Milestones testing, scan here to visit the Douglas County School System Assessment website.



U P C O M I N G W O R K S H O P S

Parents of children being served with Title I funds may attend any workshop, regardless of location.

Annette Winn Elementary School Parent Resource Center

3536 Bankhead Highway, Lithia Springs, GA 30122

Tanyia Clagette (770) 651-3131

K-5 Science Night

Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 5:30 PM

Parents will have the opportunity to do hands-on activities in the classrooms as well as view science projects created by our students. Come and have a great time!

North Douglas Elementary School Parent Resource Center

1630 Dorris Road, Douglasville, GA 30134

Schontal McClary (770) 651-4855

Science Spectacular Night

Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 6:30 PM

Families are invited out for fun science activities and experiments with special guest Mr. Michael Green from *Science for Everyone*. Science projects will also be on display with an awards presentation.

Bright Star Elementary School Parent Resource Center

6300 John West Road, Douglasville, GA 30134

Kanasha Howard (770) 651-3468

Invention Convention

Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 6:00 PM

Join us for a night of science and social studies fun. Come learn about inventors and inventions including hands on experiments.

Sweetwater Elementary School Parent Resource Center

2505 East County Line Road, Lithia Springs, GA 30122

Tameka Scott (770) 651-4659

Testing Tips

Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 9:00 AM and

Thursday, March 16 at 5:30 PM

Hear from our counselor and others about how to support and prepare your child for the upcoming Georgia Milestones Assessment. Learn how the scores impact your child's future. We will also cover testing for GKIDS and CDAs. All parents attending will receive free student workbooks (as long as supplies last).

Burnett Elementary School Parent Resource Center

8277 Connally Drive, Douglasville, GA 30134

Tenia Boone (770) 651-3572 and Cynthia Brooks (770) 651-3533

Burnett's STEAMING in the Right Direction

Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 6:00 PM

STEAM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education. We focus on these areas together not only because the skills and knowledge in each discipline are essential for student success, but also because these fields are deeply intertwined in the real world and in how students learn most effectively.



School-Based Health Center is Open

In August 2016, the Douglas County School System (DCSS) cut the ribbon on the first school based health center in Douglas County. The Family Health Center at Douglas County is in the Burnett Elementary School building located at 8277 Connally Drive, Douglasville. The center provides a full range of healthcare services to help students avoid health-related absences and receive support to succeed in the classroom.

The Family Health Center at Douglas County serves students attending Burnett Elementary, the adjacent Eastside Elementary, Beulah Elementary, Bright Star Elementary, North Douglas Elementary, Stewart Middle and Douglas County High as well as their siblings up to the age of 18 and their pre-school age siblings beginning at age three. The center also serves homeless students across the district and staff and children of staff at noted schools who are enrolled in Douglas County Schools. The center accepts insurance or charges parents for services based on a sliding scale.

Services provided at the clinic include primary care, immunizations, laboratory services, physicals, chronic disease management, health education, nutrition counseling, and behavioral health. The space for the health center includes four exam rooms, a reception area, locked storage, and wheelchair accessibility.

The health center must have parental consent to treat a child and must follow all HIPAA and FERPA laws. FHCGA agrees to hold DCSS harmless from any liability, loss, damage, cost, or expense. DCSS's obligations are limited to providing the facility, utilities, room renovation labor, and the promotion of the health center.

The clinic is open Monday through Friday when school is in session, 7:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m. For more information about the School-Based Health Center in Douglas County, please call (770) 651-2273.