



School Matters

Issue 7

March 2017

The ABC's of the ACT

The ACT has been around since 1959 and referred to as the most important test of a student's career. That is because so much hinges on that score. It indicates preparedness for post-secondary success and can have a great impact on the cost of college. Just a change of 1 point can up the amount of scholarship funds by several thousand funds, depending on the institution. There are 3 simple facts I want to discuss this month at the ACT:

Accountability for ACT scores is not just for high school teachers. In fact, by the time many students become 11th graders, the fundamental skills have already been prepared through the previous 10 or so years of instruction. ACT research shows that younger students who take rigorous curricula are more prepared to graduate from high school ready for college or career. Moreover, our research (The Forgotten Middle, 2008) found that "the level of academic achievement that students attain by 8th grade has a larger impact on their college and career readiness by the time they graduate from high school than anything that happens academically in high school .

Beware of taking time out of instruction to devote to test prep for the ACT. According to the University of Chicago Consortium of Research, "ACT scores are actually lower in school where teachers spend large amounts of class time for test prep." Skills cannot be crammed into a few months. Test scores rely on higher-order analytical and problem solving skills. It takes years of hard

and challenging work to teach those skills.

Curriculum throughout the system must be sequential, meaningful and focused on more than "scratching the surface". Students should be involved in activities that have them defending their point of view, contrasting, comparing and solving problems.



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March



Monthly Celebrations

National Women's History Month

National Nutrition Month

March 1 — Early Release

March 3—Employee Appreciation Day

March 8—International Women's Day

March 11— Johnny Appleseed Day



March 14—National Pi Day



March 17—St. Patrick's Day



March 20—**WELCOME SPRING**

February Starfish Winners

OES ——Christina Tucker, Brittany Puckett, David Mays

Missy Foster

OMS——Sandra Hagler, Tiffany Phillips

OMS /OHS — Stacy Bowling, /Rhonda Walters

OHS— Jodi Jeffers, Catherine Bell

Central Office—Melinda McCartt

