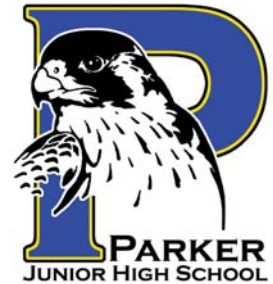


Parker Press

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ISAT 2006

by Vanessa P. Atkins, Ed.D., Principal

Ms. Becky McCabe, Student Assessment Division Administrator for the Illinois State Board of Education sent this information to the Illinois Principals Association to share with Administrators, Faculty, Parents and Students. Illinois will have an "enhanced" Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) for grades 3 through 8. Though this ISAT will still be aligned to State standards, it is being developed and designed to meet the numerous requests and needs of districts and schools. The changes are based on information that has been presented to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) through the Assessment and Accountability Task Force (AATF). This task force worked for two years on Illinois' policy and procedures for the No Child Left Behind legislation.

The key to success on the ISAT is the teaching and learning of the Illinois Learning Standards (ILS). The 2006 ISAT is aligned to the ILS—but for the first time, there are Assessment Frameworks which are "blueprints" of what will be on the ISAT. Every teacher has access to these frameworks—even if they are not teaching in a tested grade. The assessment frameworks are not the curriculum. There is far more that

students need to learn than what is tested on the ISAT.

There are no surprises—teachers will know what is being tested. Every question on the ISAT is aligned to the frameworks.

What Will Be Tested

Students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 will be tested in Reading and Math on the 2006 ISAT. Science will be assessed at grades 4 and 7.

As has been the practice, Illinois teachers have written the test questions. All the questions are written to the objectives in the Illinois Assessment Frameworks. Questions are reviewed and edited by ISBE content staff and contractors. Questions are further reviewed, edited and checked for bias by teachers committees.

ISAT 2006 Testing Schedule

All test sessions are a minimum of 45 minutes in length. However, new for 2006, any student who is actively engaged in testing after 45 minutes has elapsed will be allowed up to an additional 10 minutes to complete that test session. The ISAT test window is from March 13-24, 2006.

The 2006 Reading ISAT for Grades 3-8 include:

Session 1: 6 short passages—30 multiple-choice items total (All 30 items are an abbreviated form of the Stanford 10.)

Session 2: 1 longer passage with 15-18 multiple-choice items; 1 extended response item; 1 functional passage with 3-5 multiple-choice items

Session 3: 1 longer passage with 15-18 multiple-choice items; 1 extended response item; 1 functional passage with 3-5 multiple-choice items

The 2006 Mathematics ISAT for Grades 3-8 include:

Session 1: 40 multiple-choice items (30 of these items are an abbreviated form of the Stanford 10.)

Session 2: 30 multiple-choice items; 3 short-response items

Session 3: 2 extended-response items

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ISAT 2006 Continued

The 2006 Science ISAT for Grades 4 and 7 include:

Session 1: 40 multiple-choice items (30 of these items are an abbreviated form of the Stanford 10.)

Session 2: 40 multiple-choice items

ISAT 2006 Reports

Schools and districts will receive more information about how their students performed on the ISAT 2006. Reports are being developed now and will be introduced to the field as soon as possible.

The data will be reported on how well students did as it relates to the assessment framework. The test will be equated and with more grades being assessed, schools will be able to see how cohorts of students performed over time which will help in school improvement work.

Educators have asked that the state provide more and better information about student performance on the ISAT. Therefore, the ISAT will now have test questions that have been normed nationally. These questions come from the SAT 10 (Stanford Achievement Test) and all align to the assessment framework. By using these normed questions, the state will be able to provide districts and schools with data on how well their student performed nationally.

Nurse's Office Notes by Coleen Carney, School Nurse

Every year many of us encounter the common cold, flu, sinus infection and other respiratory ailments. Without a doctor's diagnosis, it can be difficult to distinguish between these ailments. Here are some helpful hints.

The common cold is caused by a virus and does not respond to antibiotics. The symptoms are often a fever > 101F, runny nose, sore throat, clear nasal secretions and a productive cough. The flu or Influenza, on the other hand, presents with a fever 102-104F, prominent weakness and achy muscles, cough and general malaise. This is also a viral infection of the upper respiratory tract and what many people get a flu shot for yearly. Another common upper respiratory condition is sinus infection. Sinus infection can be either bacterial or viral in nature. Most sinus infections are caused by a virus. And for people whose sinus infections are caused by bacteria, 66% will recover within 10 days without any antibiotic treatment. Symptoms include fever, nasal drainage—sometimes purulent, sinus pressure and often teeth ache in the upper jaw. Treatments for all of these conditions vary and people should contact their doctors to see what is right for them.

As for school, anyone with a fever > 100F should stay home from school. The student can return to school 24 hours AFTER the fever is gone without using medication. If a student is coughing a great deal they should also stay home. While many parents are concerned if their child misses school, a child that is ill cannot learn well. We also prevent the spread of illness by waiting until children are well before sending them back to school. Prevention is the best cure—good handwashing, covering your mouth when coughing, plenty of rest and a healthy diet. Stay Healthy!!



Spring Break
March 27–31
School Resumes
April 3

The administration and staff of Parker Junior High School wish you and your family a safe and happy spring break!

Attendance Procedure

If your child is going to be absent, please remember to call the school to report the absence. The school's attendance phone number is (708) 709-7699 ext. 2051.

Thank you for your cooperation!



Save the Date:
8th Grade Graduation
Monday, June 5, 2006
7:30 p.m.

Homewood-Flossmoor High School Gymnasium

PARKER JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
SCHOOL DISTRICT 161
2810 SCHOOL STREET
FLOSSMOOR, IL 60422