



BILL METZ ELEMENTARY METZ MESSENGER

Our mission is to inspire the pursuit of excellence, one student at a time.

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APRIL 4, 2016

State Testing

Our 3rd-5th grade students will be participating in the state testing from Monday April 11th-April 28th. The state test (CMAS) will help us measure student and school growth and achievement. The students and teachers have worked very hard this year not only to prepare for the test but more importantly to be life-long learners. Please encourage your child to do their best but not to stress about it. It is only a small representation of them and our school.

Students will have one test session a day starting at 8:30am each day. 3rd grade students will take four math and three literacy sessions. 4th grade will take four math, three literacy, and three social studies sessions. 5th grade will take four math, three literacy, and three science sessions.

Please refer to the 'Counselor's Corner' for test preparation tips. Feel free to contact the principal with any questions you may have about the test. You can go to <http://www.parcconline.org/assessments/practice-tests> to actually take a practice test if you want to see what it's like.



Box Tops & Labels for Education Contest

We are wrapping up our classroom contest at the end of April this year. Students can earn points for their class by bringing in Box Tops and/or Labels for Education. The top two classes earn a pizza party and the top class at each grade level earns a root beer float party. Here are some of the top classes so far:

Mrs. Reyes - 619

Mrs. Haga - 428

Mrs. Keeling - 610

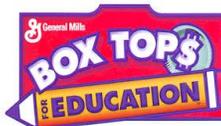
Ms. Claunch - 416

Mr. Torres - 523

Mr. Brooks - 369

Mrs. Torres (4th) - 469

Mrs. Stevenson - 279



IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

- Thursday 4/7 @ 6pm - 3rd grade PE/Music program
- 4/11-4/28 - CMAS testing window
- Thursday 4/14 @ 6pm - Board meeting
- Wednesday 4/27 - Secretary's day
- Thursday 4/28 - PBIS Dance class
- 5/2-5/5 - Teacher Appreciation Week
- Thursday 5/12 - PBIS Spend the Night at School
- Friday 5/27 - Last day of school

School Information

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Principal: Gabe Futrell

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Counselor's Corner

Now that we are in the month of April things will start to be getting very busy with testing right around the corner. To help with that, I am providing some tips that have been helpful in preparing for taking tests.

Be Prepared:

- Help your child practice for the test. Reading is especially important because no matter what the test is, we need to be able to read it. So, try to make sure your children are able to read every day.
- Help your child find a study location. It is important practice for students to have a common place to study and do homework every day. It works even better if this is a quiet place that they can keep all homework materials.
- Make sure to manage the anxiety of both yourself and your child, so that they know that while tests are important, they are not the only important part of their education.

On Test Day:

- Make sure your children get plenty of rest before the test. According to the research, a child between the ages of 7-12 needs 10-11 hours to be rested.
- A healthy breakfast is essential. Studies suggest that good nutrition leads to improved attention and concentration.
- Be positive! If you stay calm and make sure the morning of the test is as relaxing as possible, it will make your children more relaxed as well. If your child is prone to test anxiety, practice some relaxation techniques before the test that can help, such as positive self-talk, belly breathing, and counting.
- Make it to school on time. If your children are on time for school, they are able to settle in before the test time.
- Remind your children to dress comfortably, possibly in layers so that they may adjust to the room's temperature. Being comfortable will make for one less distraction during the test.

Good luck in preparing for these tests! If you need any pointers on test taking strategies, or relaxation techniques, please feel free to ask.



Teacher Requests for Next School Year

It's hard to believe, but we are already thinking about next school year! We start working on class lists for next year soon and encourage parents to fill out a "Education Needs Form" in order to request a specific type of teacher if desired. Please know that we try to honor requests when possible; however, our main concern is to place children in appropriate environments as a whole and not just one student at a time.