



Junior High Headlines

Quarter 3; STATE ASSESSMENT ed. ~ March, 2012

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR; STATE ASSESSMENT SEASON!

The LVS Education Specialists and staff are looking forward to traveling across Kansas to meet our students, Learning Coaches, and their families. We will be testing in: Atchison, Goodland, Hays, Johnson County, Lawrence, Manhattan, Pittsburg, Salina, Topeka, and Wichita.



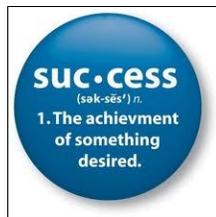
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LVS ASSESSMENT NEWS

HELPING YOUR CHILD BE SUCCESSFUL!



Our LVS students are all engaging in many different activities right now to prepare for the upcoming Kansas State Assessment. As the weeks to prepare are dwindling, you might be asking yourself, "Is there anything else I can be doing to help my child be successful?" The answer is "Yes!" There are *many* things you can do to support your child in having a successful testing experience.

Engage in the Curriculum, Daily

Teaching math and reading every day, as it is intended, is a wonderful way to prepare your child. Meaningful teaching and discussion is important daily. If your child is working on an entire lesson alone and the only interaction you have with them is to grade their work, this is not how K12 or LVS envisions learning. Make sure that your child's learn-

ing is truly meaningful by being there for them as their learning coach.

Prepare the Night Before

Pack your child's backpack the evening before the test (include a book to read, paper, pencils, highlighter, etc.). Making sure they have everything they need will reduce anxiety the morning of the test. It's also a good idea to pack their snacks and lay their clothes out ahead of time.

Also make sure that you have the directions to the testing site. Knowing where you are going will help with commuting anxiety.

Give Encouragement

Most importantly, encourage your child. Reminding your child to do their best, but also to not get too stressed is a difficult balance. Keep positive!



Be Well Rested

Another way to set your child up for success is to make sure that they are well rested. Big slumber parties the

weekend before the state assessment are probably not a wise decision. Since many of you are traveling the morning of the assessments, you may plan for an earlier bedtime the evening before.

Eat a Nutritional Breakfast



A good breakfast is always an excellent way to start the day. Plan ahead to make sure your child will have plenty of nutritious food in their stomach. Your child can also bring snacks to the assessment. Choose those to be nutritious, too.

Arrive Early

Allow enough time to find the testing location, park, enter the building, and find your child(ren)'s room. Give yourself plenty of time in case something doesn't go as planned. Rushing can cause anxiety.

You'll Do Great!



COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS...ANSWERED

What tests will be taken?

- 3rd-8th grade students enrolled in K12 Language Arts will take the Reading Assessment.
- 3rd-8th grade students enrolled in K12 Math will take the Mathematics Assessment.
- 4th and 7th grade students enrolled in K12 Science will take the Science Assessment.
- 6th and 8th grade students enrolled in K12 History will take the Social Studies Assessment

Is the assessment timed?

No, your child can take as long as they need to complete the assessment. Each day, the assessment will be broken into sections. Your child will complete a section and then stop for a break. Then, they will go to the next section. If your child needs more time on a particular section, they can stay a little later.

Can my child bring a snack and drink?

Yes. Between each section, there will be a quick break—to get a drink, go to the restroom, and have a snack if you would like. They cannot have the snack or drink in the testing room to ensure the safety of the computers. Remember to pack a healthy snack and water!

There is so much to prepare for, where should we focus?

If you need to make a choice, focus on preparing for the Reading and Mathematics Assessments. They are the assessments that count toward AYP (Annual Yearly Progress).

What if my child finishes early?

They should bring something they can work on quietly... a book to read, something to draw on, etc.

Where will the parents be during the assessments?

When you arrive, please sign your child in and leave a contact number and /or your location for emergencies. Feel free to run errands, visit a library, etc. as the waiting space for parents will be small. Please know that you CAN stay in the building and work/read/visit with other parents!

What is the test format?

All the questions will be multiple choice. The assessment will look like the KCA formative assessments that our students are currently using.

Can my student use a calculator?

Yes, the first two math sessions allow the use of a calculator. There is an online calculator that students may use when taking the test, but we highly recommend that each

student bring their own calculator, for familiarity sake. Eighth graders will be able to use the calculator on all three sections. It is recommended that eighth grader make sure they have a calculator with a square root button.

What should my student bring?

A calculator, pencils, pens, snacks, drinks, a book, and any other manipulative that they use in their daily instruction. Since this test is not a paper-pencil test, they can bring a writing utensil to work out problems! Scratch paper is provided, but they can bring their own if they would prefer. Premade charts or graphs, such as a math fact chart or reading graphic organizers, are NOT allowed. However, your child can create one on his/her own during the test taking time. If you have a specific question about something that your child would like to bring, please contact your Education Specialist.

Can my child skip questions if they do not know the answer or get stuck?

Yes. When students are stumped by a question, we encourage them to click the 'Mark for Review' button. This will turn the Question Box in the Status Bar yellow and help them remember to return to the question before they 'End the Assessment'.

What if my student has a question during the test?

Please make sure they know they can raise their hand! Education Specialists can not explain word definitions or read a reading passage out loud, but they can assist in reading aloud confusing words, directions, specific problems, or the answer choices. Just hearing it read aloud may help your child get "unstuck".

What is "brain-dumping"?

When your student gets to their testing site, they can walk in the room and use a piece of scratch paper to write notes to themselves (formulas, definitions, etc.) to help them on the test. They can then use the notes they have just created, during the test.

Why does there seem to be so much emphasis on the State Assessments?

LVS is a public institution funded by the state of Kansas. All LVS students are required to participate in this assessment. It is our job to show the state that our students can successfully learn in this environment and one of the only ways to prove this is through meeting the standards on the state assessments.

When will we know the results?

The preliminary results will be shared with you by your Education Specialist the week after your student takes the state assessment. It is difficult to know exactly when you will get the final results, but you should have them by Fall 2012.