

May 3rd, 2010

Dear Hamilton Families,

MSP is coming!

Your child will take the state's new standardized assessment May 13th, 17th, 18th, and 20th. Although the MSP looks a lot like the WASL from years past, there are several differences. Most noticeably, the MSP is shorter than the WASL. Each section has fewer questions and none are extended response. As with the WASL, ***all*** students will take the reading and math assessments; ***7th graders*** will take the writing assessment, and ***8th graders*** will take the science assessment. To find out more about the MSP and how it is different or the same as WASL please visit OSPI's page: <http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/StateTesting/default.aspx>

Hamilton Testing Schedule:

	Thursday, May 13 th	Monday, May 17 th	Tuesday, May 18 th	Wednesday, May 19 th	Thursday, May 20 th
6 th	-No testing	-No testing	Math	-No testing	Reading
7 th	Writing II	Writing I	Math	-No testing	Reading
8 th	Science	-No testing	Math	-No testing	Reading

- ✓ On ***testing*** days, students will test with their first period teacher or in assigned location between 8:05 – 10:35. If students need extended time to complete the test time more time is available.
- ✓ On ***non-testing*** days, like May 13th for 6th grade, students will remain with their first period teacher for the extended testing period while other students are testing.
- ✓ May 19th is an Early Release Day, there will not be testing on this day.
- ✓ May 24th – May 28th is our make-up testing window.

4 Tips for Test Taking!

1. Eat a balanced breakfast. Avoid sugary cereals and pastries; opt instead for a filling, protein packed meal like eggs, oatmeal, yogurt, etc...
2. Get a good night sleep.
3. Be on-time to school, avoid absences if at all possible.
4. Stay hydrated. We encourage students to bring water bottles, no juice or soda.

Tips Everyone Should Know!



Reading and Writing

1. It is a great practice and habit to read *EVERY NIGHT*. Students should read approximately 30 minutes a night; this is the minimum reading a child should do just to *MAINTAIN* their current reading level. If you want them to grow as a reader, they should read an hour.
2. The most common types of reading on the test are articles, auto/biographies, fiction and poetry. Be sure your child is familiar and reading in all genres.
3. Help your child notice reading and writing that is going on in the world (i.e. menus, signs, maps, graphs, charts...); make sure your child know how to read and interpret these things.
4. Play word games like Scrabble, Boggle, crosswords, etc. Tell jokes, riddles, and limericks.
5. Tell lots of family stories and ask your child questions about stories he/she is telling you, especially when they don't seem to make sense. Respond to your child's stories with questions about content. Get them in the habit of telling understandable and detailed stories that get to the point they want to make.

Math

1. Show an interest in the mathematics that your child is working on. For example, have your child share his or her mathematics notebook or homework with you. Ask him or her to explain what mathematics they are working on, try to

focus on not just the “how” but also the “why” a particular process/solution works.

2. Share with your child how you use mathematics at work, at home and in the “real world.” For example, a good place to talk about unit rates is in the grocery store when comparing prices of products.

3. If you would like more information on the test than you would ever want to know, visit:

http://www.k12.wa.us/Mathematics/Assessment/ItemSpec_gr6-8_12-09.pdf

One very useful piece of information in this document is the math vocabulary students need to know by grade-level (6th- p.19; 7th- p.31; 8th- p.42).

4. Catch your student using mathematics effectively and complement them on being a mathematician, building confidence leads to success!