



DAVID CARPENTER, SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Assessment Dates: Students in grades 1-8 will have their understanding and mastery of the grade level standards assessed April 15 - April 21, 2009 by the Georgia Criterion Referenced Competency Test (CRCT). * *Please note the change from the original dates posted.*

Attendance: We are requesting your support in ensuring that your child is present for the administration of the CRCT. Our goal is that each school will obtain 100% attendance ratings during the CRCT administration test window. It is crucial that each student participate and do their best on the assessment. The results from the CRCT provide each of us with valuable information regarding your child's student achievement progress and allows us to adjust our teaching practices to meet the individual needs of each student. Additionally, the results of the CRCT are utilized to determine Adequate Yearly Progress for elementary and middle schools as well as the system.

Grade-level academic expectations (standards) can be accessed at: www.hcbe.net Click the Teaching and Learning tab at the top of the page for additional information on this topic.

Instructional strategies and interventions: Each student is being introduced and taught the grade-level academic expectations. Students identified as experiencing difficulty with some of the academic components are currently receiving additional targeted interventions focused on the identified area(s) before, during, and/or after school.

Georgia Academic Promotion and Retention Policy: The Georgia Academic Placement and Promotion Policy requires that students in third, fifth, and eighth grade(s) meet or exceed expectations on the Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) in Reading (3rd grade) and Reading and Mathematics (5th and 8th grade) in order to be promoted. The policy enacts state law (Code Sections 20-2-282 through 20-2-285) that was passed by the state legislature. The goal is to assure that students are performing at grade level in this key academic area before moving on to the next grade.

Enhanced Instruction: If a 3rd, 5th, or 8th grade student does not meet or exceed expectations on the above listed components of the CRCT, additional focused instruction will be provided to the student prior to the administration of a retest. Additional focused instruction will be provided to the identified students beginning May 4 – May 26, 2009 during the school day. The CRCT retest will be administered May 27 – May 28, 2009. For the 2008-2009 school year the Houston County School System will provide the additional instructional support to students during the school year in May at the student's home school by a grade-level teacher and additional support staff. Previously, additional remedial instruction and retesting have occurred at select satellite sites after school has been dismissed for the summer.

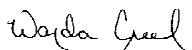
Enrichment Instruction: For students in grades K, 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, and students who meet or exceed expectations in grades 3, 5, and 8 enriched instruction will be provided beginning May 4, 2009. Students will demonstrate mastery of current standards through hands-on activities and accelerate their learning by previewing academic standards for the students' 2009-2010 grade.

Suggestions for Families: As we continue to partner with you to support your child, we are soliciting your help in his/her attainment of the necessary skills to be promoted to the next grade. We would like to share a few test taking tips that you might consider incorporating into the time that you spend with your child. Suggestions for families include:

- Study the list of grade-level academic expectations
- Talk daily with your child about the work he/she is completing in the classroom and the work assigned for homework study
- Read with your student and discuss what you have read
- Work closely with your child's teachers
- Support the work of the school

If you have questions please feel free to contact your child's teacher, principal, or the central office Teaching and Learning Department. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure your child's success.

Sincerely,



Wanda Creel, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning
Houston County School System