

STAR TESTING BEGINS APRIL 19th

Students in second through sixth grade at Willett Elementary School will be taking the state standardized testing (STAR) April 19th through April 28th. The test results are one of the measures used when assessing for promotion or retention or programs. Test results are mailed to families and schools in August. To help prepare your child for the testing, practice the following at home:

- **Do not schedule appointments or trips during this time.** Students not testing during class testing times will be testing in a mixed class setting during make up times. Research has found that students do their best testing in their own classroom with their own teacher.
- Get into a routine that includes an **early bed time, breakfast and arriving to school on time.** Students arriving late when a class is testing will not be allowed into the classroom until that section of testing is complete.
- **Read, read, read** with your child every day. Have your child read to you. Ask **comprehension** questions to ensure your child understands what they are reading.
- Practice **basic math facts** for your child's grade level. They should be automatic when they respond.

In addition, families should practice the following by grade level –

- **Second Grade:** review high frequency words, count change and make up problems with money, practice reading non-digital clocks, identify shapes including sphere, cylinder, cube, cone, write letters to family and friends and check for proper format, punctuation (commas, periods, quotations) and capitalization.
- **Third Grade:** Second grade items, plus: practice multiplication and division facts daily until they are automatic, practice math word problems, place value (thousands, hundreds, tens and ones), expanded notation ($600+40+3=643$), practice telling time and elapsed time (If the party starts at 5:00 and is over in one hour and 45 minutes, what time would the party be over?), discuss fractions, practice measuring line segments (straight and zigzag lines) using both inch and centimeter measurement. Problem solving skills are also key.
- **Fourth Grade:** Previous items, plus: practice multiplication and division facts to ensure they are automatic, use a ruler (centimeter and inch) and know general distances (mile, yard, foot), use liquid measurement at home, know equivalents (2 cups= 1 pint, 2 pints= 1 quart, 4 quarts= 1 gallon), practice weight measurement (ounce, pound, gram, etc.), practice finding the perimeter (outside) area of rugs, rooms, patios, desktops, use encyclopedias, dictionaries, thesauruses, almanacs and atlases and know when to use each resource.
- **Fifth Grade:** Previous items, plus: read various types of materials – books, magazines, newspapers, schedules, lists, advertisements, recipes, letters, practice correct usage of homophones (words that sound the same but spelling and meaning are different), practice and look for correct grammar usage, find opportunities to use math and geometry in the real world, note use of percentages and decimals on food packaging, prices, sales advertisements, practice rounding numbers to the nearest whole, tenth, hundredth, continue practicing math facts.
 - **Fifth grade also tests in Science on 4th and 5th grade curriculum.**
 - **Sixth grade:** Previous items, plus: continue with all of the above, and interpret charts and graphs, add and subtract positive and negative integers, add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions, know radius, diameter and circumference of circle definitions, practice area of rectangles, squares (length X width), multiply and divide with decimals, practicing plotting points on a graph.

For released test question examples go to the CDE website and click on Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR)

CDE/STAR website: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/css05rtq.asp>