



April 28, 2012

Dear Parents,

CHA's annual testing program for grades 2-7 will be held daily next week, April 31st – May 4th. First grade takes this as a practice only. The first approximately two hours of each morning will be utilized for the taking of these tests. We strongly advise you to have your children at school promptly each day, well rested, with a nutritious breakfast in their stomachs. Monday May 16th and Tuesday the 17th are scheduled as make up days for those 2, 3, or 4th grade students who have missed one or two days during the previous testing week. Middle School students will take their make-up tests when they return from trip week.

Encouraging your child to do his/her best work can prove helpful and matches the positive attitude the teachers use in promoting "best effort" during the testing process. Please do not place undue pressure on your child to perform. We work very conscientiously to reduce stress within the testing environment. Join us in promoting peak performance as we demonstrate all that we have learned this year in a standardized testing format.

The annual testing program helps us monitor your child(ren)'s achievement over time and aids us in assessing our program as we continue to design and provide quality instructional experiences. The testing results will be mailed home during the summer in a folder describing your child's scores in the context of national and independent school norms.

The 2011 testing cycle will utilize the ERB (Educational Records Bureau) CTP 4 (Comprehensive Testing Program). This assessment includes a *constructed response* section in both math and reading comprehension for second and third grades. This requires students to construct their own responses to reading comprehension questions and math problems. In these two sections, students will write in their answers, rather than bubbling in a multiple-choice section. Students can earn full or partial credit for the completeness of their answers in the constructed response sections. Scores are given from 0 to 2 points for these items. A student must complete both the multiple-choice and the constructed response sections of the reading and math tests to receive a score in each of these areas.

Please make every effort to have your child in school each day. Tracking student progress on a standardized instrument is key for decision-making regarding student learning. Thank you for your assistance in this important task.

If you have any questions regarding the annual testing program, please feel free to contact me. Mr. Gerrity and I are available by appointment for phone or in-person conferences to discuss your child's results once you have received and reviewed the results folder. We are looking forward to a great week with your children!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann Gillinger".

Ann Gillinger
Head of School