

NEW OHIO STATE TESTS (AIR)

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Ohio's State Tests measure student progress toward Ohio's Learning Standards. They help us make sure every Ohio student receives a high-quality education. Student test results show that students have the knowledge and skills they need to move successfully to their next steps in education or a career.

Federal and state laws require state testing for specific grades and subjects, and in our case it is for our 3rd graders in reading (English Language Arts) and math.

Questions:

- 1. When is the test?** All testing will be done on-line with computers. The English Language Arts AIR is during the mornings of Monday, November 7th and Tuesday, November 8th . The English Language Arts and Math AIR will be held during the spring.
- 2. What can I do to help my child prepare for this test?**
 - ✓ Make sure that your child has plenty of rest the night before.
 - ✓ Make sure that your child eats a breakfast high in protein, not sugar.
 - ✓ Reassure your child before coming to school.
 - ✓ Make sure your child is not hurried or late the day of the test.
- 3. How much time will my child have to finish the test?** 1 ½ hours for both testing dates.
- 4. What happens if my child misses the day of the test?** The test will need to be made up. All Ohio students are tested. We highly recommend that all students come the day of the test unless absolutely sick. We also recommend that no appointments be made for the child on testing day. The testing conditions are best the day of the test and students feel better when they get to take the test with their peers under the direction of their classroom teacher.
- 5. What happens if my child gets sick during the test?** If your child gets sick and cannot finish the test, it will be submitted and scored as is. The child will not have the opportunity to finish the test later as per State procedures.
- 6. What is tested?** For 3rd Grade ELA, Part One will consist of Reading selections and on extended writing response, and Part Two will be Reading selections only. For math, students will be tested in Number Sense and Operations, Multiplication and Division, Geometry, and Fractions. There will be multiple choice, short answers, and extended responses on the test.
- 7. What score does my child need to pass the test?** A passing score has yet to be determined for the test. However, a promotional reading sub score of 44 will allow your child to move on to the 4th grade.
- 8. What happens if my child did not pass the fall English Language Arts test?** If your child did not pass the test in the fall, s/he will have the opportunity to take the test again in spring. Our goal is to help your child do his/her best on this test. An alternate assessment will also be given to your child. The alternate assessment that the district uses is the NWEA. If your child makes the cut score of 196, then your child will be placed to the 4th grade.
- 9. If my child fails the tests will s/he be retained in third grade?** In 2012, Ohio adopted the Third Grade Reading Guarantee Legislation that affects all school districts in Ohio. According to this law, school districts must assess all students in reading who are in grades K-3 and provide intervention for those who are "Not on Track" to meeting grade level reading benchmarks. Additionally, districts are required to retain any third grade student

that does not achieve a minimum cut score on the English Language Arts AIR in third grade. Each third grade student will be assessed in November and again in March. The highest reading score achieved on either test will count in the final determination of retention. If needed an additional test may be available in the summer.

10. **How is the school accountable?** The State Department of Education expects a minimum passage rate. We get data on each student that takes the test. This data helps us with future goals and instructional plans.
11. **When will we receive our child's scores?** Data should be made available to schools by December 30, 2016. The school will distribute the scores to parents as soon as we receive them.
12. **Where can I find more information about the AIR?** You can ask your child's teacher, contact the principal, or visit the Ohio Department of Education Website at <http://www.ode.state.oh.us> or you can visit the [2016-2017 State Tests Updates website](https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Testing/State-Test-Updates) at <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Testing/State-Test-Updates> or <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Testing/FAQs-about-Ohio-State-Tests#FAQ2641> and register to receive updates when they are posted
13. **What is the test like?** The State Department of Education released a sample of the test that your child's teacher will be working with your child. You can find them at <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Testing/Ohios-State-Test-in-ELA-Math-Science-SocialStudies/Sample-test-items-and-practice-tests> and go over with your child.
14. **What do other parents do to help their children feel more relaxed on testing day?** Parents have shared many ideas with us over the past few years. Here is what other parents do to help their child relax:
 - ✓ Tell your child, you are very proud of him/her and can't wait to hear all about the test.
 - ✓ Ask your child about the tests and reassure him/her. Listen as they share how easy or hard it was.
 - ✓ If your child doesn't pass the test the first time, assure him/her that you believe they can do it this time around.
 - ✓ Help your child get plenty of sleep the night before the test.
 - ✓ Avoid arguments or other stressful conflicts the morning of the test.
 - ✓ If your child wears glasses, be sure to send them to school with your child the day of the test.
 - ✓ Get up in time to go out for a special breakfast with your child.
 - ✓ Get your child to school on time so s/he is not stressed about being late.
 - ✓ Write your child a special note, seal it, and ask the teacher to give it to your child the day of the test.
 - ✓ Give your child a 'good luck charm' or special memento.

When your child passes the test, be sure to **celebrate!** This is a great accomplishment by your child! Thank you for working with us at Washington Primary!