

February 2009

**Our mission is to create a learning community that prepares all students to be productive, responsible, and successful.**

## **Tis the Testing Season**

Although it is hard to imagine with the cold, blistery winter weather that we have had lately, spring is right around the corner. With spring, also come ISAT and PSAE tests. As you know, the data from these tests are vital in assessing the knowledge level of our students as well as serving as a guide for the curriculum needs of the district. Below are some strategies students can use when taking standardized tests that will hopefully maximize student their in the spring.

### ***Prior to the test***

- Get a good night's sleep the night before. Being well rested is a must for a student in order to have the focus and energy needed to do his or her best on a test.
- Bring the necessary materials to the test. Often times, test anxiety increases when a student is scrambling for pencils, calculators, scratch paper, etc. Finding out exactly what you will need for the upcoming tests and ensuring that you have all of the necessary materials will help on test day.
- Eat a good breakfast. Without a good breakfast, there is a good chance that you will become hungry during a test which could lessen your focus and concentration.
- Think positive!! As the saying goes, if you think you can you're right and if you think you can't you're also right. Your attitude goes a long way in determining your success on a test.

### ***During the test***

- Be sure you understand the directions and read all answer choices before marking anything.
- Pace yourself-don't spend too much time on any one question. Do your best and then move on.
- Answer the easiest questions first, but be sure to go back to those questions you skipped.
- Do not change your answers unless you are very uncertain about your first answer choice.
- Try to answer every question. Make the most intelligent guess you can.
- Find key words or phrases in the question that will help you choose the correct answer.
- Make sure you understand what the question is asking and that you are responding to the question that is being asked.
- For reading passages-Read the questions first and when there are several questions about a passage look for clues in other questions that will help you with those items you are unsure about.

## **Safety and Crisis Planning**

One of our strategic planning goals for the district is to work to ensure the safety of the students and staff. To help accomplish this, we will be conducting safety drills for various scenarios in the spring at different buildings in order to be better prepared in the event of a crisis. As a start to this process, the administration; Bethany and Findlay fire, ambulance, and police; and the Shelby and Moultrie County Sheriffs will meet in early February to determine which drills will be conducted, as well as the location, time, and date of the training. We will be sending out more information as the details are finalized.

### **Important Upcoming Dates:**

**February 11**-Midterm

**February 13**-12:17 Dismissal

Midterm Reports Sent Home

**February 16**-No School-Presidents' Day

Through the school improvement process, we hope to promote a positive atmosphere and increased communication and welcome your input and suggestions on ways to accomplish this. Please use the opinions and ideas link on our website at [www.okawvalley.org](http://www.okawvalley.org) to share any ideas or concerns.

*“Education is the food that nourishes the nation’s soul.”*

*-Bob Herbert*