



MARS AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

545 Route 228, Mars, Pennsylvania 16046
Phone (724) 625-1518
Fax (724) 625-1060

January 11, 2019

Dear Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s) of Kindergarten, First Grade, and Second Grade Students:

We are pleased to share with you that the Mars Area School District is administering the IOWA Test of Basic Skills (IOWA) and Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), during the month of January, to all Kindergarten, first grade, and second grade students. The purpose for administering these assessments is:

1. To determine gaps in our curriculum in order to address those gaps properly
2. To assist teachers in providing lessons at the student instructional level and to create effective enrichment/remediation strategies
3. To have nationally normed data at Student Assistance Meetings and assist in decisions about evaluation for additional supports and services
4. To have a reliable, summative assessment to screen students for placement into the District's gifted program and/or special education programs

At school, our goal is to make this experience as stress free as possible for the children. We want this to be an enjoyable, learning experience. At this young age, it is difficult for them to understand the meaning of tests. We would like them to view this as any other activity in the classroom where they always do their best. You do not need to discuss this with your child or put any additional pressure on them, as it may only serve to create anxiety. The purpose of the testing is for educational purposes only. The results will be shared with you once they have been returned by the testing company.

Thank you,

Mr. Travis W. Mineard. M.Ed., Ed.S., M. S.
Director of Special Education
Mars Area School District

Mr. Todd Lape
Principal
Mars Area Elementary

Dr. Elizabeth A. McMahon
Assistant Superintendent
Mars Area School District