

STAAR TESTING INFORMATION

Parents/Guardians,

As you know, all students enrolled in a public school in the State of Texas are mandated to take STAAR exams. The STAAR window opens next week so we wanted you to be aware of some very important dates.

Please see below:

Upcoming Dates	Exam
4/09/19	4&7- Writing 5- Math English 1 EOC
4/10/19	5- Reading
4/11/19	English 2 EOC

Future Testing Dates**	Exam
5/6/19-5/10/19 (testing window)	Algebra 1 Biology U.S. History
5/13/19	3,4,6,7- Math 5- Math retake
5/14/19	3,4,6,7- Reading 5- Reading retake
5/15/19	5&8- Science
5/16/19	8- Social Studies

**Information about these exam days will be sent at a later date

Also, note the following:

1. Village Tech asks for no visiting during lunch Tuesday through Thursday for all grade levels. The lunch schedule will be changed to accommodate 4 and 5 hour testing times. Also, avoid appointments for the students during these testing days. Please reschedule appointments if possible for students in those testing grades.
2. Testing will begin as close to 8:30 as possible. (The delays come from students who are late to class.) Please have students in the classroom by 8:00 to prepare for the testing. If there is an individual case of extended time for the test, the office will call and remind you so that the student will continue test taking past dismissal time. The VT office will then call when the extended time test taker is finished. (These parents already know who they are, so please do not wonder if it is your child. This is just a reminder.)
3. **NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES (INCLUDING PHONES) WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE TESTING ROOMS.** Please keep them at home for these days of testing. The office will be the point of contact for students and teachers.

TEST TAKING TIPS

- **First, be sure you've studied properly.** It sounds like a no-brainer, but if you're sure of the information, you'll have less reason to be worried.
- **Get enough sleep the night before the test.** Your memory recall will be much better if you've had enough rest. In a scientific study, people who got enough sleep before taking a math test did better than those who stayed up all night studying.
- **Listen closely to any instructions.** As the teacher hands out the test, be sure you know what's expected of you.
- **Read the test through first.** Once you have the test paper in front of you, read over the entire test, checking out how long it is and all the parts that you are expected to complete. This will allow you to estimate how much time you have for each section and ask the teacher any questions. If something seems unclear before you start, don't panic: ask.
- **Focus on addressing each question individually.** As you take the test, if you don't know an answer, don't obsess over it. Instead, answer the best way you can or skip over the question and come back to it after you've answered other questions.
- **Relax.** If you're so nervous that you blank out, you might need a mini-break. Of course you can't get up and move around in the middle of a test, but you can wiggle your fingers and toes, take four or five deep breaths, or picture yourself on a beach or some other calm place. As we all know, it can be easy to forget things we know well — like a locker combination. The difference is we know we'll remember our locker combination because we've used it hundreds of times, so we don't panic and the combination number eventually comes back. During a test, if you blank out on something and start to get tense, it suddenly becomes much more difficult to remember.
- **Finished already?** Although most teachers will let you hand a test in early, it's usually a good idea to spend any extra time checking over your work. You also can add details that you may not have thought you'd have time for. On the other hand, if you have 5 minutes until the bell rings and you're still writing, wind up whatever you're working on without panicking.