

More information regarding assessment or academically talented programs available in the district can be found on the district website at [www.naperville203.org/deparments/curriculum/](http://www.naperville203.org/deparments/curriculum/)

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## Philosophy of Assessment

In District 203, assessment is an integral part of a student's educational experience. The primary goal of assessment is to improve student learning. Therefore, educators need to have the knowledge and skills necessary to create, administer, and interpret assessments. Any one assessment is a limited source of information and must be used in conjunction with all other available information about a student.

In order to increase student achievement and create an environment that supports lifelong learning, educators must form a partnership with students and parents by involving them in the assessment and evaluation process. When assessments are used and interpreted properly, the results provide information that is valuable in designing educational opportunities that promote student achievement and meet the needs of all learners.

## District 203 Local Assessments

### Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)

**Beginning the week of September 28, 2009 for 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**

**Beginning the week of April 13, 2010 for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grades**

#### **Purpose:**

The CogAT provides a description of the student's own cognitive resources for learning. It provides a picture of your child's strength and weakness. It will also give you a prediction of how your child will perform on the ITBS assessment.

#### **Components of the Test:**

- Verbal - Appraise verbal inductive reasoning, problem solving, and verbal comprehension.
- Quantitative - Appraise general abstract reasoning skills, particularly inductive reasoning skills, and specific mathematical reasoning skills.
- Non-Verbal - Appraise inductive reasoning skills.

### Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)

**Beginning the week of April 13, 2010 for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grades**

#### **Purpose:**

The ITBS tests the student's ability in the areas of reading, language arts, and mathematics. It gives you information on how your child performs against a national sample. It also provides performance comparison data to the CogAT. It gives you information on how your child performed against other students in the same grade.

#### **Components of the Test:**

- Vocabulary - A measure of reading vocabulary.
- Reading - A measure of how well students can comprehend a variety of written materials.
- Math Concepts & Estimation - A measure of how well students can apply math concepts and use estimation.
- Math Problem Solving and Data Interpretation - A measure of how well students apply problem solving strategies and interpret data.

## Illinois State Assessment

### Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) Beginning the week of March 1, 2010 for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grades

#### Purpose:

The ISAT measures individual student achievement relative to the Illinois Learning Standards. The results give parents, teachers, and schools one measure of student learning and school performance.

#### Components of the Test (45 minutes per session)

- Reading    Session 1 - 30 Multiple choice  
                  Session 2 - 20 Multiple choice, 1 Extended Response  
                  Session 3 - 20 Multiple choice, 1 Extended Response
- Math        Session 1 - 40 Multiple choice  
                  Session 2 - 30 Multiple choice, 3 Short Responses  
                  Session 3 - 2 Extended Responses
- Writing     Session 1 - Expository Prompt

## How can I help prepare my child for these assessments?

### Now...

Read with your child. Ask questions that will help your child activate his/her thinking skills to improve comprehension.

Discuss your child's work in mathematics. Use homework as an opportunity to show the importance of math to the real world.

Encourage your child to keep a journal and write stories. Discuss his/her writing as an interested reader...not just an editor. Keep doing what you're already doing!

### On the day of the test...

Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep.

Make sure your child eats a good breakfast.

Remind your child to ask the teacher questions if he/she doesn't understand.

Let your child know you have confidence in his/her abilities.

Encourage your child not to worry and to do his/her personal best!

## Honors Mathematics

The Honors Mathematics program is for students in grades three through eight who demonstrate mathematical understanding, problem solving and reasoning skills. Specific criteria have been established for qualification into the accelerated math program. Honors Mathematics observations and matrices are used to determine eligibility.

Students' thinking in mathematics is flexible. Honors Mathematics students are able to demonstrate that they grasp concepts quickly, see patterns and make connections across disciplines and among operations.

## Project IDEA

Project IDEA has been developed for academically talented students in grades four through eight who meet established district criteria on the Cognitive Abilities Test, the Iowa Test of Basic Skills and teacher observational data.

The program seeks to develop, through integration of curriculum, the higher level thinking skills of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation as well as creative and critical thinking skills. The Project IDEA curriculum is differentiated to meet the needs of all learners by changing the process, content, product or the learning environment in which students are engaged.