



SAMUEL OGLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Kathleen R. Brady
Principal

William Kelly
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March 27, 2008

Dear Parents,

In the upcoming weeks all students in grades three through eight in the state of Maryland will participate in the Maryland School Assessment Program (MSA). The federal No Child Left Behind Act requires Maryland to test in reading and math. The reading test will be given on Tuesday, April 1st and Wednesday, April 2nd. The math test will be given on Tuesday, April 8th and Wednesday, April 9th. Testing will take approximately two hours each day. There will be two days of testing in math and two days of testing in reading, for a total of four testing days.

Students will work independently. The test will include both multiple choice and short answer questions. Test results will be returned before the end of the school year. Scores will show how well your child is learning the reading and mathematics skills specified in the Maryland Content Standards. You will also learn how your child's performance compares to other students across the nation.

It is extremely important that your child is in school on time on each testing day. Remember that the MSA begins on Tuesday, April 1st and continues through Wednesday, April 9th, according to the schedule noted above. Please also note that electronic devices including: cell phones, pagers, hand held computers, etc. **WILL NOT BE ALLOWED** in any testing room. **ALL** students will need to leave these devices in their lockers.

We need your help to make sure your child does his/her best. Please ensure that:

- **Your child arrives at school on time. Testing takes place in the morning as soon as everyone is settled in at approximately 9:45am.**
- **Your child eats a substantial breakfast in the morning that will give him/her the necessary energy and alertness for participation in the testing.**
- **Your child gets a good night's sleep the night before each testing day.**
- **Your child is in school every testing day. Children who are absent will participate in make-up testing.**
- **Your child is encouraged to do his/her best.**
- **Your child is reminded to leave electronic devices in lockers.**

Thank you for your assistance. We know our students will do their best! Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Thomas at school.

Sincerely,


Kathleen Brady
Principal

Test Taking Tips

- Sleep well the night before each test.
- Eat a good breakfast the morning of each test.
- **BE ON TIME TO SCHOOL!**
- Concentrate! *Do not allow yourself to be distracted by noises or movements around you.*
- Read instructions or directions carefully before marking any answer.
- Follow directions - *Pay close attention to the sample exercises.*
- Read the entire question and all of the answer choices - *do this before you mark your answer.*
- Place your answer correctly on the answer sheet.
- Make no stray marks on your paper near your answers.
- If you decide to change an answer, completely erase the old one.
- Occasionally check the time and make sure you are on track.
- If you answer all the questions in a given section and there is time left, go back and re-read each question and check your answers and see if they make sense.

