

As testing season begins, please take a moment to review the following information about how you can support your child during the testing windows and on a daily basis.  Please note that all information below was taken from http://www.colorincolorado.org/article/parent-tips-how-help-your-child-prepare-standardized-tests.

Parent Tips: How to Help Your Child Prepare for Standardized Tests

Standardized tests currently play a major role in the United States’ public schools. Your child may take one or more standardized tests during the school year, and your child's teacher may spend class time on test preparation throughout the year. As a parent, there are a number of ways that you can support your child during test taking, as well as a number of ways you can support your child's learning habits on a daily basis to help them be more prepared when it's time to be tested. While many parents, educators, school leaders, and policymakers disagree about the kinds of tests administered, how the scores should be used, and how frequently students should be tested, it is important to be supportive of your child's efforts on standardized tests, and to help them do their best.

On Test Day

**Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast** - Many teachers report that students who don't do well on tests haven't gotten enough sleep, and haven't eaten breakfast on the morning of the test. Doing both of these things will ensure that your child is working at full capacity.

**Remain positive -** Staying calm will help your child stay calm. If they get nervous about the test or is likely to experience anxiety during the test, help them practice some relaxation techniques that they can try once they’re taking the test.

On a Daily Basis

In addition to these strategies, there are a number of ways that you can maximize your child's learning capabilities throughout the school year, which can lead to confident test taking. Some of these strategies include:

* Assisting your child with homework and ensuring that your child is completing all homework assignments
* Helping your child to develop good study habits, thinking skills, and a positive attitude towards education from an early age
* Ensuring that your child has good attendance at school
* Staying in communication with your child's teacher
* Encouraging your child to read as much as possible, and to increase their vocabulary - even reading magazines, newspapers, and comic books regularly will help improve their reading
* Looking for educational games and programs that engage your child
* Helping your child learn how to follow directions carefully

Finally, remember that standardized tests and grading systems are not perfect; each format has its own limitations. As you help your child do their best on the tests they take and in all of their schoolwork, also remind them that testing is just one part of their education. With your support and involvement, they will be well on their way to a bright future.

Heather Tracy

Assistant Principal

[heather\_tracy@hcpss.org](mailto:heather_tracy@hcpss.org)

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Friday, April 7**

End of Marking Period

Schools Close 3 Hours Early

**April 10 – 17**

Spring Break

Schools Closed

**Tuesday, April 25**

Report Cards Issued

**Friday, April 28**

BINGO Night, 6:00 PM

*The Dayton Oaks School community will provide a safe, nurturing environment that fosters individual potential through academic excellence, appreciation of diversity, and commitment to college and career readiness and life-long learning*.

april 6, 2017

the

Weekly Wave

**School-Wide Read-A-Thon**

Get ready for the first Dayton Oaks School-Wide Read-a-thon! We will be celebrating outdoors on Friday, April 21 in honor of Earth Day. The read-a-thon is a school-based learning activity that will provide the students the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors while mixing with friends and siblings from other classes.  Hopefully everyone will enjoy the fresh air and good books! Students should bring books and towels or blankets with them to school. We are looking forward to a great event!

**National Math Festival**

Saturday, April 22nd is the National Math Festival at the Washington DC Convention Center. There will be many activities for ages 2 through adult. For more information about this event, please visit: [http://mathfest.org/](https://mail.hcpss.org/owa/redir.aspx?C=mbsErGTIDAtbo-cBCE83wFecKb99sDiGej4sNt9lsgNkBzZowm_UCA..&URL=http%3a%2f%2fmathfest.org%2f" \t "_blank).

**Walking Club**

This is a great activity to volunteer for and get to know your child’s friends and classmates. You can sign up for the days that match your schedule and stay for lunch with your child.

Grades 1 – 5 will walk during their recess on March 29, April 5, 19, 26, May 3 and 10.

Kindergarten will walk on Fridays at 11 a.m. on March 31, April 7, 21, 28, May 5 and 12.

Parent volunteers are essential to our program. Please sign up to support this fitness activity that over half of our students love. Our success depends on parental support. Come out and join the fun! For more information or to volunteer, contact Beth Brannan at [walkingprogram@daytonoakspta.org](mailto:walkingprogram@daytonoakspta.org)**.**

**Food on the 15th** Each month, our students are asked to bring in food items for Food on the 15th. What is it for? How does this program work? Please take a minute to watch our video that highlights the program and shows you the importance of sending in food with your students. Non-perishable food is collected monthly and students may bring it in at any time throughout the month. Children are always invited to participate with the deliveries. If your family would like to help deliver food, please contact Mrs. Cindy Baker at: [baker.blas@verizon.net](mailto:baker.blas@verizon.net).

To view the video, go to:   
[https://sites.google.com/site/foodonthe15thsite/](https://mail.hcpss.org/owa/redir.aspx?C=CGWMsVz3ljezvUi5sbxdmSNhair4mT3HuQ5byTh3oQyaKz-2e3vUCA..&URL=https%3a%2f%2fsites.google.com%2fsite%2ffoodonthe15thsite%2f" \t "_blank)

Food on the 15th, a program of the Coalition of Geriatric Services (COGS), is an award winning program.  We are proud to operate on $0 overhead.  We have been in existence since 2006 and have delivered over 24,000 free bags of groceries and toiletries to economically disadvantaged senior citizens at:

* Morningside Park Apartments in Jessup
* Tiber Hudson in Ellicott City
* Longwood Apartments Food Pantry- *Partnering with UMBC Asian Studies program*

Around the 15th of each month Food on the 15th brings in healthy, nutritious, non-perishable regular and DIABETIC foods for economically challenged senior citizens who live in Howard County, Maryland.  Food on the 15th sorts, bags and delivers the groceries directly to the senior citizens’ homes around the third week of each month.

**Memory Book Cover Contest**

     It’s that time of year again!  We are calling all DOES artists (grades K- 5) to submit a design for the cover of this year’s Memory Book.  This year’s theme is “Corals of Creativity.” Specifications for the cover is as follows:

* 8.5 x 11
* Dayton Oaks Elementary School needs to be clearly written on the cover
* 2016-2017

     Please work on your design over spring break. The deadline for submission is April 19, 2017. We look forward to seeing everyone’s designs!

**Dayton Oaks Elementary School \*4691 Ten Oaks Road, Dayton, MD 21036 \* 410-313-1571**

**School Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Office Hours: 8:15 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.**

*Every student is engaged and inspired in a rigorous and empowering environment, in order to develop a love of learning, discover strengths, and excel in all endeavors.*

**Please visit the Community News and Programs page (http://www.hcpss.org/community-news-and-programs/) on the HCPSS website for announcements of upcoming events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.**

Your child's Thursday folder was sent home today. Please review for important academic information and general school notes and return on/before Monday. Thank you.