

# FCAT Success

Coffee with the Principal  
February 2013

# WHAT IS THE FCAT?

The FCAT 2.0 measures student achievement of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) in writing, reading, mathematics, and science.

# WHO TAKES THE FCAT AND WHEN IS IT ADMINISTERED?

All Florida public school students in grades 3 - 10 are required to take the FCAT.

- Grade 3: reading and math
- Grade 4: reading, math, and writing
- Grade 5: reading, math, and science
- Grade 6: reading and math
- Grade 7: reading and math
- Grade 8: reading, math, writing, and science

FCAT will be taken during the weeks of April 15-26.

# QUESTION TYPES

## Key

GR – Gridded-Response

MC – Multiple-Choice

FR – Fill-in Response

| Grade            | Reading  | Mathematics          | Science  | Writing  |
|------------------|----------|----------------------|----------|----------|
| <b>3</b>         | 50-55 MC | 50-55 MC             |          |          |
| <b>4</b>         | 50-55 MC | 35-40 MC<br>10-15 GR |          | 1 prompt |
| <b>5</b>         | 50-55 MC | 35-40 MC<br>10-15 GR | 60-66 MC |          |
| <b>6</b>         | 50-55 MC | 35-40 MC<br>10-15 GR |          |          |
| <b>7</b>         | 50-55 MC | 35-40 MC<br>10-15 GR |          |          |
| <b>8</b>         | 50-55 MC | 35-40 MC<br>20-25 GR | 60-66 MC | 1 prompt |
| <b>Algebra 1</b> |          | 35-40 MC<br>20-25 FR |          |          |
| <b>Geometry</b>  |          | 35-40 MC<br>20-25 FR |          |          |
| <b>Biology 1</b> |          |                      | 60-66 MC |          |

# READING FCAT 2.0 DESIGN SUMMARY

| Grade       | Vocabulary | Reading Application | Literary Analysis: Fiction & Nonfiction | Informational Text & Research Process |
|-------------|------------|---------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| <b>3-7</b>  | 15-25%     | 25-35%              | 25-35%                                  | 15-25%                                |
| <b>8-10</b> | 15-25%     | 20-30%              | 20-30%                                  | 25-35%                                |

# READING FCAT 2.0 COMPUTER BASED ADMINISTRATION (6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE & 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Online Assessments occur during week one .

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Online Assessments occur during week two.

All students rehearse using online tools.

# EXAMPLES OF LITERATURE SELECTIONS

**Literary passages** provide entertainment or inspiration and include fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama.

**Informational passages** are subject-matter centered and the language may be used to solve problems, raise questions, provide information, or present new ideas. The context of these passages includes everyday life outside of the classroom.

| Grade | Literary Text | Informational Text |
|-------|---------------|--------------------|
| 3     | 60%           | 40%                |
| 4-6   | 50%           | 50%                |
| 7-8   | 40%           | 60%                |

# TIPS/STRATEGIES TO HELP MY CHILD SUCCEED ON THE **READING** FCAT

1. “Prove” your answer with supporting facts and details.
2. Summarize the story, pausing every now and then to review what was read rather than waiting until the end of the story.
3. Look for main idea in the first sentence or last sentence of the paragraph.
4. Use the maps, graphs, charts, and illustrations in the selection to help you.
5. Use context clues to help you figure out word meanings.
6. Look for answers to questions based on the sequence, or order of events/information, of the passage.
7. Read as much as possible.
8. Look for KEY WORDS.



# MATH FCAT 2.0 COMPUTER BASED ADMINISTRATION (5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)

Fifth Grade Computer based tests are conducted during the second week of FCAT and take place over two days. All students rehearse using online tools prior to taking the assessments.

# MATH FCAT 2.0 DESIGN SUMMARY

| Grade    | Category  | Percentage |
|----------|---|------------|
| <b>3</b> | Number: Operations, Problems, and Statistics                  | 50         |
|          | Number: Fractions   | 20         |
|          | Geometry and Measurement                                      | 30         |
| <b>4</b> | Number: Operations and Problems                               | 45         |
|          | Number: Base Ten and Fractions                                | 25         |
|          | Geometry and Measurement                                      | 30         |
| <b>5</b> | Number: Base Ten and Fractions                                | 50         |
|          | Expressions, Equations, and Statistics                        | 20         |
|          | Geometry and Measurement                                      | 30         |
| <b>6</b> | Fractions, Ratios, Proportional Relationships, and Statistics | 40         |
|          | Expressions and Equations                                     | 40         |
|          | Geometry and Measurement                                      | 20         |
| <b>7</b> | Number: Base Ten  | 25         |
|          | Ratios and Proportional Relationships                         | 25         |
|          | Geometry and Measurement                                      | 30         |
|          | Statistics and Probability                                    | 20         |
| <b>8</b> | Number: Operations, Problems, and Statistics                  | 25         |
|          | Expressions, Equations, and Functions                         | 40         |
|          | Geometry and Measurement                                      | 35         |

# TIPS/STRATEGIES TO HELP MY CHILD SUCCEED ON THE **MATH** FCAT

1. Always read math problems completely before beginning calculations.
2. Draw a picture that will help you solve the problem.
3. Do not stay “stuck” on any particular problem; choose the answer you think is best. Then go on with the rest of the test.
4. Always double check your work if there is time.
5. Ask yourself if your answer makes sense.
6. Don’t be afraid to use your fingers if it will help.
7. Finish the test. Any unanswered questions will be marked incorrect.

# FLORIDA END-OF-COURSE ASSESSMENTS

| Assessment       | Category  | Percentage |
|------------------|---|------------|
| <b>Algebra 1</b> | Functions, Linear Equations, and Inequalities             | 55         |
|                  | Polynomials   | 20         |
|                  | Rationals, Radicals, Quadratics, and Discrete Mathematics | 25         |
| <b>Geometry</b>  | Two-Dimensional Geometry                                  | 65         |
|                  | Three-Dimensional Geometry                                | 20         |
|                  | Trigonometry and Discrete Mathematics                     | 15         |
| <b>Biology 1</b> | Molecular and Cellular Biology                            | 35         |
|                  | Classification, Heredity, and Evolution                   | 25         |
|                  | Organisms, Populations, and Ecosystems                    | 40         |

# MIDDLE GRADES MATH

- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Algebra students will take the Algebra EOC on a computer. This assessment will be held May 13.
- Students will have to pass the EOC in order to receive high school credit. The EOC score will count as 30% of the final grade.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Geometry students will take the Geometry EOC on a computer. This assessment will be held May 16. The EOC score will count as 30% of the final grade.
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# SCIENCE FCAT 2.0 DESIGN SUMMARY

**Table 5: FCAT 2.0 Science**

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>Nature of Science</b> | <b>Earth and Space Science</b> | <b>Physical Science</b> | <b>Life Science</b> |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>5</b>     | 17%                      | 29%                            | 29%                     | 25%                 |
| <b>8</b>     | 19%                      | 27%                            | 27%                     | 27%                 |

# TIPS/STRATEGIES TO HELP MY CHILD SUCCEED ON THE **SCIENCE** FCAT

1. Have students review their science journal including notes, vocabulary definitions, and lab reports for each unit covered.
2. Practice Test taking skills on [www.fcatexplorer.com](http://www.fcatexplorer.com)
3. During conversations, instead of giving your child an answer, ask what his/her prediction is. For example: What do you think is going to happen?

# HOW CAN **STUDENTS** PREPARE FOR THE FCAT IN SCHOOL?

1. Actively participate in all subjects.
2. Ask questions for clarification.
3. Complete all class and homework assignments.
4. Be aware of time and use it wisely.
5. Be motivated to learn.
6. Do their best every day!



# HOW DOES LPA HELP STUDENTS PREPARE FOR THE FCAT?

- Instruction based on Sunshine State Standards
- Small group instruction
- FCAT Boot Camp
- FCAT Explorer
- Test Taking Strategies



## TEST INVALIDATION

If a test is invalidated, it means that it **will not be scored**. If your child's test is invalidated, they will not receive an FCAT score, and will not be able to retake the same test.



To make sure a test is  
not invalidated

All electronic devices must be turned  
off before the test.

Your child's teacher will collect all  
electronic devices during the testing  
period.

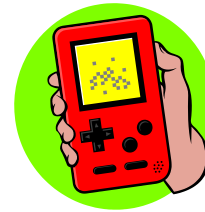


# Some examples of electronic devices are:

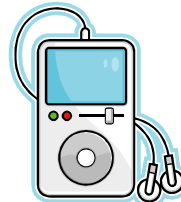
- Cell phones



- Handheld video games



- MP3 players



- Calculators (unless you are allowed to have an FCAT calculator)



# AVOIDING TEST ANXIETY

It's good to be concerned about doing well on a test; however, test anxiety refers to excessive worry about doing well on a test.

Excessive worry can actually interfere with a student's ability to demonstrate what they know.

Students know the FCAT is an important test and they are concerned with doing well.

# To help your child avoid test anxiety follow the tips below:

1. Begin studying early and review study material more than once.
  - Cramming increases anxiety and interferes with clear thinking.
2. Resting, exercising, and eating well are important before the test.
  - Try a hot breakfast and peppermint.
  - Send snacks like cheese, apples, and peanut-butter crackers.
3. Review important test skills such as:
  - bubbling in and erasing carefully
  - looking for key words in questions
  - reading all the choices before selecting one
  - not spending too much time on any one question
  - answering all the questions (no penalty for trying)

# DO'S:

1. Encourage and Praise!
2. Regular attendance is a must!
3. Create a quiet, comfortable place to study at home.
4. Provide books, children's magazines, and other materials for your child to read at home.
5. Balance recreation and study time.
6. Take advantage of tutoring.
7. Go on websites that help them prepare for the FCAT like:
  - [www.fcatexplorer.com](http://www.fcatexplorer.com)
8. Practice reading when they have free time.
9. Learn multiplication tables 0 to 12.
10. Learn FCAT reading, science and math vocabulary.

# DON'TS

1. Don't be too anxious about a child's test scores.
  - It is not the only option and there are many other things that can determine a child's abilities.
2. Don't be late or rushed on test days!
3. Don't skip breakfast!



# ST. JOHNS COUNTY PUPIL PROGRESSION PLAN

Pupil Progression Plan

**Mandatory Retention for Level 1  
FCAT Reading in Grade 3 and  
Good Cause Exemptions 1008.25  
(5)(b), (6)(b) F.S.,  
SB Rule 6A-1.094221 F.A.C.**

A grade 3 student scoring at Level 1 on the reading portion of the FCAT **must** be retained unless exempted from retention for good cause.

# TIMELINE

- April 15-26 FCAT
- May/June- Results
- May/June- Alternative Assessments administered and scores
- June- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Retention/promotion determined
- Summertime- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade summer reading camp
- Florida Virtual School (FLVS)- also an option

# HELPFUL WEBSITES

1. [www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcat/pdf/fc04designsummary.pdf](http://www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcat/pdf/fc04designsummary.pdf)
2. <http://www.fcatexplorer.com> - practice and skills reinforcement tool provided by the State Department
3. <http://www.brainchild.com/gen/usmap.asp> - online assessment
4. <http://fcit.usf.edu/fcat> - provides practice tests that can be printed or taken online
5. <http://www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcat/fcatsmpl.htm> - FCAT sample items
6. <http://getsmarter.org/iln/index.html> - math and science practice
7. [www.FLStandardsHelp.com](http://www.FLStandardsHelp.com)
8. [www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcat/fclesn02.htm](http://www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcat/fclesn02.htm)