



FOWLER MIDDLE SCHOOL

February 2010

Dear Parents,

February is here, and for seventh grade, that means TAKS Writing Test is here too! We have been diligently working in class to prepare for this task.

The test we will take on Wednesday, March 3rd, has two sections. To begin with, the students will be given a prompt where they will write a two-page essay about that prompt. For this section they are allowed to use a dictionary and thesaurus. Their writing will be graded as a final copy, so the state expects their spelling and grammar to be precise. After completing this composition, the students will relinquish their dictionaries and thesauruses before they break the seal on Part II. This section consists of 40+ objective questions covering grammar and punctuation rules. You can see that we are asking quite a lot of our students that day. Completing this test will take almost all day. This is a long, tedious test, but we are well-prepared!

On the week prior to test day, we will be returning the editing passages we have completed in class. Your child may use these to study and review for the test. We will also give each student a list of reminders for testing. These reminders include the steps in the writing process, the need to take your time and do your best, and the most important factor—to believe in yourself!

On the testing day cell phones or any other electronic devices used for communication are banned from the classrooms. The students may NOT keep their phones in their pockets, jackets, or purses in the classroom. This policy will be announced prior to the testing day and the students will be reminded the morning of testing. If a student is discovered to be in possession of a cell phone once testing has begun, he or she will be subject to disciplinary actions and the test in progress will be marked "No Score". We certainly don't want this to happen after we have worked so hard preparing for this exam.

Please be sure your child has plenty of rest, a healthy breakfast, and several #2 pencils with erasers. They may also bring a bottle of water and a snack to have during the testing session. They may only bring a snack and water for themselves. The sharing of food is not allowed. Opening of certain snack wrappers can be very noisy and distracting during a quiet testing setting. Therefore, in order to minimize the disruption during testing, we ask that the snacks be removed from their original packaging and placed in a small Ziploc bag.

We feel the students are ready. Please reassure them that they are ready to succeed and encourage them to give their very best effort on testing day. We appreciate your support. Your children are becoming great writers!

Sincerely,

Ms. Sandy Alvarez

Mrs. Susan Hendrix

Ms. Megan Smith