

Dear Fowler Parents,

As the first semester comes to an end, we are starting to look forward into a busy spring semester, including the administration of a new state exam, the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR). The STAAR is expected to be a more rigorous test than the previous TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) administered by the state. The enclosed brochure explains the important differences between the TAKS and the STAAR.

One significant change to note is that students will now have a four-hour time limit in which to complete the exam. Another of the changes includes the exam that is administered to students; students are now required to take the exam that corresponds to the curriculum they are studying in the course. At our campus, this only affects mathematics courses. Please see the chart below to know which exam your student will take.

Course	Exam
Grade 6 On-Level Math	STAAR Grade 6 Math
Grade 6 Pre-AP Math	STAAR Grade 6 Math
Grade 7 On-Level Math	STAAR Grade 7 Math
Grade 7 Pre-AP Math	STAAR Grade 8 Math
Grade 8 On-Level Math	STAAR Grade 8 Math
Grade 8 Pre-AP Math	STAAR Grade 8 Math
Pre-AP Algebra I	STAAR End-of-Course Algebra I (High School Level Exam)
Pre-AP Geometry I	STAAR End-of Course Geometry (High School Level Exam)

In order to assist you with your planning and to ensure that all students are present on the day of testing, we are providing you with the administration dates below.

Date	Tests	Students Testing
Tuesday, February 7, 2011	Practice STAAR Math 8 Practice EOC Algebra I Practice EOC Geometry	All 8 th Graders 6 th and 7 th Graders enrolled in Pre-AP Math 7, Pre-AP Algebra I, or Pre-AP Geometry
Tuesday, February 28, 2011	Practice STAAR Math 6 & 7	All 6 th Graders 7 th Graders enrolled in On-Level Math 7
Tuesday, March 27, 2011	STAAR Math 8 STAAR Writing 7, Day 1	8 th Graders enrolled in On-Level Math 8, 6 th Graders enrolled in Pre-AP Math 7 All 7 th Graders
Wednesday, March 28, 2011	STAAR Reading 8 STAAR Writing 7, Day 2	All 8 th Graders All 7 th Graders
Thursday, March 29, 2011	STAAR Math 8	7 th Graders enrolled in Pre-AP Math 7
Tuesday, April 24, 2011	STAAR Math 6 & 7	All 6 th Graders 7 th Graders enrolled in On-Level Math 7
Wednesday, April 25, 2011	STAAR Reading 6 & 7	All 6 th & 7 th Graders
Thursday, April 26, 2011	STAAR Science 8	All 8 th Graders
Friday, April 27, 2011	STAAR Social Studies	All 8 th Graders
Friday, May 11, 2011 & Monday, May 14, 2011	STAAR EOC Algebra I STAAR EOC Geometry	Students enrolled in Pre-AP Algebra I or Pre-AP Geometry

We appreciate your support as we prepare for our state testing.

Sincerely,

Donnie J. Wiseman
Principal, Fowler Middle School
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