

March 29, 2019



Carillon Elementary

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Administrative Team

Daniel H. Windish
Principal

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Dear Comet Families,

The Florida Standards Assessments begin for our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders on Tuesday, April 2, 2019. On that day, our third graders will take their first session of the English Language Arts FSA and our fourth and fifth graders each will have the opportunity to take the writing component of their English Language Arts FSA.

Of course, we ask that students get a good night's rest the night before any test. Being rested always helps students focus. We also ask that parents/guardians provide students with a nice breakfast the morning of any big test. Our school restaurant will be serving a free breakfast to all 3rd-5th graders who would like one on **all** testing days. Feel free to take advantage of that opportunity, especially if you are pressed for time in the morning.

I am proud to report that from my perspective, our students are ready to ROCK these tests! All of these standardized tests require tremendous reading and comprehension skills- even the math and science tests. I know students have been taught to circle, underline, and box all sorts of texts. I have also seen students reading passages throughout the year here at school and making notes to themselves. All of this is permitted on the FSA and they all show active engagement in the reading. When it comes down to it, the way to get better in reading is to do more reading. That is why I also recommend doing the normal 30 minutes of reading with students the nights before the tests too. Reading with you (parents) is less pressured filled and more fun than what they will get on testing day, but really it is the same thing. Spending time reading with you can only help to put students in the right frame of mind during testing.

And that leads me to the last tip for testing days- help your child come to school with a positive attitude. Positive thoughts and messages to students are appreciated on the morning of the tests. Write them a note or take a quick thirty seconds to tell your child you are proud of him/her no matter how he/she does. At school, we have been expressing the positivity as well and even put together a great motivational ROCK video for students. Special thanks to both Ms. Rollins and Mrs. Taubah who coordinated, directed, and filmed our video and thank you to the teachers and students who participated. We'll get a link out on our social media soon for everyone to view it too.

It has always been our contention that a high performing school is more than just one that has high test scores. However, we also know that we function in a world where many decisions are made based upon scores from these tests- from families moving to particular neighborhoods, school grades, class placement decisions, teacher (and principal 😊) evaluations, and even student grade level promotional decisions. It would be unwise to not take them seriously. Therefore, please join us in trying to strike the right balance in getting students encouraged to do their best with minimal stress.

As always, if you ever have any questions, concerns, ideas, or thoughts concerning testing (or anything else), please feel free to contact me. ROCK On!

Sincerely,

Dr. Windish

Daniel H. Windish, Ed.D.
Principal



"Capable, Connected, Contributing"