



Friday Focus

Greenup County Schools

Are You TEST READY?

MAP testing happens for the third and final time this year in March. Of course ACT, KOS-SA, WorkKeys are also on the horizon. Then in April/May we hit the main events of K-Prep and EOC. If you are like most teachers, you walk a fine line between telling students, “This is a high-stakes test that matters” and “Don’t worry, just do the best you can.” The truth is: Testing has become one of the biggest engines that drives our instruction. This creates stress on everyone: students, teachers, parents, and administrators. As educators, we need to find strategies that calm our students while still motivating them to “do their

best” on high-stakes testing.

To start, if students are well-prepared for testing, their anxiety will be reduced. Therefore, our first priority must always be to teach our curriculum so that every student has mastered the targets to the greatest degree possible. Modeling classroom assessments to look like the testing that students will experience at the end of the year will also allow students to know what to expect, thus relieving their fear of the unknown. Finally, allowing students to practice test-taking situations

will reduce anxiety by preparing them for timed situations in which every minute matters.

The key to the success of these strategies is the atmosphere that we create in our classroom. When students have a healthy relationship with their teachers and feel safe in their classroom environments they will want to try harder. Studies show that praising effort versus accomplishments can work as motivators that have a positive impact on student achievement.



Testing Tip of the Week

Each week you will see a testing tip from the Kentucky Department of Education in this section. This week we will focus on accommodations.

TESTING REMINDER/TIP OF THE WEEK

Administration Code

- Test materials shall never be left unattended in any unsecure areas.
- Alternate Assessment materials are considered secure and shall be treated as such.
- Test materials stored in classrooms require a double lock—a closet, desk, cabinet, etc. and the classroom door.
- Students are never to be left alone with test materials whether in a school or a home/hospital setting.

Inclusion of Special Populations

- Students in hospital or homebound settings who are physically able to test without endangering health are to participate in the assessment.

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Volume 1, Issue 5

Upcoming Academy Dates:

- Flex PD Day No School—2/16
- TechSpert- Eve 2/17
- Social Studies Network 2/20

Inside this issue:

[Praise Impact](#)—
short video by
Trevor Ragan

[The Learning
Myth](#)— Article on
Growth Mindset

[Greenup Web
Resources Matrix](#)

[Hello Musketeers](#)
- Greenup Cur-
riculum Blog

GAP Strategies of the Week:

- * Teach students memory strategies. Have students create visual or auditory associations like pictures, rhymes, or mnemonic devices.
- * Provide brief reviews so students can summarize the main concepts.
- * Demonstrate how students can make connections to previous knowledge.