

August 27, 2009

Dear McConnell Middle School Parents,

On September 22, 23, and 24, 2009, eighth grade students will take the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT). This test measures development of abstract reasoning abilities through verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal assessments. CogAT results are used to identify students' areas of strength and weakness.

In addition, October 19-23, 2009, eighth grade students will take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS). This test provides the school with information that indicates how well students are achieving in each area, as compared to national norms. The results of these tests will help teachers assess whether or not students are achieving at levels appropriate to their potential. These results also help school staff plan and implement programs to meet individual student needs.

The results of these tests are informative not only for the school, but also for students and parents. In viewing the results together, we can ascertain how well students are reaching their academic potential. Therefore, it is extremely important that students be present on the test dates and be well rested.

To ensure successful administration of the tests we will not have Help Day for 8th grade students on Wednesday, September 23 (CogAT) or Wednesday, October 21 (ITBS). Thank you for your understanding. Your student's 8th grade teachers will be available on all other Wednesday Help Days should your student require academic assistance.

If you have any questions, please call the school at (770) 554-1000.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Orr  
Assistant Principal