

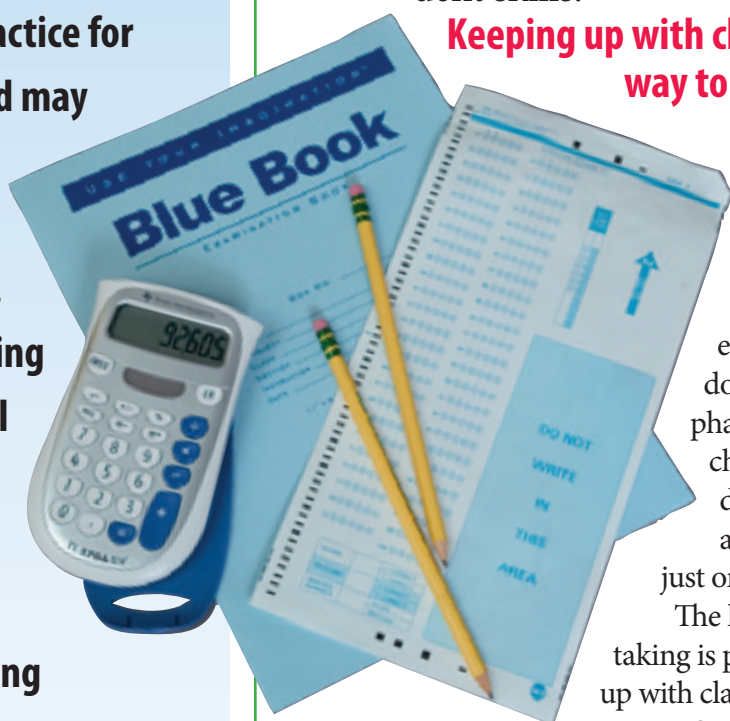
GEARUP SUCCESS PARTNERSHIP

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, Oct. 87 p.m. – Board of Education meeting
Education Center, 2651
Burnet Ave. Auditorium**Saturday, Oct. 13**Special College Preparatory Program (SCPP)
Testing**Monday, Oct. 15**Professional Development
No pupils**Wednesday, Oct. 17**Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)
Grades 10–11**Friday, Oct. 19**End of 1st Quarter;
Parent Teacher Conferences
No Pupils

Did You Know?

You should take the PSAT your junior year. It's good practice for the SAT and may qualify you for scholarships. Look into taking PLAN as well — the new practice test for the ACT. Like anything else, the more you practice, the better you'll do.

**Tests are a fact of school life.**

Students are tested on their knowledge of each subject – math, reading, science and social studies. And students who plan to go on to college must take the SAT or the ACT. In addition, the government regularly tests student skills.

Keeping up with class work is the best way to prepare for tests.

While it's okay to be concerned about taking a test, it's not good to get "test anxiety." Parents can help by encouraging children, but don't put too much emphasis on test scores. Praise children for the things they do well, and don't judge a student on the basis of just one test score.

The key to successful test-taking is preparation, and keeping up with class work is the best way to prepare. Students who go to classes regularly and turn in assignments on

time get better grades and learn more, because they're able to absorb the material at a more natural pace and can ask questions if they need to.

Real learning – the kind that stays with you – takes place over a period of time. Students should review material at home in the days leading up to the test, and not put it off until the night before a test. Cramming increases anxiety and interferes with clear thinking – not to mention a good night's sleep. Eating something for breakfast is important, too, and getting some exercise can also provide a boost.

When it comes time to take the test, students should make sure they have everything they'll need, such as pencils, pens, erasers or extra paper. Calculators can be useful for math tests and dictionaries can help with other subjects, but only if the teacher permits them to be used.

Students should listen and read instructions carefully to make sure no last-minute changes have been announced. Sometimes teachers ask bonus questions for extra credit points, so paying attention is important. Students should

parent power!

Making a difference in school



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plan their time and not spend too much on questions they can't answer right away. One good way to make the most out of the time you have is to answer the easiest questions first and come back to the harder ones later.

After students get their test results back, it's a good idea to review them together – especially if they didn't do as well as they'd like. This is especially important for subjects where the material builds from one section to the next, such as math. Parents can discuss wrong answers with their child to find out why they answered as they did. Sometimes students misunderstand questions or don't express their answer as well as they could have. Parents can help their child learn how to do better on their next test, and students should also read and discuss any teacher comments. If their comments aren't clear, students should ask the teacher to explain.

By working together as a team, parents and students can learn from mistakes and build toward a successful future.

Preparing for Standardized Tests:

Studies have consistently shown that students who take practice standardized tests for the ACT and SAT perform better than those who do not.

PSAT/NMSQT stands for Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. It is commonly referred to as simply the (PSAT) and is a standardized test for 10th- and 11th-graders, measuring reading, math and writing skills. The PSAT offers firsthand practice for the SAT (which is required by many colleges, especially those on the east and west coasts). It also provides an opportunity for students to qualify for scholarships, including National Merit Scholarships.

PLAN is a new practice "pre-ACT" test. The ACT is similar to the SAT, but it is more commonly required by schools in the Midwest and South. Students are encouraged to prepare for at least one, if not both (ACT and SAT).

Cincinnati Public Schools is administering the PSAT on Oct. 17. Talk to your GEARUP college access advisor or visit these Web sites for more information: www.collegeboard.com or www.act.org

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Test-taking Strategies

- #1 Bring everything you'll need to class with you.
- #2 Listen to and read instructions carefully.
- #3 Before you begin, take a moment to plan your time. Spend more time on questions worth more points. Don't spend too much time on one question.
- #4 Think long and hard before changing an answer, because your first instinct is often correct. Change them only if you are sure your answer is wrong.
- #5 If no answer is scored the same as a wrong answer, go ahead and guess on any questions you're unsure of.

