

Parents,

STAAR testing will be on March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. We would like to make you aware of a significant change in the timing of this year's state testing. The STAAR test will be a **timed test**, unlike the TAKS from previous years. Beginning around 8:15, every child will have **4 hours** to complete the test, and at the end of the 4 hour time block, all tests will be picked up. Please help us communicate with the students how important it will be to use their time wisely!

With testing days fast approaching, here are some other things to consider:

- Cell phones will not be allowed in the testing rooms. If your child brings a cell phone to school, it will be taken up, labeled, and given to an administrator.
- Have your child get a good night's sleep before test day.
- Eat a good breakfast the day of testing. Our students will be testing straight through a four hour time period. Around 12:15 or 12:30, testing will be over and our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will go to lunch. This lunch time is a little later than normal for some classes.
- Children will be allowed to take water and bathroom breaks. Unfortunately, any breaks taken in the four hour window will result in less testing time, so we have been encouraging students to use their time wisely.
- In order for our students to get the most out of our 4 hour time block, we are not having our normal snack break on testing days. It is important the students get a great breakfast and have lots of healthy food for post-test!
- Have students pack a lunch or plan to eat a sack lunch at school the day of testing. Also, students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to have in the back of the classroom in case they get thirsty. Water bottles are not allowed on student desks.

The teachers and students have worked so hard this year! STAAR is great opportunity for our bright students to show what they know! Thank you for all of your support at home preparing our students for the testing days. We are so proud of our Tuscany Tigers!