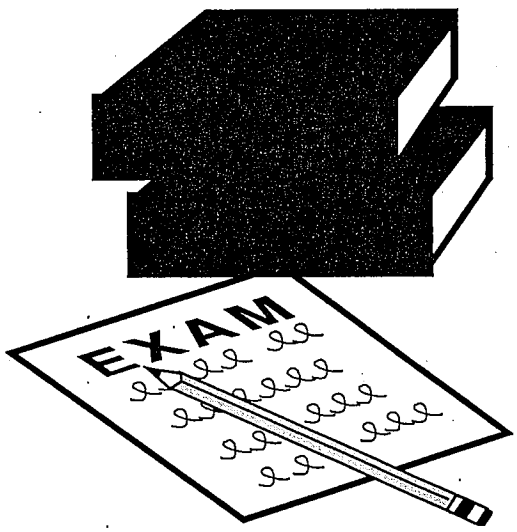
Testing In Progress!

Ideas for the Teacher

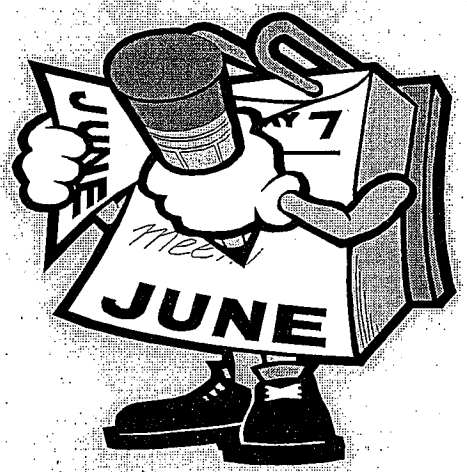
before the testing begins...



Testing Dates…

Mark Your Calendar!

Spring 2000	March 6-10
Spring 2001	March 5-9
Spring 2002	March 4-8



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School Improvement/EA Coordinator

DoDDS-Pacific Deputy Director's Office

Consider Physical Preparations

We want the students to be 'physically ready' on testing days.

- ✓Check the temperature in the room.
- ✓'Bathroom' breaks before testing starts.
- ✓Have drinking water handy.
- ✓Consider 'healthy snacks' for break.
- ✓Plan 'energizers' activities

What are your EXPECTATIONS?

Have you explained them to your students?

✓ *THINK ABOUT THE TIME BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER TESTING SESSIONS…*

What can your students do - or not do?

Can they…

✓ Leave the room? Or Stay seated?

✓ Go back and check over their answers?

✓ Read a book?

✓ Draw a picture?

✓ Sit quietly and wait?

✓ Have a snack?

Testing Times for Terra Nova

The actual testing times break down as follows:

✓ *Practice test* *40 min.*

✓ *Reading/Language Arts*

Part 1 - 35 min. & 15 min.

Part 2 - 35 min. & 20 min.

✓ *Mathematics*

Part 1 - 10 min. & 30 min.

Part 2 - 50 min.

✓ *Science*

Part 1 - 25 min. & 35 min.

✓ *Social Studies*

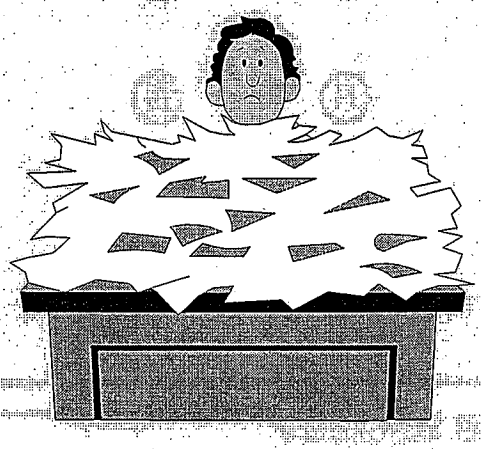
Part 1 - 25 min. & 40 min.

For best results administer each content area should be administered in a single day

Be Provisioned

- ✓ When testing begins have ALL MATERIALS out & ready for **your** use:
- ✓ The Teacher's Guide to Terra Nova
- ✓ Test Coordinator's Manual
- ✓ Timer
- ✓ Student Tests

- ✓ Have extra materials out & ready for the **Students** to use:
- ✓ Extra pencils
- ✓ Scratch paper
- ✓ Books for silent reading during free time



Types of Test Questions

Practice some basic types of test question formats:

- ✓Multiple Choice
- ✓Fill in the Blank
- ✓Read a Paragraph and answer the questions
- ✓Replace the incorrect word or symbol
- ✓Label a chart, table, or graph
- ✓Essay
- ✓Constructed Response

Teach test-taking skills so that students can transfer and apply those skills to all testing situations.

Perfect Practice Makes Perfect

✓Do a dry run before Test Day.

✓Give the class __ minutes to become TEST-READY.

✓Materials out

✓Desks arranged

✓Schedule posted

✓Time needed

✓Test booklet open to correct page

✓Pencil poised

Monitor their performance during the practice run. Identify any inappropriate or off-task behavior.

Model what being "test ready & test-wise" looks & sounds like.

C.T.B.S. -
Terra Nova

✔ A

✔ Chance

✔ To

✔ Be

✔ Smart!

The Purpose of the Test and Utilizing the Results

✓ ***What it is used for ...***

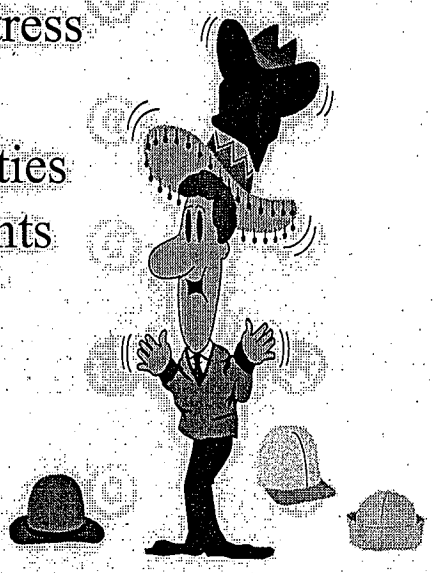
- Standardized tests are the 'grade card' for your school and out system.
- The results are used to identify particular strengths and areas of need in the core curricular areas in order to improve instruction and improve student performance.
- They are used as one tool to identify students who could be placed in special programs; TAG, Special Education, Compensatory Education, etc...

✓ ***And what it is not used for...***

- As a determining factor that will influence grades on report cards

Consider Emotional Factors

- ✓Focus on SUCCESS
- ✓Focus on the POSITIVE!
- ✓Watch for 'Stress Build-up'
- ✓Design activities that get students 'psyched' for testing.

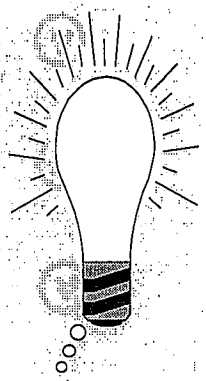


Be Prepared for

Surprises!

- ✓Think about years gone by...
- ✓Have there been any surprises that occurred on test day that you need to be prepared for this year?
- ✓Are you well provisioned? Remember this test uses manipulatives and calculators, have extras on hand.

Time & Planning



- ✓Consider variations in when you test...
- ✓NOT EVERYONE IS A MORNING PERSON...
- ✓Coordinate testing schedule with everyone involved.
- ✓Remember "10-2"

  (10 min. of info - 2 minutes to process)

  " 37-90" (37 min. of work - 90 sec. of physical movement
- ✓Keep track of who is absent and will need to do make-up tests.

Teach Test Taking Tips... *all year long*

- ✓ How to take this test... THE BASICS
- ✓ How to solve difficult problems...
- ✓ Teach problem-solving strategies: ex: "Process of Elimination"
- ✓ Practice taking timed tests
- ✓ Teach students how to answer "Constructed Response" test questions. Writing in journals and answering essay questions on other tests is a good way to practice.
- ✓ Have students practice answering problems that have multiple-step directions
- ✓ Teach students KEY vocabulary words used on tests, especially 'direction' words
- ✓ Teach students editing symbols
- ✓ Remind students that all constructed response items will be checked for content, correct answers, AND language mechanics: spelling, capital letters, complete sentences