

Test Taking Mathematics

- TN provides Reference cards primarily at the upper grades **Slide “Sample C”**
 - Classrooms often have “references” without understanding references have little value
 - Transfer and application is the key
- Calculators **Slide Discretionary Calculator**
 - Calculators are a tool, if students don’t understand the concepts the calculator will do them very little good
 - Calculators are a part of our daily lives
 - Keeping kids from calculators would be like keeping them from a computer until they learn to write properly
 - Test is normed on students who had access to calculators
 - All students should have their own
 - No sharing
 - Before starting the test make sure they work
 - If there are not enough calculators for all students:
 - Request calculators from home
 - Ask lower grades (1-2) or borrow from another school
 - Used for computation and estimation
 - Few responses are out and out number sentences, most require higher order thinking skills **Slide showing stamps**
 - Order of operation, vertical and horizontal; students should be exposed to both **Slide Math Any Way**
 - Are your students familiar with tally marks?
- Tables, Charts and Graphs
 - Graphs: Line, Bar, Circle
 - If you don’t do anything else with your students spend lots of time on this **Slide Baseball mitt; slide Favorite drawing tools Fishing Trip Record**
 - Require titles
 - Require labeled axes
- Patterns **Slide “Chalkboard”**
- Appropriate math vocabulary
 - Shapes: Hexagon, rhombus (not diamond), triangle, etc.
 - Divided by, remainder, area, circumference, integer, etc. should be used all the time, then when students see it on a test it is not new
 - Reference hand-out/slide with key direction words
 - Negative words **slide Pattern blocks**
 - Multiple steps **slide Pattern blocks**
 - Draw: Directions are so important; it says draw a picture, not a series of pictures; for students like myself I tend to go in for over kill, the problem is this is a timed test; too much time spent on an answer means that I do not get to others

- Marking answers: circle, underline, x out, check; if the directions are not followed the answer will be marked wrong, even if it is the correct response
- Computer corrected, programmed to look for specific marking, any variations will be incorrect
- Covers
- Construct an answer
 - Involves meta-cognition
 - Students should practice writing out their thinking
 - New math programs do not put a heavy emphasis on this
 - New elementary programs have TerraNova practice test booklets.
 - No constructed responses
 - Mostly computation
- If there is time have the participants spend time working on the problem on page 63 of the Teacher's Guide to TerraNova
 - Discuss and show rubric **slide Mathematics**