

COUNTDOWN TO TCAP!



Instructional days left
before the TCAP begins
on April 15th!



THE TURNAROUND DIGEST

Review

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 30 • APRIL 5, 2024

DR. THOMAS D. ROGERS, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT - 2022-2023 BROAD FELLOW-YALE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT



The Melrose High School Mighty Wildcats welcome Dr. Marie Feagins during her first school visit as the official Memphis-Shelby County Schools Superintendent.

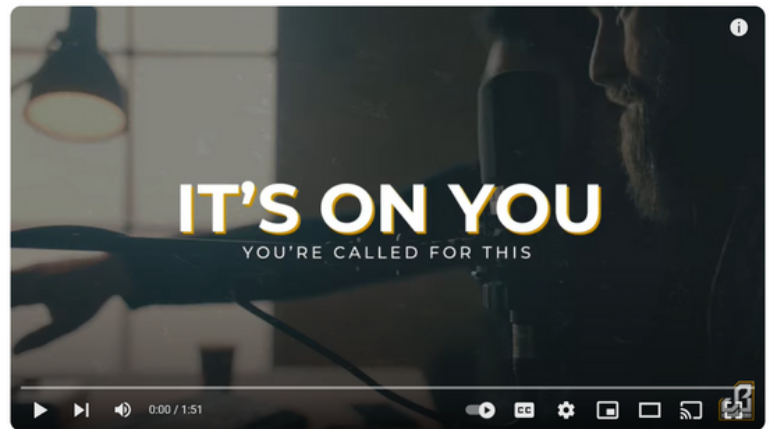
FROM THE DESK OF

Dr. Thomas D. Rogers

It's On You!

In turnaround schools, the responsibility for change and improvement rests squarely on your shoulders. It's on you to be the catalyst for transformation, to inspire students, engage fellow educators, and foster a culture of growth and excellence. Embrace the challenges as opportunities to make a profound difference in the lives of students and communities. Your dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment will serve as the driving force behind the positive changes needed to create thriving learning environments. Remember, every small step forward is a triumph, and your efforts will undoubtedly shape a brighter future for generations to come. It's on you to lead the way towards success in turnaround schools.

The Cost of Winning...O.R.A. + the extra degree



IT'S ON YOU - Inspirational Leadership Video

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Click on the image above to view the video.

LEADERSHIP

DR. JANICE TANKSON, ZONE 12 ILD

How Do You Make the BEST of One More Week?

We have finally made it to the LAST WEEK to prepare our students for the TCAP/EOC assessments. Many of you are doing that last lap with students to review grade level standards, teach test-taking strategies, and provide-out-of-this-world incentives to ensure students come to school every day. And that is exactly what we want to see. That is very important, however, there is quite more that we need to do to ensure our students succeed. We must set the tone for testing success. The article below explores how principals can stay calm and collected during what can be one of the most stressful times of the year. It also gives helpful suggestions on how to set the tone for students' success. Always remember, we are in this TOGETHER!



Edmentum Article: [Using Classroom Culture, Test-Taking Skills, and Mindfulness to Overcome Test-Season Stress](#)

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MEMPHIS IEI:LEAD GRADUATES!



On March 22, 2024, the Institute for Education Innovation held the IEI: Lead Graduation for its 2024 cohort. Of the 53 Memphis-Shelby County Schools graduates, **ten of them were IZone principals!** We salute these dynamic educators who have gone the extra mile to build their capacity as leaders:

- Deartis Barber
- Dione Curry
- Dr. Trenton Watson
- Eric Brent
- Kristopher Davis
- Claude Wilson
- Julia Callaway
- Staci Hendrix
- Darla Young-Berry
- Erica Key



Principals Pictured Above (l-r): Dr. Trenton Watson, Westwood HS; Eric Brent, Trezevant HS; Kristopher Davis, Melrose HS



Principals Pictured Above (l-r): Claude Wilson, Hawkins Mill ES; Julia Callaway, Cummings K-8; Staci Hendrix, LaRose ES; Erica Key, Getwell ES



Principals Pictured to the Left (l-r): Deartis Barber, Grandview Heights MS; Dione Curry, Raleigh-Egypt MS; Darla Young-Berry, Havenview MS

Greetings Exceptional Teachers and Leaders,

We are about one week away from the start of TCAP and students getting a chance to demonstrate what they have learned this school year. The burning question that many of you may have right now is, "How can I intensify my instructional effort in these six days to make the most impact?" Well, I am so glad you asked!

We have provided several tools and beneficial resources provided throughout this year in the TDR. Therefore, there is no need to reinvent the wheel, especially when the resources are effective. Be reminded of the items below that can continue to be used in this final stretch before the championship game. Review and utilize the items linked below as you press forward to strengthen students' thinking skills to make a greater impact on student achievement.

IZone Writing Guide - A guide developed by the IZone ELA team that provides a structured approach to teaching writing for all modes. It includes prompts, texts, rubrics, exemplar essays, anchor papers that students and teachers can use to strengthen writing skills. <https://bit.ly/IZONEWRITING>

Standards Guides - Guides provided by the MSCS Curriculum and Instruction team that show core instructional moves for a given skill within the standards. For each skill, the standards guide also includes criteria for success, potential student misconceptions, and scaffolding ideas. [Standards Guides](#)

Standards-Aligned Items - Practice items that are aligned to each standard so that students can have multiple "at bats" with test questions. These can be used as reteach items to address previous misconceptions or as practice problems to build stamina. [6. Standards Aligned Items](#)

We are excited to see the strides that students will make on the upcoming assessments. Just as shared previously, the students are taking the test, so let's make sure that we are setting them up for success and putting them in the right mental space (see [TDR Volume 2, Issue 29](#) for ideas).



The Focal Point

K-8 MATH

ROMOND ARNOLD, MANAGER

Effective Test Taking Strategies for Mathematics Standardized Assessments in Grades 3-8

Hello IZone 3.0 Mathematicians,

Standardized assessments in mathematics can be daunting for students in grades 3-8. However, with the right test-taking strategies, students can approach these assessments with confidence and perform to the best of their abilities. In this article, we will explore some effective strategies to help students succeed in mathematics standardized tests.



1. Understand the Format:

Before the test day, familiarize students with the format of the standardized assessment. Knowing the types of questions they will encounter, such as multiple-choice, short answer, or problem-solving, can help students prepare more effectively.

2. Review Key Concepts:

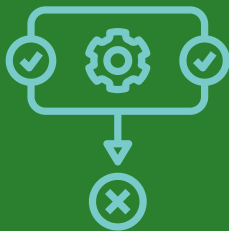
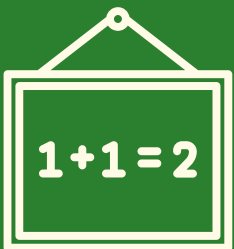
Encourage students to review key mathematical concepts covered in their grade level curriculum. Focus on topics that are commonly tested, such as arithmetic operations, fractions, decimals, geometry, and measurement. Provide practice problems to reinforce understanding.

3. Practice Time Management:

Teach students time management skills to ensure they complete the test within the allocated time limit. Remind them to pace themselves and not spend too much time on difficult questions. Encourage them to skip challenging questions and return to them later if time permits.

4. Read Carefully:

Stress the importance of reading each question carefully before attempting to solve it. Emphasize the need to understand what is being asked and to look for keywords or clues that can help determine the correct approach to solving the problem.



STAY POSITIVE

5. Show Your Work:

Encourage students to show their work when solving problems, especially in open-ended questions. This not only helps them organize their thoughts but also allows teachers to provide partial credit for their efforts, even if the final answer is incorrect.

6. Eliminate Wrong Answers:

Teach students to use the process of elimination to eliminate obviously incorrect answer choices in multiple-choice questions. By narrowing down the options, students increase their chances of selecting the correct answer.

7. Check Your Work:

Remind students to review their answers and check for errors before submitting their test. Encourage them to use any remaining time to go back and double-check their work, ensuring accuracy and completeness.

8. Stay Positive:

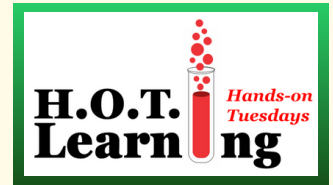
Finally, remind students to maintain a positive attitude throughout the test-taking process. Encourage them to stay calm and focused, even if they encounter challenging questions. Remind them that mistakes are a natural part of learning and encourage them to do their best.

By implementing these test-taking strategies, students can approach mathematics standardized assessments in grades 3-8 with confidence and competence. With practice and preparation, students can demonstrate their understanding of key mathematical concepts and achieve success on this year's TCAP/EOC.

K-8 SCIENCE

ANGELA ROWE-JACKSON, MANAGER

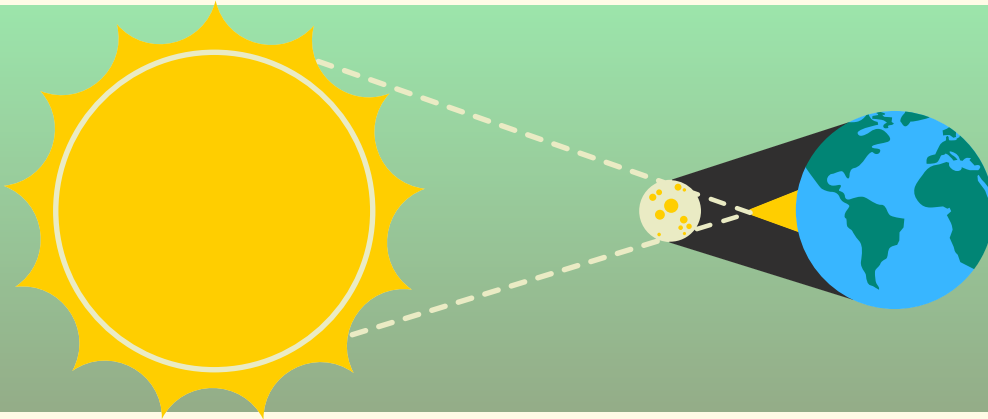
M.A.D. Scientists at Work
Masters of 5E with **Ambition** and **Determination**



Don't Miss Out: *Prepare Your Students for the Solar Eclipse on Monday, April 8, 2024*

As educators, we have the incredible opportunity to transform ordinary days into extraordinary learning experiences. On Monday, April 8, 2024, we have the chance to do just that as we witness a rare celestial event: a solar eclipse. This phenomenon presents a golden opportunity to ignite curiosity, inspire wonder, and deepen understanding of our universe.

A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the sun and Earth, casting a shadow that partially or completely obscures the sun's light. This upcoming eclipse promises to be a breathtaking sight, and it's our responsibility to ensure that our students are not only ready for it but also equipped to experience it safely.



Educate Your Students: Take time in the days leading up to the eclipse to educate your students about what they can expect to see and the science behind it. Explain the importance of wearing solar glasses to protect their eyes from harmful solar radiation. Use this as an opportunity to spark curiosity and encourage questions about the universe.

Safety First: Emphasize the importance of safety during the eclipse. Remind students that they should never look directly at the sun without proper eye protection. Ensure that everyone wears their solar glasses at all times during the event. All schools have received solar glasses for this purpose, so please make sure they are readily available.

Plan Engaging Activities: Incorporate the eclipse into your lesson plans to make the most of this teachable moment. Consider organizing viewing parties, where students can observe the eclipse safely together. Encourage them to record their observations, take photographs (with appropriate equipment), and even create artwork inspired by the event.

Community Engagement: Involve parents and the wider community in the excitement of the eclipse. Share information about the event through newsletters, social media, or school websites. Encourage families to discuss the eclipse at home and to view it together safely.

Capture the Moment: Remember to capture this unforgettable experience by taking photographs or videos of the eclipse and your students' reactions. These moments will not only serve as cherished memories but also as valuable teaching tools for future discussions about astronomy and science.

As we eagerly anticipate the solar eclipse on April 8, let's ensure that our students are prepared, engaged, and safe. By embracing this celestial event as an educational opportunity, we can inspire a lifelong love of learning and a deeper appreciation for the wonders of the universe.

Together, let's make Monday, April 8, 2024, a day to remember!

Together, We are ONE in SCIENCE!

"Which came first, the chicken or the egg?", has been an argument for many decades. Being able to support an argument with relevant and sufficient evidence is a skill that students will need to practice in and out of school. Just as the answer to the age-old question is a mystery, the mode of testing remains a mystery. Therefore, to prepare students for the writing assessment each mode of writing should be taught. Standard: W.9-10.1. - *Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence*, is worth 16 pts on the EOC assessment.

Here are a few tips to support students with mastery of Standard W.9-10.1:

- Read and annotate the text.
- Analyze the Writing Prompt
- Compose an introduction using an **ACDORT** paragraph.

Attention Grabber (Ask a question, state a fact, anecdote/personal example)

Connection (Explain the hook)

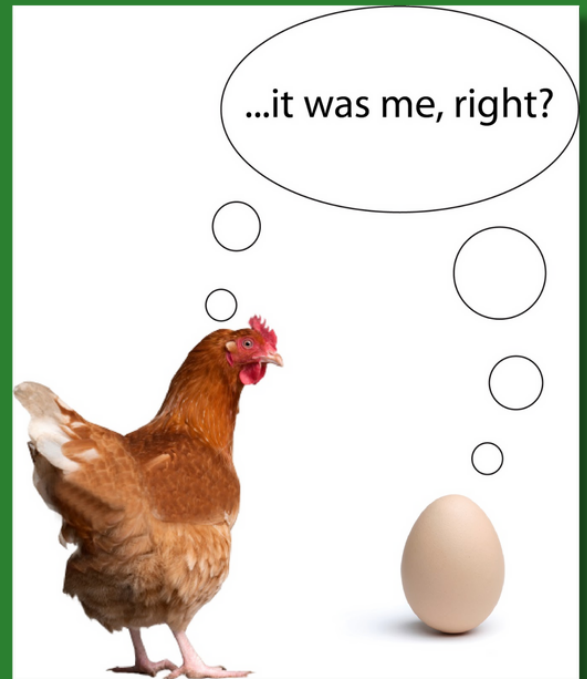
Definition (Define an important term)

Opinion Statement (claim)

Reason (list the three most important reasons)

Transition (Transition to the ACACET paragraph)

Use the **ACACET** (Answer, Cite Evidence, Explain, Cite Evidence, Explain, Transition) method to compose body paragraphs and the concluding paragraph.



ACDORT



2024 IZone High School Commencement Schedule

MSCS 2024 Commencement Ceremonies

High School	Graduation Date	Graduation Time	Venue
B T Washington	May 18, 2024	10:00 AM	Orpheum
Hamilton	May 16, 2024	6:00 PM	Cannon
Manassas	May 18, 2024	4:00 PM	Cannon
Melrose	May 21, 2024	7:00 PM	Renasant
Mitchell	May 20, 2024	6:00 PM	Cannon
Oakhaven	May 18, 2024	9:00 AM	Cannon
Trezevant	May 17, 2024	7:00 PM	Renasant
Westwood	May 18, 2024	12:00 PM	Cannon
Wooddale	May 17, 2024	6:00 PM	Cannon






ATTENTION PRINCIPALS,
TEAM #2 ARTIFACTS ARE DUE

TODAY
APRIL 5TH

Click here to Access and
DOWNLOAD the Team #2
Artifacts Template.



THE IZONE 3.0 COMMITMENTS



***Your school is
my school.***

***My school is
your school.***

***Your kids are
my kids.***

***My kids are
your kids.***