

SAVE THE DATE

Summer
Learning
Institute

&
Early Return
Week

July 22-26, 2024

Never
STOP
Learning!





THE TURNAROUND DIGEST

Review

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 32 • APRIL 19, 2024

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



The Dunbar ES Boys Basketball Team placed 3rd out of 28 teams and won the consolation game in The Gentleman's League Basketball Tournament! These scholar-athletes ended the season with an amazing 14-3 record! Congratulations to Principal Shaw and the Dunbar Pandas!

FROM THE DESK OF

Dr. Thomas D. Rogers

It's Your Winning Season!

Winning in turnaround schools brings an unparalleled sense of joy and happiness. It's not just about achieving academic success but also about revitalizing a community, restoring hope, and proving that positive change is possible. The victory is shared among students, teachers, administrators, and the entire community, fostering a collective sense of pride and accomplishment. Winning in turnaround schools represents overcoming challenges, breaking barriers, and creating a brighter future for future generations. The celebration is not just for the present moment but for the promise of what lies ahead as the momentum of success continues to inspire and uplift all involved.

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

[Article: Happiness and Leadership - A Guide to Fulfillment in Your Role](#)



LEADERSHIP

DR. DEBRA STANFORD, ZONE 9 ILD

Excerpt from *Navigating Testing Season: Strategies for Educational Leaders to Ease Stress and Disruption*

"There's no easy way to say it: testing season is stressful. From the logistics of coordinating schedules and materials to the task of preparing and supporting students, the flurry of state and district tests is demanding on administrators, teachers, school staff, and students.

Rather than throwing your hands up and resigning to this fate, school leaders can take tangible steps both to ameliorate the stress of testing and to use this time as an opportunity to bolster school culture and community. Sounds great, but how can you do that?!"



Matt Homrich-Knieling
Writer and Educator

Celebrate Everyone's Success!

"When testing is complete, make intentional time and space to celebrate everyone's success. For teachers, you can look back at the roles each teacher and staff member played and give individualized and collective shout-outs for their hard-work. Additionally, throughout testing, teachers and staff often provide support, fill in gaps, and play roles that weren't explicitly delegated. At the first staff meeting following testing, open up space for staff members to share stories of their colleagues stepping up to offer help and support. All of this recognition offers teachers and staff validation for their effort and energy.

For students, create space to reflect and decompress. Through activities like free-writes, pair-shares, and whole-class discussions, allow students to reflect on what went well and what was challenging with their tests. Then, with community-building activities, students can reconnect with their classmates, have fun, and experience some reprieve.

Teachers should also be encouraged to give their students specific positive feedback. Rather than saying, 'You all did a great job testing,' specific feedback such as 'I could tell everyone was really taking their time during the test and not rushing through it. Thanks so much for your hard work!' helps students understand what they specifically did that contributed to success.

Lastly, celebrating success also includes parents/care-takers. If you had students who stood out as especially diligent or helpful during testing, communicating that to families is a great way to build stronger partnerships with the community."

Full Article: [Navigating Testing Season: Strategies for Educational Leaders to Ease Stress and Disruption](#)

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

REINTRODUCING: LAROSE COMMUNITY SCHOOL!

LaRose's Name Change and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

On April 11th, the LaRose Lions welcomed a wonderful group of stakeholders to their school's name change and Community Resource Center's ribbon-cutting ceremony! The school was renamed "LaRose Community School," and this momentous occasion was marked by an abundance of joy, celebration, and excitement about the school's future and community partnerships.

As guests entered LaRose, they were welcomed by the sounds of the Harmonic South Strings Ensemble and further entertained by performances from The South City Flames Cheerleaders and the Lion Cubs Singers.

The student-led program featured the recitation of the school's affirmation, reflections from Rise Memphis and Literacy Mid-South representatives, and special remarks from Memphis' First Lady, Dr. Jemila Smith-Young, and MSCS Board Commissioner Michelle McKissack.



Above: The Harmonic South Strings Ensemble
Below (l-r): Student Master and Mistress of Ceremony, the LaRose Food Bank, and members of the LaRose Dance Team

Reintroducing
LaRose Community School!

MEMPHIS
COUNTY SCHOOLS

LaRose Elementary School
Est. 1911

You are cordially invited to the
**NAME CHANGE AND
RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY**
of the Community Resource Center

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024
9:30 A.M.-10:30 P.M.

LAROSE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
864 WILLOUGHBY MEMPHIS, TN 38126

Light refreshments will be provided.



The Focal Point

DR. MATARA HARRIS, MANAGER

Greetings Great Teachers and Leaders,

Now that testing season is here, there are still ways to keep students focused and alert for the upcoming weeks' assessments. Use the strategies below to reset students for the next day.

HELPING STUDENTS STAY FOCUSED & ALERT!



Teach a Lesson Outside

The end of testing usually corresponds with the beginning of nice weather. Take your class outside to enjoy the beautiful weather. A change in setting can energize and motivate students. This works best for lessons that do not require a lot of materials or manipulatives. Have students bring a book outside to read or bring a clipboard, paper, and a pencil outside to write.

Take a Tour of Next Year's Classroom

Pair up with a teacher from the grade level above you and take your class for a visit. This will excite students about their upcoming school year and help them overcome nervousness. You can take this a step further and pair up your students with a student in the grade level above them for an interview.

Write Thank You Letters

Schools are full of people who rarely get the thanks they deserve. Have your students write thank you notes to other teachers, the custodial and cafeteria staff, secretaries, paraprofessionals, special education teachers, parent volunteers, and anyone else who deserves thanks. Students can create their cards with paper and art supplies.

Read Aloud a Favorite Chapter Book

Sadly, read-alouds are often cut due to the pressure of testing. Take advantage of the time after testing to read an engaging chapter book to your 3rd, 4th, or 5th-grade students.

Play Strategy Games

Learning how to play chess can be a lot of fun. It requires problem-solving and opportunities to devise a strategy. While games like this clearly benefit students' brain function, they are not often taught in schools anymore because they do not directly correlate to a standard.

Write Letters to Next Year's Students

Have your upper elementary students write a letter advising next year's class. Have students think about what they learned this year - academically and behaviorally - and pass on their wisdom to next year's students.

Let Students Be The Teacher

Provide each student an opportunity to teach the rest of the class something. Have students prepare a 5-10 minute presentation on a teacher-approved topic of their choice. Give them some freedom in choosing the visuals they should include in their presentation. This will allow them to be creative while practicing their speaking skills.

Summary

These strategies will not only bring fun to the day but also support students' social-emotional learning! Keeping students motivated throughout this testing season is critical to promoting continued success.

Take a quick look below at how Getwell Elementary students were motivated during their April 15th TCAP Pep Rally. They celebrated with a student-versus-teacher basketball game and TCAP chants. The students were extremely excited and are now ready for the TCAP test!



The Focal Point

K-8 MATH

ROMOND ARNOLD, MANAGER

Enhancing Mathematics Mastery: Engaging Activities Beyond Daily Testing

Hello IZone 3.0 Mathematicians,

As educators, we recognize that learning doesn't end with assessments; it's a continuous journey of exploration and discovery. After completing daily testing, students in grades 2-8 have a wonderful opportunity to deepen their conceptual understanding and mathematical capacity through engaging activities that cover a spectrum of mathematical domains including computation, fractions, geometry, data, and measurements. In IZone 3.0, we believe in fostering a love for mathematics through hands-on experiences and meaningful connections. Let's explore some enriching activities tailored to each grade level.

Grade 2: Exploring Patterns and Shapes

After testing, invite students to dive into the world of patterns and shapes. Provide pattern blocks or tangrams for students to create and extend various patterns. Encourage them to identify shapes and their attributes, fostering spatial reasoning skills. Engage students in a shape scavenger hunt around the classroom or school grounds, prompting them to find real-world objects that match specific shapes.

Grade 3: Hands-On Fraction Fun

Following testing, immerse students in the realm of fractions. Set up stations with different manipulatives such as fraction bars, circles, and squares. Challenge students to explore equivalent fractions by partitioning shapes and comparing different representations. Incorporate fraction games like Fraction Bingo or Fraction War to reinforce understanding in a playful manner.



Grade 4: Geometry Galore

After assessments, engage students with captivating geometry activities. Provide geoboards and rubber bands for students to construct polygons and explore the properties of shapes. Introduce concepts of angles and symmetry through art projects where students create symmetrical designs using various materials. Take learning outdoors with a geometry scavenger hunt, tasking students to identify different types of angles and shapes in their environment.

Grade 5: Data Analysis Adventures

Post-testing, embark on data analysis adventures with fifth graders. Engage students in collecting and organizing data from surveys or real-world scenarios. Introduce basic statistical concepts such as mean, median, mode, and range, using hands-on examples. Encourage students to create bar graphs, line plots, and pictographs to represent their findings, promoting visual literacy in data representation.

Grade 6: Measurement Marvels

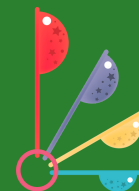
Following assessments, dig into the world of measurement with sixth graders. Provide measuring tools (rulers, tape measures, scales, etc.) for students to explore length, area, volume, and mass. Engage students in practical scavenger hunts where they determine the dimensions of various objects and compare their measurements. Integrate real-world applications by having students design and build structures using specified measurements.

Grades 7-8: Computational Challenges

For seventh and eighth graders, post-testing activities can focus on computational challenges to deepen mathematical fluency. Incorporate problem-solving tasks that require students to apply arithmetic operations, fractions, and decimals in real-world contexts. If possible, introduce coding activities where students use programming languages like Python to solve mathematical problems and create visualizations.



$$\frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$$



In conclusion, the time following daily testing presents a valuable opportunity to enrich students' mathematical experiences and deepen their conceptual understanding across various domains. By engaging students in hands-on activities tailored to their grade level, we can foster a deeper appreciation for mathematics and empower students to become confident problem solvers. Let's continue to inspire mathematical curiosity and exploration in our classrooms every day.

K-8 SCIENCE

ANGELA ROWE-JACKSON, MANAGER

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

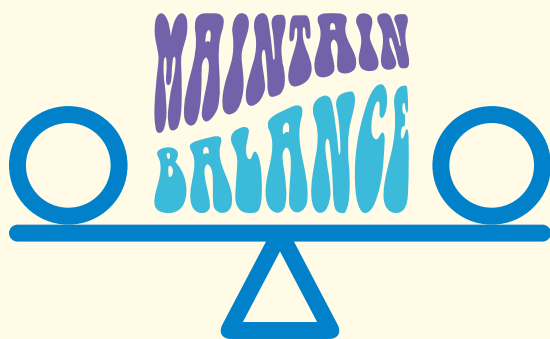


Maximizing Support for Students During State Testing: Strategies for Teachers

State testing season often engenders a sense of urgency among educators as they strive to ensure their students are adequately prepared for the assessments. However, amidst the demands of test preparation, it's crucial for teachers to remember that they still have valuable time to provide support and guidance to their students. Here are some effective strategies for teachers to maximize support during the state testing period:

Targeted Review Sessions: Use the time leading up to the tests to conduct targeted review sessions focused on key concepts and skills that will be assessed. Break down complex topics into manageable chunks and provide students with ample opportunities for practice and reinforcement. **Incorporate interactive activities, review games, and collaborative exercises to keep students engaged and motivated.**

Review



Maintain a Balanced Approach: While it's important to prioritize test preparation, it's equally essential to maintain a balanced approach to instruction. Avoid excessive focus on test-specific content at the expense of broader learning objectives. **Continue to provide opportunities for inquiry, exploration, and creative expression across the curriculum. Incorporate engaging activities, projects, and discussions that stimulate intellectual curiosity and promote deeper understanding of concepts.**

Celebrate Effort and Progress: Acknowledge and celebrate the hard work, perseverance, and growth demonstrated by students throughout the testing process. Emphasize the importance of effort, improvement, and resilience, rather than solely focusing on outcomes. **Recognize individual achievements, small victories, and milestones reached along the way. By celebrating effort and progress, teachers reinforce a growth mindset and motivate students to continue striving for excellence.**

Let's Celebrate

I leave you with the lyrics from Donnie McClurkin's song, "**After you've done all you can...you just...Stand.**"

Together, We are ONE in SCIENCE!

The Focal Point

HIGH SCHOOL

DR. WILLIAM KINARD III, MANAGER

Submitted by Kimberly Speight, Science Coach

Instructional Practice: Student Discussion

Student Discussion is an instructional practice that allows scholars to unpack what has been presented through experiences, activities, and lectures. This instructional strategy requires students to discuss their thoughts, ideas, and answers to questions. Often, a lesson plan may note that students will discuss a video, lesson activity, or an idea. But how does that look and sound in practice? We must account for how students will discuss, how we ensure that all students are engaged, and what questions we will ask to prompt and direct discussions. Intentional structures assist in ensuring that student discussions include all the aforementioned components. Listed below are a few examples of instructional strategies (basic structures) that can be used to promote student discussion.

Gallery Walk/Chat Stations: Stations or posters are set up around the classroom, on the walls, or on tables. Small groups of students travel from station to station together, performing tasks or responding to a prompt, either of which will result in a conversation.

Philosophical Chairs/Forced Debate/This or That: A statement with two possible responses—agree or disagree—is read out loud. Depending on whether students agree or disagree with this statement, they move to one side of the room or the other. From that spot, students take turns defending their positions. A variation of this strategy is *Four Corners* where there are four answer choices.

Think-Pair-Share: An oldie but a goodie, Think-Pair-Share can be used whenever you want to ensure interactivity in a lesson. Simply have students think about their response to a question, form a pair with another person, discuss their response, and then share the response with the larger group.

Team-Pair-Solo: Team-Pair-Solo is a cooperative learning strategy in which students are grouped into teams to complete the same or related task. First, they discuss and solve a problem as a team, then break into pairs to complete the next step and/or discuss. Finally, students solve the final task individually.



Resources:

- [The Big List of Class Discussion Strategies \(Webpage\)](#)
- [Team-Pair-Solo \(PDF\)](#)
- [Advantages of Team-Pair-Solo \(Video\)](#)

Intentional, engaging discussion helps students unpack difficult standards by allowing them to hear other students' thinking. Receiving feedback enhances students' understanding.

Standard BIO1.LS1.5 – *Research examples that demonstrate the functional variety of proteins and construct an argument based on evidence for the importance of the molecular structure to its function. Plan and carry out a controlled investigation to test predictions about factors, which should cause an effect on the structure and function of a protein.*

As students research examples of proteins and analyze each protein structure's impact on its function, student discussion helps to communicate findings and clarify misconceptions. Students can share their findings through classroom presentations or conduct a gallery walk of their own focus protein by displaying their findings on chart paper. Students can respond to additional probing questions within assigned groups about a given protein and then engage in academic discourse about the impact of protein structure on a specific function.




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



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.***