



It Makes Sense!

① A Note from Dr. Lasmanis:

September 12, 2008

It's that time of year again for grades 3-6:
ISTEP TESTING NEXT WEEK!

Please see the letter and schedule from Mrs. Harasim on pages 3 and 4.

ISTEP is a very important event for not only your student but for the school. How well charter school students do on the ISTEP is one of the key accountability factors that the Mayor's Office looks at when it comes time to renewing a school's charter.

Here is what you can do to help your students do their very best:

- Explain to them the importance of the test
- Make sure they get a good nights rest.

Here is what we are going to do:

- **On Monday** we will provide a **hot breakfast for 3rd, 5th and 6th grade**
- **On Tuesday** we will do the same **4th grade**.

The ISTEP breakfast Menu:

Icy cold milk

Strawberry jam

Toast

Eggs – The Dr. Lasmanis special, fresh – almost legendary - scrambled eggs

Potatoes

Every day, for all students taking the ISTEP, we provide snacks for that extra energy boost for testing!

Plus there is a personal reward for students doing well:

-Students who **pass one portion** of ISTEP, or who show at least a **10% gain** over last years test scores will go on a **special field trip to IMAX theaters in January.**

-Students who **pass both sections** of ISTEP will go to a **special lunch** before the **field trip to IMAX theaters.**

Each year our students have done better than the year before, let's make this the best year ever!

JC Lasmanis

**ISTEP Testing ~
Begins Next Week!**

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NEWS & REMINDERS**Help Pick Up The Tab For**

To many, a pop tab is just a piece of aluminum with one purpose - to open a can. But to the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana, the pop tab is a valuable resource. Why? Collected pop tabs are recycled; generating much-needed funds to support the House and the nearly 1,500 families they serve each year.

SENSE Kindergarten students will be collecting pop tabs throughout the school year to donate to the Ronald McDonald House. Please help us by collecting pop tabs and sending them to school with your child to give to the Kindergarten classrooms. At the end of the school year, we will deliver the pop tabs to the Ronald McDonald House.

Thank you for your help,
SENSE Kindergartners

3 NEWS & REMINDERS: ISTEP TESTING

Dear Families,

Next week our 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grade students will participate in ISTEP+ testing. ISTEP stands for Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress. All Indiana public schools, including charter schools, are required, by law, to administer this test. This test measures your child's mastery level of the Indiana Academic Standards.

Not only does this assessment provide you with valuable information about your child's knowledge of the academic standards, it also provides the Mayor's Office and the state Department of Education an assessment of how SENSE is progressing as a school.

ISTEP plays a critical role in the Department of Education's annual review of all Indiana schools. Please emphasize the importance of this assessment to your student.

Different components of the test will be administered each day.

It is very important that all students participate all days. Students should not miss any school next week unless absolutely necessary.

Please take a moment to review the following ISTEP preparation tips with your child:

- See that your child gets his/her regular amount of sleep before the tests and is well-rested.
- We will be providing a special ISTEP breakfast for 3rd, 5th and 6th grade on Monday and for 4th grade on Tuesday. On all other days, make sure that your child eats his/her usual breakfast. Hunger can detract from a good test performance.
- Encourage your child to listen carefully to all test-taking directions given by the teacher and to ask questions about any directions that are unclear.
- Encourage your child to do his/her best for themselves and for the school!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Harasim
Education Director

ISTEP TESTING NEXT WEEK! Grades 3-6

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3rd Grade:

Practice Test	Monday 9:00-9:30
Language Arts	Monday 10:20-11:30
Language Arts	Tuesday 10:10-11:10
Math	Tuesday 1:30-2:55
Math	Wednesday 9:40-10:40

4th Grade

Language Arts	Tuesday 8:45-10:00
Language Arts	Wednesday 8:35-10:35
Math	Wednesday 1:00-2:10
Math	Thursday 8:45-9:25
Math	Thursday 9:35-10:15

5th Grade

Language Arts	Monday 9:00-10:10
Language Arts	Tuesday 8:45-10:45
Math	Tuesday 1:15-2:30
Math	Wednesday 8:45-9:30
Math	Wednesday 1:30-2:15
Science	Thursday 8:45-10:55

6th Grade