



EARLHAM COMMUNITY SCHOOL

P.O. BOX 430 - EARLHAM, IOWA 50072

515-758-2235

515-758-2215 (FAX)



MICHAEL WRIGHT, SUPERINTENDENT
JODI STROUD, BOARD SECRETARY/BUSINESS MANAGER

DAVE WEMPEN, 7-12 PRINCIPAL
JASON HAMMEN, PRE-K-6 PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In the next few weeks, your child will be taking the Iowa Assessments®. These are the new tests that replace the ITBS/ITED tests of the past as they are tied to the Iowa Core curriculum. Though they have a new name, the tests will still share valuable information about your student, which in turn assists teachers in planning instruction to better meet their learning needs so they may experience success and excel in the classroom.

The Iowa Assessments make this possible by providing detailed information about your child in a variety of important content areas including Reading, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.

- The Iowa Assessments help determine how students are performing on the state curriculum as described in the Iowa Core.
- The Iowa Assessments measure student growth and progress from year to year.
- The Iowa Assessments help teachers identify a student's strengths and identify areas that may need additional emphasis. The assessments produce information that enable sound decision making and provide a focus for teachers to evaluate their instruction.
- The Iowa Assessments provide information about your child's performance relative to the school, the state of Iowa, and the nation.

Using the results of the assessment, we encourage you to work together with your child's teacher to identify and address educational needs. The results will help prepare your child for the next step on their educational path. **Right now we need your help.** The tests will be given to all students in grades 3-11. **Testing occurs the week of February 6 - 10th.** You can help us and your students by:

- Making sure any appointments are moved from mornings that week.** We are striving for 100% attendance. And, do not want to have to pull your child from regular classes to make these tests up. Additionally, the high school and middle school have test attendance incentives that will be shared by advisory teachers.
- Please make sure that they get a good night's sleep and breakfast each morning.** We want to capture the best snapshot possible of your child's academic performance, and having a brain that is well-rested and fed makes that happen. Teachers will be in contact with you regarding snacks during break periods, too.

Thanks in advance for your help in making this a successful testing time as we switch over to the Iowa Assessments. As soon as we get results, we will share them with you and your child while teachers start analyzing the data to adjust their lessons to better meet student needs. Please do not hesitate to contact the school or your child's teacher for more information. For specific information about the new Iowa Assessments, please go to <http://itp.education.uiowa.edu>.

Thanks,

The District Leadership Team