

Dear Ainsworth Elementary School Parents/Guardians:

Ainsworth Elementary School will be starting the Iowa Assessments the week of February 6th. Each student in grades third through fifth will be tested in the areas of Math, Reading, Science, and Social Studies. There are two Math tests, two Reading tests, one Science test, and one Social Studies test; each test is approximately 30-35 minutes.

Testing will take place during the mornings of–

- Monday, February 6
- Tuesday, February 7
- Wednesday, February 8
- Thursday, February 9

If at all possible, we ask you to please avoid scheduling appointments for your child during these times.

It is important that the students do their best on the test. The Iowa Assessments:

- Help determine how students are performing on the state curriculum as described in the Iowa Core.
- Measure student growth and progress from year to year.
- 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.
- Provide information about your child's performance relative to the school, the state of Iowa, and the nation.

In order to help the children be prepared, relaxed and confident, Mrs. Stanerson has worked with each class to give them an overview of the tests and their procedures. The classroom teachers will also have class talks to share information about the general directions, to help the children be aware of the assessments, to answer any questions they may have, and to prepare them for a positive experience as they look forward to doing their personal best on this year's Iowa Assessments.

As a partner in your child's education, please encourage and support your child by ensuring that he/she:

- Gets a good night's rest,
- Eats a healthy breakfast
- Arrives at school in plenty of time to relax and prepare for the day.

We have listed some additional tips that we invite you to share with your child leading up to and during the week of testing:

- Think positively about the test
- Read the questions and answer choices carefully
- Take your time answering the questions and check your answers
- If you come across a difficult question, don't spend too much time on it. Come back to it later if time allows.
- Make sure to answer every question
- If you finish early, go back and re-check your work

While this is an important assessment it is just one of many assessments the children are given as we monitor their learning. We look forward to sharing these assessment results with you later this spring when they become available. As always, your assistance in helping your child do their best is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Don Schantz, 4th/5th; Deb Stewart, 4th/5th; Lauren Parsons, 3rd; Sonya Stanerson, School Counselor; Jane O'Leary, Principal