October 5, 2025

Dear Second Grade Parents and Guardians,

All second grade students will be assessed with the Cognitive Abilities Test and Iowa Assessments on Monday, October 13, 2025, Tuesday, October 14, 2025, Wednesday, October 15, 2025, Wednesday, October 22, 2025 and Thursday, October 23, 2025. For any student that is absent during those days, they will do make up testing on Friday, October 24, 2025, Monday, October 27, 2025 and Tuesday, October 28, 2025. The tests, which are used to identify students for the Gifted and Talented program for the 2025-2026 school year, will take five mornings to administer. The purpose of this letter is to inform you about the tests so that, with your support and encouragement, your child will do his or her best on the tests.

About the *Cognitive Abilities Test*
The *Iowa Assessments* and *Cognitive Abilities Test* help determine how students are performing on nationwide standards. The *Cognitive Abilities Test* measures students' learned reasoning abilities in three areas that closely relate to success in school; verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, and nonverbal reasoning. The *Iowa Assessments* measure achievement in Reading and Mathematics. The tests also help teachers identify a student's strengths and areas that may need additional emphasis. Results from the CogAT are used as just one of multiple information sources to identify students who are most likely to benefit from Gifted & Talented services.

How your child can prepare for test taking and what you can do to help:
A student who is well rested and well fed and has a positive attitude about testing is best prepared for testing. You can help your child do his or her best by considering these tips:

- Make sure that your child is in school and on time on test days.
- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast before each day of testing.
- Remind your child that these tests are only one measure of what he or she has learned. Emphasize that you have confidence in his or her ability to do the best job possible.
- Remind your child to listen to the directions and read each question carefully during testing. Encourage your child to ask the teacher for help if he or she does not understand the directions.

Thank you for supporting your child by having him/her ready for this assessment.

Sincerely,

Ashanda Merritt
Assistant Principal
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Cc: Dr. Danielle Reilly