

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

PARCC

PARTNERSHIP FOR ASSESSMENT OF READINESS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREERS

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Preparing All Children for College and Career
Together We Can*



2018 PARCC Testing

Test Taking Strategies....

- BE COMFORTABLE BUT ALERT** and Maintain good posture.
- REVIEW IF YOU HAVE TIME.** Resist the urge to quit when you complete the exam. Check to make sure you have answered all the questions and have not made any errors or mismarked any answers.
- RELY ON YOUR FIRST IMPRESSIONS.** The answer which comes to mind first is often correct. Nervously reviewing questions and changing answers can do more harm than good. Unless you are 100% sure a multiple choice answer is wrong, do NOT change it.
- MAINTAIN A POSITIVE ATTITUDE.** Don't let more difficult questions raise your anxiety or steal your valuable time. Move on and find success with other questions. Relax... You know everything you need to be successful.
- Watch your time and pace yourself.
- Read the directions carefully and circle all the tasks.
- If you feel yourself experiencing test anxiety, take a deep breath and remind yourself to relax. You know everything to do well on the test.
- If you feel stuck, don't get worried or frustrated. Reread the question to make sure you understand it, and then try to solve it the best way you know how. If you're still stuck, move on. You can come back to it later. If you have no idea about what the answer should be... review your options and make the best guess you can.
- In a multiple-choice question, the process of elimination can help you choose the correct answer. Start by crossing off the answers that couldn't be right. Then spend your time focusing on the possible correct choices before selecting your answer.
- Make sure to eat breakfast. You can think a lot better on a full stomach.



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Ways Parents Can Help....

- Encourage your child to do well but don't pressure him/her. It is important for your child to stay relaxed for the test.
- Keep a positive attitude about the test.
- Mark down test days on your calendar so you and your child are both aware of the dates.
- Make sure your child gets enough sleep on the night before the test.
- Make sure your child gets up early enough so that he/she is on time for school.
- Talking about the test with your child can relieve stress about test taking.
- If your child has a high level of stress about the test, meet with his/her teacher and find out the best ways to help your child
- Make sure your child eats breakfast. Children sustain focus when they have a full stomach.



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Math Test-Taking Tips....

- Always read math problems completely before beginning any calculations.** If you “glance” too quickly at a problem, you may misunderstand what really needs to be done to complete the problem.
- If you know that your answer to a question is incorrect, and you cannot find your mistake, start over on a clean piece of paper.** Oftentimes when you try to correct a problem, you continually overlook the mistake. Starting over on a clean piece of paper will let you focus on the question, not on trying to find the error.
- Do not feel that you must use every number in a problem when doing your calculations.** Some mathematics problems have “extra” information. These questions are testing your ability to recognize the needed information, as well as your mathematical skills.
- Be sure that you are working in the same unit of measure when performing calculations.** If a problem involves inches, feet AND yards, be sure to make the appropriate conversions so that all of your values are in the same unit of measure (for example, change all value to feet).
- Be sure that your answer “makes sense” (or is logical).** For example, if a question asks you to find the number of feet in a drawing and your answer comes out to be a negative number, know that this answer is incorrect. (Distance is a positive concept—we cannot measure negative feet).
- Be sure to “Show work” or “Justify your answer”:** Write down **EVERYTHING** about the problem, including the work you did on your calculator. Include diagrams, calculations, equations, and explanations written in complete sentences. Now is the time to “show off” what you really can do with this problem.



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Reading/Writing Test-Taking Tips....

Reading

- Read the questions carefully. Look for negative words that can change the meaning. (not, the opposite of, antonym, except)
- Try out synonyms in the original sentence.
- Read ALL of the answers carefully.
- Reread parts of the passage to look for answers.
- Make sure you answer the question asked. Don't choose an answer just because it is a fact from the text.
- Use context clues to define words by reading the sentence that contains the word as well as the sentences before and after that sentence.
- Practice scanning.
- Look for "order words" to help put events in sequence (first, before, next, then, after, finally).
- Look for the main idea at the beginning and the end of the passage.
- Use clues to decide how the author feels.

Writing

- Use the prompt to help start your writing.
- When writing start by discussing the passage you know the most about.
- Name the title of each passage in italics.
- Use evidence from the passage in your response.
- Follow capitalization and punctuation rules.



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