

## Test-Taking Tips for Elementary Students

Tests are important because they help the teacher evaluate a student's needs and progress, the student gauge his or her own level of mastery, and the parent monitor his or her child's progress.

### Tips to give your child about taking tests:

\* Relax. Just do the best you can.

\*Your first choice is usually correct. Don't change an answer unless you have a good reason to do so.

\*Be aware of key words such as "all," "now," "always," "never," "only," "exactly."

\*In multiple-choice questions, don't skip the longest answer. It should be considered, since test writers want to be sure the correct answer is accurate—they may add lots of details to insure accuracy.

\*Watch for negative words like "not," "no," "never."

\*Look for information in some of the questions. This information may help you answer other questions.

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## FOURTH GRADE



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Fourth grade is considered especially important in the state of Louisiana, as it is the year the students take the LEAP test. LEAP is considered a “high stakes” test because acquiring a passing score on this test is a prerequisite to being promoted to grade 5. Leap into fourth grade and check out what we offer!

# SKILLS

Test taking strategies are refined in fourth grade. Students are taught strategies in each curricular area that will help them to succeed on state tests, including reading for meaning, and working math word problems.

Fourth grade students learn about the history and formation of the United States, as well as reading various types of maps, and learning about our economic system.

Math problem solving skills are stressed in fourth grade. By doing weekly problem solving lessons, students gain confidence in problem solving and become more proficient at this skill.

Reading skills are refined by student participation in guided reading groups, where they read material on their individual reading level. Non-fiction reading skills are taught through the use of the Time for Kids publication. Comprehension skills are stressed, as children begin to answer higher level thinking questions, including analyzing and synthesizing the material read.

# FIELDTRIPS

Fourth grade takes an annual field trip to the Acadiana Nature Station. During this district sponsored trip, students interact with their environment and discuss ways to protect our natural resources. They also get a chance to hold “Kitty”, the resident snake. In addition to hiking the nature trail, students learn about recycling and its importance.

The district also sponsors a fourth grade field trip to the Planetarium, where the students participate in fun, hands on learning activities that reinforce skills taught in fourth grade across the parish.

After the LEAP test, students celebrate by taking a day for bowling and pizza. This is a celebration of the hard work that students put into prepping for and completing the LEAP test.

# ARTS

In fourth grade, students choose one art form in which to specialize from band, dance, drama, piano, strings, visual art, or vocal music. Students make their selection based on the three or four arts classes they completed in third grade. They attend a 45 minute art class in their chosen form four days per week. During this year of arts skill development, students begin to become more proficient in the art form. Students showcase the basic elements they are mastering in several in-class “mini performances” and/or exhibits.

Art teachers work with classroom teachers to prepare academic-infused arts lessons. Classroom teachers are also trained in integrating various art forms into their lessons.