

TIPS FOR TAKS

Remember to have a good breakfast, no energy drinks and get a good nights' sleep before the test.

Writing Tips

- Provide writing materials. Provide plenty of writing materials-paper of all kinds, pens, pencils, post-its- whatever will invite your child to explore writing in original, colorful ways.
- Provide a print-rich environment. Fill your child's world with books, magazines, newspapers, and writing you have created. Young writers are ingenious borrowers and hungrily consume every writing tidbit the world around them offers. Older writers need a range of materials from which to draw ideas from as well.
- Choose some resources together. If you don't have a thesaurus or dictionary handy, shop for one with your child. Practice using the tools as well. A scavenger hunt is a fun activity to try.
- Write together. Let your child choose the topic. Free write together for five minutes, then share the results. See what different directions your writing took.
- Share how you write on the job. Do you write as part of your job? Almost every occupation writes something. Share how important writing is at your workplace.
- Be a writer yourself and get help from your child. Let your child see how you enjoy writing. Talk about the kinds of writing you enjoy the most. Have your child help you begin the writing process. Ask: How should we begin? What should we say? Is this too long or wordy? Should we use this word here? Should we rewrite the ending?
- Share your child's writing (with his/her permission). This could mean helping your child publish a piece or simply sharing with a relative or friend. This broadens your child's audience but also sends the message that you are proud!

Reading Tips

- Read a variety of diverse literature with your child
- Discuss the literature such as who, what, when, where, why, how, predictions, etc.
- Discuss setting, characters, and events
- Make the connection between everyday life and reading
- Explore words and word meanings
- Talk to your child to build listening and vocabulary skills
- But most importantly- have your child read, read, read

Math

On multiple choice math tests the "wrong" answers are not random numbers. They are numbers derived from common errors and misconceptions made by students while solving the problem. These "wrong" answers are called distracters because they distract students from realizing they have made an error and distract students away from the correct answer choice.

Common errors that lead to math distracters:

- Incorrect operation
- Incorrect order
- Decimal in wrong place
- Answer in wrong form (percent instead of decimal, etc.)
- Missed step
- Unnecessary information included
- Computational errors

Social Studies

- Remember to breathe. You are ready for this test
- If you do not know the answers to a specific question skip the questions and come back to it.
- Remember to place the question in your specific category to help you remember where it fell in history;
 - ❖ 1600 through 1700: Colonial period (13 colonies, Jamestown, etc.)
 - ❖ 1700 through 1800: Beginning a New Nation (Revolutionary War, Declaration of Independence, Constitution, Washington, Adams & beginning of Jefferson presidency)
 - ❖ 1800 through Reconstruction: The Nation Expands (Jacksonian Period, Manifest Destiny, Industrial Revolution, Lincoln Presidency and Civil War)
- Remember if you don't know the answer to a question you most likely will find it in another question in the TAKS test.
- As I always say, read the question carefully, we are not creative in history and we name things what they actually are. (example: Industrial Revolution is the growth of industry)

Science

- Read the question two times
- Circle key vocabulary words
- Underline the question
- Eliminate all incorrect answers
- Circle the correct answer

* Parents for the Math, Social Studies and Science tests it is a good idea for you to review small amounts of material every night with your child. Look over your child's notes and textbooks and make a review plan for your child. Flash cards are a great way to study.

Websites for TAKS tips and practice tests

http://math-and-reading-help-for-kids.org/articles/The_TAKS_Test.html
<http://www.tips4taks.com/>
<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/release/taks/index.html>
<http://www.glencoe.com/sec/socialstudies/taks/>

Dates for TAKS tests

6th Grade

Math- April 28th
Reading- April 29th

7th Grade

Math -April 28th
Reading- April 29th
Writing- March 3rd

8th Grade

Math-April 7th
Reading- March 3rd
Science- April 30th
Social Studies- May 1st