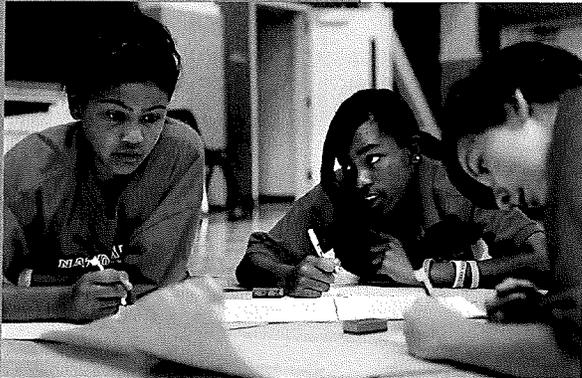
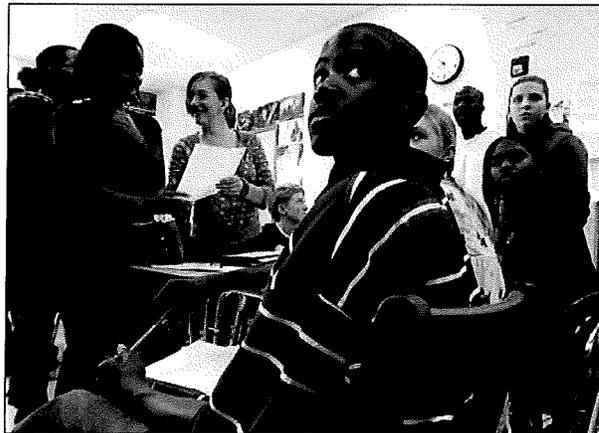


FORT FOOTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



A Parent's Guide to **Assessments** at **Fort Foote Elementary School**



- **Reading /ELA**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science**
- **Test Taking Strategies**

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Assessment Inventory

Assessment: Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA)

Grade: K

Format: Direct Performance and Observation

Dates: August – October

Purpose: Measures each child's school readiness across six domains – Social Foundations, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Language and Literacy, and Physical Well-being and Motor Development.

Assessment: Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI)

Grade: 2-6

Format: Paper only

Dates: January, May

Purpose: Measures a reading comprehension growth over time. Used to assess a student's ability to comprehend text by attaining a reading ability lexile (Lexile score).

Assessment: Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA)

Grade: K-2

Format: Paper

Dates: October, January, May

Purpose: Measures student's instructional level in reading.

Assessment: Stanford Achievement Test (SAT 10)

Grade: 3

Format: Paper

Dates: May - June

Purpose: Measures what students know and are able to do in math, reading, language, spelling, listening, science, and social studies. Used to guide teaching and learning toward high achievement standards.

Assessment: Writing Assessment (Pre and Post)

Grade: 3-6

Format: Paper

Dates: August, February

Purpose: Measures writing proficiency in development of ideas, organization, clarity of language, and use of language and conventions.

Assessment: Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT)

Grade: First Grade and Third Grade

Format: Paper only

Dates: October – November

Purpose: Measures a student's cognitive abilities that relate to his or her academic success. Commonly used in the U.S. to identify gifted children.

Assessment: Scholastic Mathematics Inventory (SMI)

Grade: 2-6

Format: Online

Dates: October, December, May

Purpose: Measures numeracy and basic fact fluency up to Algebra 1. Used to assess a student's ability to understand numeracy by attaining a quantile score.

Assessment: Math Unit Assessments (pre and post)

Grade: K-6

Format: Paper

Dates: 2 assessments per quarter

Purpose: Measures skills and strategies taught for the unit.

Assessment: Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) (English, Language Arts Literacy and Math)

Grade: 3-6

Format: Online

Dates: April - May

Purpose: Measures whether students are on track to be successful in college and careers through claims of reading, writing and mathematics.

Assessment: Formative Assessment System Test (FAST) - Science

Grade: 5

Format: Paper

Dates: October, January

Purpose: On-going benchmark measure of success on end of year state assessment.

Assessment Inventory Continued

Assessment: Maryland State Assessment - Science

Grade: 5

Format: Online

Dates: April

Purpose: Benchmark measure of success on science content.

English Language Learners (ELL) Assessments

Assessment: WIDA – ACCESS 2.0

Grade: K-2

Format: Online

Dates: January – February

Purpose: Measures speaking, listening, reading, and writing. General language skills test.

Assessment: ESOL Baseline Writing Assessment

Grade: K-2

Format: Paper

Dates: September, January

Purpose: Baseline that measures a specific writing skills per grade that is revisited each quarter. Intended to provide immediate individual student data on writing language progress using the writing rubric.

Mathematics Tips for Parents

- Parents can help by seizing every opportunity to involve their children in talking and thinking about the meaningful mathematics they encounter each day.
- Parents and children can figure out answers together. For instance, "How many days until my birthday?" is an opportunity to look at the calendar together.
- Parents should encourage the use of manipulatives, concrete materials, and various objects for counting, sorting, arranging, and grouping.
- Parents should encourage children to look for patterns in the world around them - in floor tiles and wallpaper; in paintings and sculpture; in coins, paper money, and change; in pizza combinations.
- Parents should encourage their children to measure heights, weights, objects, ingredients in recipes, and so forth.
- Parents can purchase educational/mathematical toys, games, and puzzles and play them with their children.
- Parents should always send the clear message through words and actions that mathematics is all around us, is a vital part of our lives, and is understandable with some effort: "Let's do it together; it can be fun."

Strategies for Success



Before Reading Strategies

- Survey and preview the text by examining features such as the title, illustrations, photographs, charts and graphs
- Set a purpose for reading the text
- Make predictions and ask questions about the text
- Make connections to the text from prior knowledge and experiences

On assessment days, your child will need to have **breakfast** at home or at school. We ask that he or she **go to bed early** the night before the test. Your child will need to be at school **on time**.

Test Taking Reminders

1. Finish all questions during the time given.
2. Choose the best possible answer.
3. If you finish early, reread each question to check your work.
4. Every test is important. Encourage your child to be excited and to do his or her best.

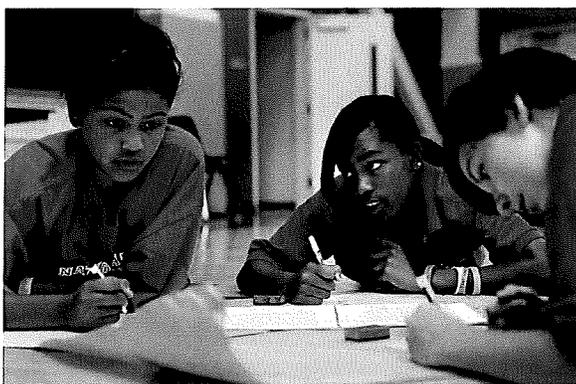
During Reading Strategies.

- Use strategies to make meaning from text
 - Monitoring Comprehension
 - Use Background Knowledge to Make Connections
 - Question
 - Infer
 - Visualize
 - Summarize
 - Determining Importance In Text
 - Synthesize
- Reread the difficult parts slowly and carefully
- Use own words to restate the difficult part
- Read on and revisit the difficult part
- Look back through the text to search for connections between and among ideas
- Make, confirm, or adjust predictions
- Periodically summarize while reading
- Periodically paraphrase important ideas or information
- Visualize what was read for deeper understanding
- Explain personal connections to the ideas or information in the text
- Locate, retrieve, and use information from various sources to accomplish a purpose

Reading Level

Based on the Scholastic Reading Inventory Test (taken up to three times during the year), your child's reading level will be classified as follows.

1. BG – Below Grade Level
2. OG – On Grade Level
3. AB – Above Grade Level



Resources and Tips

- **SchoolMax** (<https://family.sis.pgcps.org/schoolmax/family.jsp>)
Through the SchoolMax Family Portal, parents can access information on student assignments, grades, attendance and other notes made by the teacher.
- **Achieve 3000** (<http://www.kidbiz.com>)
A student friendly site designed to help students prepare for the Reading and Writing portion on PARCC. Username and password are provided by the school for your students.
- **First in Math** (<http://www.firstinmath.com/>)
- **PGCPS Common Core** (<http://www1.pgcps.org/commoncore>)
- **Newsletters**
Parents receive monthly calendars for grade level information.



Parent Tips for Helping Students Develop into Active Readers

1. Scout for things your children might like to read. Use their interests and hobbies as starting points.
2. Leave all sorts of reading materials including books, magazines, and colorful catalogs in conspicuous places around your home.
3. Notice what attracts your children's attention, even if they only look at the pictures. Then build on that interest; read a short selection aloud, or simply bring home more information on the same subject.
4. Let your children see you reading for pleasure in your spare time.
5. Take your children to the library regularly. Explore the children's section together. Ask a librarian to suggest books and magazines your children might enjoy.
6. Present reading as an activity with a purpose; a way to gather useful information for, say, making paper airplanes, identifying a doll or stamp in your child's collection, or planning a family trip.
7. Encourage older children to read to their younger brothers and sisters. Older children enjoy showing off their skills to an admiring audience.
8. Play games that are reading-related. Check your closet for spelling games played with letter tiles or dice, or board games that require players to read spaces, cards, and directions.
9. Perhaps over dinner, while you're running errands, or in another informal setting, share your reactions to things you read, and encourage your children to do likewise.
10. Set aside a regular time for reading in your family, independent of schoolwork, the 20 minutes before lights out, just after dinner, or whatever fits into your household schedule. As little as 10 minutes of free reading a day can help improve your child's skills and habits.
11. Read aloud to your child, especially a child who is discouraged by his or her own poor reading skills. The pleasure of listening to you read, rather than struggling alone, may restore your child's initial enthusiasm for books and reading.