

Dear Bethany Families,

As a public school in Texas, Bethany third, fourth and fifth grade students will be participating in the state-required Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) this spring. As an exemplary school in our exemplary district Plano, our elementary program incorporates on-going assessments into our program in order for us to align instruction based on the performance our students demonstrate on these various tests.

Please don't stop reading just because your child is not in third through fifth grades! The state of Texas requires that our students demonstrate their knowledge and skills in certain areas. Although few of us like standardized tests, to the extent that they measure skills we want our students to be able to demonstrate successfully, they provide valid and important information for educators and parents. TAKS is a state assessment program designed to measure the full range of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) in mathematics, reading, and writing, and also in science for fifth grade students. Please see chart below for various testing dates.

At Bethany we want our children to benefit from a balanced education that is based on authentic learning about a variety of subjects. From the time our children enter the building as kindergarteners, our team works steadily towards curricular goals. We assess progress toward these goals in numerous ways before children reach third grade. When students are not making adequate progress, extra tutoring or special small groups/classes are provided. We also provide enrichment for all students so that we challenge their thinking skills.

So what lies ahead of us regarding testing? All students K-5 are assessed with an on-line individualized computer program called MAP, (Measures of Academic Progress) three times a year. Areas assessed include language arts and math for kindergarten, language arts, math and reading 1st-5th and science in grades 3-5. When we return from our winter break, kindergarten through second grade will also administer the State Texas Primary Reading Inventory (TPRI) as well as the District Portfolio documentation of state TEKS through various performance assessments that are administered individually and in small groups.

In summary, assessment, curriculum and instruction are three united and interactive pieces of providing students with an academic program that produces student learning. In PISD, our numerous and varied assessments drive our course for instruction. Teachers work in teams to prepare lessons from our curriculum planner provided by the district to ensure that all children have a fair and ample opportunity to learn at a high level of cognition.

We are appreciative of each of you for the support you provide Bethany so that our students are supported in an exemplary environment that sets each up for success.

Warm regards,

Deni Bleggi

TAKS 2008 Schedule

DATE	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade
3/5	Reading	Writing	Reading
3/6-3/7	Reading Make-Up		Reading Make-Up
4/8			Math
4/9-4/10			Math Make-Up
4/29	Math	Math	
4/30	Reading Retest Math Make-Up	Reading	Reading retest
4/30-5/1	Math Make-Up	Math Make-Up Reading Make-Up	
5/1			Science
5/13			Math Retest
5/14-5/16			Math Retest Make-Up
7/1			Math Retest
7/2	Reading Retest		Reading Retest

TAKS make-up days may change. Contact counselor to verify dates.