

Jennifer P. Sanders  
Principal



Dr. Stephen Green  
Superintendent

**Dunwoody Elementary**

1923 Womack Road  
Dunwoody, GA 30338  
678-875-4002

September 3, 2015

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Students in grades one, three, five and seven who attend a DeKalb County school will be administered the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) and the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>-October 8, 2015 (complete schedule is on the back). The purpose of this norm-referenced test (NRT) is to obtain information about how the performance of DeKalb's students compare with that of students in a national sample which serves as an external reference group for the district's students in the assessed grades. The results are used for evaluation, decision-making, and instructional improvement.

The CogAT is used to assess reasoning and problem solving abilities, enabling educators to better help students achieve instructional objectives. Additionally, the CogAT provides an alternative frame of reference for interpreting students' achievement levels as they relate to their cognitive abilities. Educators can then identify students with a discrepancy in cognitive ability and achievement levels to enable earlier and more effective intervention(s). The CogAT also serves as DeKalb County's "mental abilities" test for use in determining eligibility for gifted placement.

In an effort to ensure that your child has an opportunity to perform at his or her best, you can help by taking the following steps:

1. Limit evening activities prior to testing so that adequate time is provided for rest.
2. Discuss the importance of testing with your son/daughter.
3. Provide two number two pencils.
4. Provide a nutritious breakfast at home. Breakfast is also served at the school from 7:00am – 7:35am.
5. Ensure your child is present and on time each morning. Avoid scheduling doctor/dentist appointments during the testing period.
6. In the event an emergency arises, please contact your student's counselor.

Results for these assessments will be provided to the school that administered the test. Score reports are expected to arrive in late October or early November. Parents will receive a copy of the results of the ITBS.

Thank you for your cooperation during testing. If you have questions regarding any aspect of testing, please contact the school at 770-875-4002.

Respectfully,

Jennifer P. Sanders  
Principal

## **Revised ITBS/CogAT Testing Schedule**

**September 9, 10, 11, 16, 18, and 21 – ITBS**

September 22, 23, 24, and 25 – ITBS make-up

**October 5, 6, and 7 – CogAT**

October 8 – CogAT make-up