

Tips for Testing

In anticipation of the Stanford 10 Tests to be administered next month, please take a few moments to review the following suggestions as you prepare your student for the testing.

- ✓ Be sure you have registered (deadline for postmark is March 1). Registration Form can be downloaded at <http://www.brevardchristianhomeschool.com>
- ✓ Pray with your student in the days leading up to the test. Remember to thank God for your freedom to homeschool and to choose the method of evaluation. Pray for the proctors and monitors that they will have wisdom and discernment in their classrooms. Pray for your child that he or she will have peace and clarity of thought to remember what has been learned this year.
- ✓ Studies indicate that well-rested students tend to perform better. If you normally have a very relaxed schedule, consider adjusting bedtimes and wake times prior to the testing week to allow your child's system to acclimate to the new demands.
- ✓ A healthful breakfast will go far in helping them focus and perform at their peak.
- ✓ The components of the test are: Reading, Mathematics, Language, Spelling, Listening (K-9th), Science, and Social Science.
- ✓ The test consists of periods of testing with scheduled brief breaks and recesses. It is important that each child has an understanding of the format and be willing to conform to the schedule.
- ✓ Promote good listening skills in your kids. They will need to listen to instructions from their proctor and follow them exactly. If your child does not understand what to do, they should ask the teacher to repeat the directions or explain them again. Being a good listener is an acquired skill. Make a game out of giving your child a series of instructions or prompts, and be quick to reward their completion of the tasks (including a few silly tasks can increase the fun factor for young ones).
- ✓ Develop their ability to sit quietly. This will allow them to focus on instructions being given without being distracted or being a distraction to others. You can work on this skill by using a kitchen timer and gradually increasing periods of quiet time that have been achieved. Be conscious of nervous habits that your child may have (tapping pencils, talking to his or herself, whistling); in a group-testing situation, these are not appropriate.
- ✓ Practice having your child raise his or her hand and wait quietly until called upon, when a question needs to be asked.
- ✓ Cell phones must be turned off during the tests.
- ✓ Encourage each student to do his or her best. The Stanford Achievement Test includes material above the tested grade level. Help your student understand that they are not expected to know every answer to every question. Some questions may seem difficult or unfamiliar, but don't give up.
- ✓ This is an opportunity for them to show how much they have learned. Their scores give information that can be used to find which curricula are working and which may not be.

- ✓ Practice with young students and first time testers in correctly filling a bubble answer form with a pencil and erasing completely any changed answers.
- ✓ Be aware that calculators may be used for the Mathematic Problem Solving (not Mathematics Procedures) subtest for Grade 4 through Grade 8, and in the Mathematics section for Grades 9-12. If your child will be using a calculator, please be sure he or she knows how to use them correctly and is familiar with the calculator that will be used on the test. **NOTE:** Calculators used on the test must be “calculators” only - calculator “apps” on cell phones, tablets, or other electronic gadgets are prohibited.
- ✓ Practice, review, and test preparation materials are available through bookstores or educational supply stores.
- ✓ Additional information about the tests is available at the website for the educational publisher, Pearson:
http://www.pearsonassessments.com/hai/Images/PDF/Webinar/Stanford_Testing_Info_Packet1272011.pdf