
The Smyser Sentinel

Main & Annex Buildings- 4310 N. Melvina
Primary Center- 6200 W. Patterson
"An O'Hare Network School"

The ISAT Countdown Begins

From March 5th-16th, Illinois children in grades 3-8 will be administered the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT). Academic areas assessed are reading, math, and science (grades 4 and 7 only). The purpose of the test is to measure student learning relative to Illinois academic goals, standards, and indicators.

The ISAT is a complex test requiring takers to utilize multiple strategies rooted in high-order thinking. The reading test is composed of comprehension, short answer, and extended response components. Students are expected to read lengthy passages (usually non-fiction), answer several multiple choice questions, and express their ideas/thoughts in words. The short answer and extended response components are assessed using a rubric.

In math, students are expected to solve multiple step word problems and complete extended response problems that require a strategy, solution, and explanation. Students in grade 3-8 are expected to use a ruler. In grades 4-8, calculators are to be used. Also, formula cards will be made available for children in grades 7 and 8.

Smyser teachers are working extremely hard addressing Illinois and CPS learning standards. Through daily instruction and Benchmark assessment data, we are constantly seeking ways to make sure 100% of our student meet/exceed state standards. Please, support us by monitoring your child's daily homework. Also, practice ISAT questions and booklets can be downloaded from the Illinois State Board of Education website at www.isbe.state.il.us.

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11 Ways to Help Your Child Prepare for Tests

To help children prepare adequately for tests (whether teacher-made or standardized), you can do several things to provide support and create a positive test-taking experience.

1. The best way to prepare for tests is to study, know the work, and take the right classes.
2. If your child is nervous at test time, ask his/her teacher for tips on helping his/her relax.
3. Make sure that your child is in school during the testing sessions. Do not plan any doctor or dental appointments on test dates.
4. Make sure that you are aware of your child's performance and that you can help interpret the results when they become available.
5. Remember to keep well-informed about your child's tests. Know how test results are used, and how they will affect your child's placement in school.
6. If there are major differences between standardized test scores and school grades, find out why.
7. Encourage your child to study over a period of time rather than "cram" the night before.
8. Encourage your child to listen carefully to all test-taking directions given by the teacher and to ask questions about any directions that are unclear.
9. See that your child gets his/her regular amount of sleep before the tests and is well-rested.
10. Make sure that your child eats his/her usual breakfast on the day of the test. Hunger can detract from a good test performance.
11. Encourage your child to do his/her best.



Prevention and Treatment of Head Lice from the Illinois Department of Public Health

During winter months, head lice seems to be prevalent in schools across America. Although schools do their best to identify and address this problem, awareness, cooperation, and assistance is needed from parents to keep this under control. At Smyser, we recently had a small number of isolated confirmed cases of head lice. Checks are being conducted and parents are being notified. In order to help parents understand how to identify and treat this problem, I have included information from the Illinois Department of Public Health. Per CPS guidelines, if a student is determined to have head lice the parent/guardian must:

- present to the school proof of having been treated with the proper shampoo.
- allow student to be re-examined by principal designee.
- follow up with the after his/her initial return to determine if a second treatment has been done and to examine him/her to ensure the elimination of head lice.

What are the symptoms of a head lice infestation?

The earliest and most common symptom of a head lice infestation is itching, particularly in the area behind the ears and at the nape of the neck.

How are head lice spread?

Head lice can be passed from person to person through direct contact. But they also can be transferred indirectly among clothing items when coats, hats and scarves hang or are stored touching one another (in cloak rooms or when these items are placed against one another on coat hooks or racks). Head lice also can be spread when infested hair brushes or combs are shared or when infested bedding, towels or shower caps are shared.

There are many misconceptions about head lice. They do not transmit communicable diseases. They do not jump or fly; they can only crawl. Head lice depend completely on their host for nourishment; their only

source of food is human blood. The prevalence of head lice infestation is no different in individuals with long hair than in those with short hair. They infest persons from all socioeconomic levels, without regard for age, race, sex or standards of personal hygiene. Animals are not a source of human lice.

How long do head lice live?

The life span of an adult louse on a host ranges up to 30 days. During this time, the female head louse can deposit about 90 eggs. After incubating for seven to 10 days, the nits hatch and, after another 10 days, mature into adult head lice and the cycle begins again. Off the host, adult head lice can live about two to four days at 74 degrees Fahrenheit (F) and one to two days at 86 degrees. Nits will remain alive off the host for up to 10 days; they will not hatch at or below room temperature (68 degrees F).

How are head lice infestations treated?

Both prescription and over-the-counter remedies are effective in treating head lice. Since agents that kill lice may not kill nits completely even when used according to directions the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that infested patients be treated twice. The interval between treatments should approximate the incubation period for nits (seven to 10 days) so the second application will kill any newly hatched parasites. Waiting longer than 10 days to apply a second treatment may allow some parasites to mature and lay more eggs. All persons who have head lice in a household should be treated. To treat an infested person--

- Remove all clothing;
- Apply head lice medication according to label instructions (do not bathe before treatment), using a towel to protect the eyes;
- Have the person bathe and put on clean clothing after treatment; and
- Repeat treatment in seven to 10 days.

Special fine-tooth combs (nit combs) are readily available and can be used to scrape nits and lice off the hair shaft. Parents and guardians should check treated children for lice and nits daily for two or three weeks after treatment.

Should objects (e.g., clothing, furniture, etc.) be treated?

Objects that are able to harbor head lice and serve as vehicles of transmission should be treated.

- Exposing lice and nits to temperatures above 125 degrees F for 10 minutes is lethal. Most personal articles of clothing and bedding can be disinfested by machine washing in hot water or machine drying for at least 20 minutes using the hot cycle. Be sure to allow time between loads for water to reheat to the disinfecting temperature.
- Place non-washable personal articles of clothing or bedding in the dryer on high heat for at least 20 minutes, dry clean or seal non-washable fabrics in a plastic bag for a minimum of 10 days.
- Place combs and brushes in a pan of water and heat on a stove to about 150 degrees F for 10 minutes. If heating may damage combs or brushes, soak them for one hour in a phenol solution (e.g., Lysol®). To prevent the spread of head lice, do not share combs, brushes, hats, coats, towels or other articles that come in contact with the head, neck and shoulders.
- Thoroughly vacuum or clean car seats, bus seats, and individual infant and car seats according to manufacturer's directions.
- Fumigating rooms and using insecticidal sprays on furniture and carpets are not recommended to kill head lice; **thorough** vacuuming of houses and rooms inhabited by infested persons is sufficient.

Information taken from the Illinois Department of Health.

Class of 2012 Picture Day

Attention 8th Grade Students! Interstate School Photographers will be at Smyser on Friday, February 17th. Students should dress as follows:

BOYS

Should wear a shirt and tie. Sport coat, suit or sweater is optional. No earrings or piercings.

GIRLS

Have your hair neatly arranged. Please avoid excessive make-up and unusual or new hairstyles. Turtleneck sweaters or high neck dresses should not be worn. No piercings.

ALL STUDENTS

All students will take both cap & gown and dress-up pictures. Be aware that slacks and skirts will show in some posing.

PLEASE NOTE:

There will be a surcharge charge for picture retakes for any reason other than photographic errors. Retakes will be scheduled at the discretion of the school. Proofs will be sent home for your approval. You will cherish these portraits for many years to come. Please make the extra effort to prepare.

CPS/Smyser Parent Portal

Can't wait until progress reports come out? Do you want to regularly check your child's academic progress? Do you want to set-up text message "triggers"? Set-up your parent account today!

The Parent Portal is a unique web-based tool that allows you to securely view your child's grades and attendance online. You can register to receive e-mail or text notifications when your child is absent or when his or her grades drop below a point you identify. Additionally, you will be able to communicate directly with your child's teachers, enhancing the opportunity for parent-teacher interaction. You will need your child's CPS ID number as well as your unique school-issued personal identification number (PIN) prior to creating an account. Please contact Mrs. Luczak to learn how to obtain your PIN. A direct link to the Parent Connection login page has been added. Please go to the "web links" section on the lower right portion of the Smyser homepage.

What Parents Need to Know About the Common Core State Standards

What are the Common Core State Standards?

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are a coherent progression of learning expectations in English language arts and mathematics designed to prepare K-12 students for college and career success. The CCSS communicate what is expected of students at each grade level, putting students, parents, teachers, and school administrators on the same page, working toward shared goals. While most states already have English language arts and mathematics standards in place, they vary widely from state to state in their coverage and level of rigor.

What are the benefits for parents of common standards?

- ⇒ A common set of standards ensures that all students, no matter where they live, will be focused on graduating from high school prepared for postsecondary education and careers. In an increasingly mobile society, families with children transferring to new schools will not have to adjust to new learning expectations. Standards will be the same for all students in states adopting the CCSS, making transitions smoother for students.
- ⇒ In a competitive global economy, all students must compete with not only American peers in other states, but with students from around the world. The CCSS were designed to prepare students to succeed in this environment.
- ⇒ Common standards will facilitate conversation among parents, teachers, and children about high-level academic learning goals.

Because common standards define exactly what students should know and be able to do at each grade level, they will help parents hold their schools accountable for teaching students in ways that support learning of the important content and skills defined by the CCSS.

- ⇒ With adoption of the CCSS, states and districts can share experiences, methods of assessment, teaching practices, instructional materials, and approaches to helping parents support and reinforce learning at home.

For more about the Common Core State Standards, visit <http://educationnorthwest.org/common-core/>.

Did You Know that the Common Core State Standards:

- * Are aligned with college and work expectations;
- * Are clear, understandable, and consistent;
- * Include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high-order skills;
- * Build on strengths and lessons of current state standards;
- * Are informed by other top-performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in a global economy and society; and
- * Are evidence-based.

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 K-8 Progress Reports. BB @ Bridge. GB vs. Chicago Academy.	2 Grade 6 fieldtrip. Smyser Spirit Day.	3 PD Day- no school.	4
5 Super Bowl. 	6 BB @ Thorp.	7	8 Smyser Music Boosters meeting.	9	10 8th grade casual day \$1 fundraiser. SCC Pizza Sale.	11 Smyser Saturday Academy.
12	13 Lincoln's Birthday- No School.	14 GB @ Bridge. 	15 BB @ Prussing. GB vs. Prussing. LSC & PTO meetings.	16 PreK Progress Reports.	17 8th grade graduation photos.	18 Smyser Saturday Academy.
19	20 President's Day- No School.	21 GB @ Thorp.	22 BB vs. Chicago Academy.	23 Network Instructional Round.	24 SILT	25 Smyser Saturday Academy. Smyser Music Festival.
26	27	28 ASAS visit to Smyser.	29			

Visit www.smyser.org for the latest updates, cafeteria menu, and school information.