

CARROLL

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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<http://www.southlakecarroll.edu>

September 24, 2010

Dear Parents of Carroll ISD Sixth Grade Students,

In the next few weeks, your daughter or son will be taking the *Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS)* and the *Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)*. These are standardized tests that are taken by children all over the nation. The main purpose of the *ITBS* is to provide the school with information that can be used to improve instruction and to help teachers make sound educational decisions about each student's learning.

- **CogAT:** Looks at a student's relative abilities in reasoning with words (Verbal Battery), quantitative concepts (Quantitative Battery), and spatial/figural drawings (Nonverbal Battery). The results of the *CogAT* assessment will be sent home once the reports have been delivered to the campus.

Test dates: October 20th- October 22nd

- **ITBS:** Assesses whether students have mastered the key academic areas of reading, mathematics, science, and social studies. This assessment provides national percentile scores in each academic area tested. The results of the *ITBS* assessment will be sent home once the reports have been delivered to the campus.

Test dates: October 27th- October 29th

The scores from the *CogAT* and *ITBS* assessments, when analyzed together, provide a picture of each student's measured ability and measured achievement. This information affords you and the teacher the opportunity to evaluate your child's strengths and weaknesses. These results will also be used for determining possible placement of students into CISD programs such as Gifted and Talented, middle school advanced mathematics courses, and Pre-advanced (Pre-ap) placement.

For further detail regarding these tests, please review the Riverside website located at www.riversidepublishing.com

EIS will conduct an interpretation session on December 8th once assessments have been scored. This session will begin at 6:00 pm in the cafeteria of EIS. If you have questions about your child's scores, you may wish to make an appointment with your campus counselor.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Blazek

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