

TIGER TIMES



HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED ON STANDARDIZED TESTS

The results of standardized tests have big implications, such as determining school funding. The results show how schools & students are doing. Remember, through, that one test doesn't represent a child's total abilities. A student may get high grades, for example, but be too anxious on test day to think clearly.

To prevent problems & help your child succeed:

- **Make school a priority.** Children who do well on tests tend to be the ones who study & finish homework on time. They also miss less school than other kids. These are habits you can encourage.
- **Develop healthy routines.** Your child needs plenty of sleep & a nutritious breakfast every day before school.

- **Communicate with teachers.** In addition to knowing how your child is doing throughout the year, pay attention to test details. "Which skills do the tests measure?" "How should my child prepare?"
- **Promote reading.** Many tests require reading, so make sure your child reads often. Then ask questions that stimulate thinking. "Why do you think the main character did that?"
- **Reduce anxiety.** Some kids like to take timed practice tests at home. But as test day approaches, focus on relaxation. Stay positive and calm. If your child is worried, she can take deep breaths & think confident thoughts, knowing she has your support not matter what.

Source: "Standardized Tests," Scholastic.com, www.scholastic.com/resources/article/standardized-tests.

Keep an Eye Out for the ISTEP Lady

*Have you seen her?
Who is "that" lady?*

The ISTEP Lady is the woman who grades all of the essays in the writing portion of the ISTEP+. Students need to know that the person who scores their test is someone who does not know them, nor

their style of writing. Therefore, it is very important that students write neatly, clearly, & completely express their ideas. Last Friday, 3rd graders had the opportunity to meet her & ask questions about the test. She'll make visits to other classes in the near future... So, *keep an eye out for the ISTEP Lady!*



Upcoming Events:

- Parents-In-Action Meeting—Feb. 7
 - 3:45-4:15
- NWEA Testing —Jan. 17-Feb. 10
- Progress Reports —Feb. 16
- Family Math Game Night—Feb. 17
 - 5:00-7:00
- NO SCHOOL President's Day —Feb. 20

****MARK YOUR CALENDAR!****



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CHARACTER COUNTS ~ Citizenship

Second through eighth grade students participated in a poster contest to highlight the six pillars of positive character.

"Students developed a super hero character based on the character traits. They depicted their superheroes in moral situations in a school setting."

~Ms. Reed, Art Teacher.

Students will be judged on originality, neatness, incorporation of the character traits, & creativity. A panel of judges will

choose one winner from each grade and their artwork will be displayed in the gym during Family Math Game Night (Friday, Feb. 17th). *"The Character Counts*

Super Hero project helped me to connect the Character Traits to school in a way that was fun! We were able to develop our own Super Hero name, powers & character traits."

~Janae Carter , 8A



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."
— Margaret Mead

KA: Eriell Vernon

3B: Cicero Johnson

7A: Imari Beasley

KB: Aniyah Bishop

4A: Ayani Delgadillo

7B: Marlyn Taylor

1A: Francisco Alanis

4B: Dont'e Frazier

8A: Steven Camarillo

1B: Antonio Sanchez

5A: Jelani Warner

8B: Joshua Almodovar

2A: Xamira Garcia

5B: Cassandra Rojas

2B: Ullisis Cantu'

6A: Brenden Santiago

3A: Sierria Ruiz

6B: Si'arah Grant



PARENTS CORNER ~ ABC's of Parenting for a Healthy Self-Esteem (Cont.)

H... Help your child feel safe & secure.

M... Model by example those qualities you want your child to have.

I... Interest your child in work by complimenting his/her efforts.

N... Negotiate privileges & responsibilities, avoiding overindulgence.

J... Joyfully take pleasure in life.

K... Keep harsh criticisms to yourself; avoid using "should" & "ought".

****Look for the next set (O—U) in our March issue****

L... Let your child experience the results of his/her behavior.



Nutrition Tips: Parent University

- Tip #1: Breakfast is the most important meal of the day.
- Tip #2: Children who eat breakfast have more energy.
- Tip #3: Breakfast helps kids concentrate, solve problems & do better on tests.
- Tip #4: What you eat for breakfast depends on your culture, sleeping habits, & hunger.
- Tip #5: ANY nutritious food is the right breakfast food.
- Tip #6: Breakfast gives the body nutrients & energy after an overnight “fast”.



MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT

Do you enjoy working with others, giving back to your school and community, and have a positive outlook for our future?

Well, East Chicago Urban Enterprise Academy’s **School Board** is looking for motivated individuals who believe in the vision and mission of our school and who would like to make positive contributions to improve student achievement and success. If this sounds like you, or someone you know, please pick up an application in our front office.



The Spirit of the Baobab Tree ~ A Celebration of History

Students who’ve earned the honor of Student of the Month for December & January were treated to an original dance production by the students of DancExcel, *The Spirit of the Baobab Tree*. This play offered a wonderful history lesson for children of all ages and races. They were able to witness the evolution of the history and rich culture of the present African-American race and walk away inspired to fulfill their dreams and work hard to reach their potential.

“The play was amazing & interesting! I learned to be proud of who I am, respectful of others, & to not judge them by their skin color”
~Jelani Warner, 5A



“Not only are you responsible for your life, but doing the best at this moment puts you in the best place for the next moment.”

—Oprah Winfrey

FAMILY MATH GAME NIGHT ~ Feb. 17th

Are you looking to spend some quality time with your child that is not only fun, but educational as well?

Then, mark your calendar for our second annual **Family Math Game Night!** We’ll play exciting

math games, have light refreshments, raffles, and giveaways! Learn tips on how to make math fun and practicing study skills a bit easier. Last year was a great success and this year will be too! Please come join us... **February 17th**, from **5:00—7:00 p.m.**



It Matters: Reading

Studies suggest there are benefits to active reading

Reading is a calm, cozy activity. But research suggests kids learn a lot from active reading, too. Actually crawling, for example might help a child understand the word crawl better.

To try active reading:

- **Play dress up.** After reading a story, dress up as favorite characters. Use props from around the house & reenact exciting scenes. Make a point to use words from the book. "I'm climbing to the *peak* of the mountain! The very top!"
- **Put on a play.** Find a theater version of a book your child likes. Or help your child write a short skit. Gather friends & family to participate or sit in the audience.
- **Do a dramatic reading.** While reading a story, act it out. Take turns with your child or let her perform the whole thing. Use enthusiastic actions & tones that bring the story to life.
- **Plan a puppet show.** It's okay if you don't have actual puppets. You can use dolls, toys or even socks decorated with markers & yarn.
- **Make a movie.** Plan which scenes from a book you'll act out. Gather the cast, write a short script or outline, grab a video camera, & call, "Action!" Enjoy watching the film together.

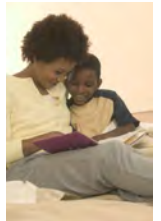


Teachers share the strategies that motivate children to read

What if your child wants to read at school, but not at home?

Here are some strategies teachers use to motivate kids to read:

- **Find irresistible books.** Start with classics, such as Dr. Seuss. If you're not sure which books are most popular, ask the teacher or a librarian.
- **Address problems immediately.** If you notice your child is struggling with reading, talk with his teacher.
- **Celebrate reading!** Treat reading accomplishments as big successes, the same way you might cheer for a soccer goal or clap for a piano piece.
- **Read together.** These days, many computer games & toys teach about reading. But nothing replaces a nurturing, enthusiastic parent.
- **Read every day.** Listen to audio books with your child, giggle at newspaper comics, read aloud, & attend library events.



Source: B. Inglesby, "Creating a Lifelong Reader," Mom's Homeroom, <http://momshomeroom.msn.com/articles/6/28839153>.

Help your child develop good reading habits

What do good readers have in common? There are certain things they do before, during & after reading assignments. You can help your child develop these habits! *Encourage your child to:*

- **Think about the text** before reading. What clues does she notice? What do the titles, pictures or headlines tell her? What does she already know about the subject? What does she think she'll learn?
- **Check comprehension** while reading. Your child should ask, "Does this make sense?" "What information am I missing?" If she's confused by a word or idea, she should read it twice. Still confused? Keep reading, & then go back. Its meaning may become clear.
- **Make connections** after reading. Your child should summarize the story or information using a graphic organizer, such as a story map. Did her predictions come true? Were her questions answered? If not, she should reread or find answers elsewhere.

Source: S. Sparks, "Studies Find Students Learn More by 'Acting Out' Text," Education Week, www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2011/07/13/36read.h30.html.

Source: "Reading Strategies," Panhandle Area Educational Consortium, www.paec.org/david/reading/general.pdf

Visit Us @
www.ecueacademy.org

East Chicago Urban
Enterprise Academy

VISION STATEMENT

At East Chicago Urban Enterprise Academy all students are provided with and utilize the tools they need to become successful learners, responsible citizens, and productive members in a global economy.

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the staff of East Chicago Urban Enterprise Academy, are committed to empowering students, parents and the community (as well as each other) in an unified effort to accomplish educational excellence. Through individualized learning and character education, we create well-prepared, active citizens. We embrace diversity in a safe environment that is conducive to learning. Through our dedication, students achieve maximum success from beginning to end.



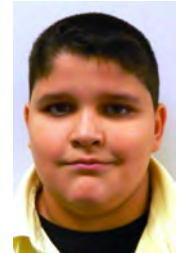
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THE SPOTLIGHT Orlando Garza

Orlando Garza is a 6th grader in Mr. Baker's class who was supporting the P.E.A.R.L.S. Valentine fundraiser when a student gave him \$18 for change, instead of \$8. He showed great responsibility and trustworthiness when he realized the mistake and returned the extra \$10 to Ms. Burnett, P.E.A.R.L.S. Sponsor. The spotlight shines brightly on Orlando... "Thank you, Orlando, for showing great ECUEA honesty!" —Ms. Burnett



CHARTER RENEWAL ~UPDATE~

Ball State University Office of Charter Schools is considering renewing the **East Chicago Urban Enterprise Academy** charter. Members of the public are welcome to comment on the school's performance over the last 6 years and its current renewal application (posted on the Ball State University Office of Charter Schools' website). Please send comments by email to charterapps@bsu.edu or by regular mail to:

**Ball State University,
Office of Charter Schools,
Teachers College, TC-910,
Muncie, IN 47306.**

ATTENDANCE

In recognition of perfect attendance for the month of January, students who have no absences during the entire month will be rewarded with a **dress down pass** and **17 Tiger Bucks** to spend at our Tiger Shop!

Attendance is essential to your child's success. *Thank you for making sure that they arrive every day safely and on time!*

***School begins at
8:00 a.m.!**

Here's to the classes with the top attendance rate for January:

1. Mrs. Morris—8B: 95%
2. Mrs. Player—KA: 93%
3. Ms. Mendiola—2B: 93%
4. Mrs. Rummel—3A: 93%
5. Ms. Edwards—7B: 93%

Congratulations Top Gainers!
School-wide average attendance
for January: **90%**

Monthly GOAL: 95%+

***JUST A REMINDER: All items in the LOST & FOUND will be donated to the Salvation Army at the end of each month!**