

## Preparing for T-CAPS

### Things to know about Tennessee Standardized Tests

The 2014-2015 TCAP Achievement testing window for Knox County is April 27 – May 8, 2015. Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade are tested in English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. TCAP tests count as 15% of your child's second semester grade. With the added emphasis put on child TCAP Assessment performance, this time of year can become a time of stress for children, teachers and parents.

What can we do as parents to help prepare our children for TCAP Assessment success?

- Review your child's school work each week. Use mistakes and missed questions as an opportunity to ensure understanding of the material.
- Regularly communicate with your child's teacher, particularly if you have questions about your child's academic performance or progress.
- Visit the educational links on your schools website to access free educational games and resources that provide skill practice.
- Review the TCAP Assessment practice tests and samplers available on the Knox County School's website at <http://www.state.tn.us/education/assessment/samplers.shtml#3-8 Achievement>.  
By starting now, you have time to review the practice test with your child. Make a game out of the questions on the practice assessment or practice a few pages each day. This is great time to talk about and practice testing tips and strategies. Understanding your child's test taking strengths and fears will help you know what strategies and tips to focus on. Common tips include:
  - Read all directions
  - Read all questions and answers carefully
  - Use clues from the question and answer choices to help arrive at the correct answer
  - Cross out and eliminate silly answers
  - Focus on problems you know
  - Reread and review your answers
  - Check your bubbles (question/answer tracking)
- Find out about and take advantage of afterschool resources such as tutoring or TCAP Prep class offered at your child's school.
- Most importantly encourage and reassure your child.