April 18, 2011

Dear Parents,

We will be administering the KCCT state assessment (which was previously called CATS) during the weeks of May 2\textsuperscript{nd} through May 13\textsuperscript{th} for grades 3-11. The following week, May 16-20, grades 3-7 will take the ITBS (Iowa Test Basic Skills) in the areas of reading and math.

Listed below are the subjects that your child will be tested in this year for the KCCT:

- Grade 3: reading and math
- Grade 4: reading, math and science
- Grade 5: reading, on-demand writing, math and social studies
- Grade 6: reading and math
- Grade 7: reading, math and science
- Grade 8: reading, on-demand writing, math and social studies
- Grade 10: reading
- Grade 11: math, science and social studies

Here are some tips for you to consider in preparing your child for testing:

- Make sure your child gets at least eight hours of sleep each night. This is always good advice, but it’s especially important during the testing period.

- Provide a nutritious breakfast for your child or ensure they get to school in time to eat with the school nutrition program.

- Make sure your child wears clothing that is appropriate for the weather, as well as the temperature in the classroom.

- Too much pressure is counterproductive, but you can encourage your child and try to boost his or her confidence about doing well on the tests.

- Make sure your child isn’t late to school.

- Unless your child is sick, make sure he or she attends every day during the testing
Tell your child to listen carefully to the test directions and to ask questions if he or she doesn’t understand them.

Encourage your child to be physically relaxed but mentally alert.

Remind your child to read each question carefully, to answer easy questions first, and then to go back and tackle the tough questions.

We have had a great school year and expect to finish well through the next two months. With all of us working together, we know that your child will have the best opportunity for academic success. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Lewis D. Carter, Superintendent
Monroe County Schools