

Middle School Guidance



Evaluating Assessments

September 2015

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According to a survey, many Americans, especially public school parents, give low marks to rating a teacher based partly on how students perform on standardized tests. Sixty-three percent of those parents polled were opposed to linking teacher evaluations to their students' standardized tests. Joshua Starr, CEO of Phi Delta Kappa states, "Parents see the work their kids bring home every night. They go to teacher conferences, and they are more likely to judge the school and the quality of the teacher based on that, than solely using test scores." Forty states are moving forward with plans to evaluate teachers and principals in part

on how well their students perform on tests. Standardized tests in general were not popular with many in the survey, which included a telephone poll of 1,000 American adults and supplemented with an online survey of 3,500 more. Nearly two thirds of those in the online survey said too much emphasis is placed on standardized testing in public schools. Almost half of the parents surveyed felt that parents should be allowed to excuse their children from taking the tests. The state of New York has the largest rate of opt-outs on standardized testing. Other states are reporting an increase in resistance to

the tests in recent years. (Yahoo Parenting) The debate is just getting started and will continue as long as assessments are used to evaluate students, teachers, and educational institutions.

Quote of the month

"A winner is someone who works to become a champion all the time, even when no one is watching." - Coach Carter



Welcome Back!

Points of Interest:

- ✓ - Absent from school? Check out the teacher lesson plans by logging into PowerSchool parent portal.
- ✓ - Excuses are due the day students return to school. A grace period of three days is allowed before becoming illegal.
- ✓ - Bullying information can be found at:
www.bbsd.com/Page/16088

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Important Upcoming Events

The following are a listing of important dates to remember:

September 1, 2015 - First student day of the 2015 - 2016 school year.

September 7, 2015 - Labor Day!

September 9, 2015 - Picture day. Bring your smile!

September 16 through September 19, 2015 - Berlin Community Fair.

October 2, 2015 - Middle of the first nine week grading period.

October 12, 2015 - ACT 80 (County In-Service)

November 3, 2015 - End of the first nine week grading

period.

November 16, 2015 - Act 80 Day. Parent/Teacher Conferences.

November 25, 2015 - Early dismissal.

November 26, 2015 - Happy Thanksgiving.

November 27 through December 1, 2015 - Break.

