

January 2012

Dear Testing Families:

You will find registration forms for 2012 Achievement Testing attached to this information letter. The TerraNova (CTBS-ed. 1) will be used. You will need to choose between Individual Testing and Group Testing. A registration form for each type is enclosed.

HINTS has provided achievement testing as a service to its members for many years, and this year it would like to extend that same service to all homeschool families. As always, HINTS strives to make testing as affordable as possible. The 2012 costs for both Group Testing and Individual Testing are as follows:

- \$50 per student for grades K and 1.
- \$35 per student for grades 2 and 3.
- \$25 per student for grades 4 through 12.

A \$10 per test service fee will be charged to all non-HINTS test-takers.

The cost variance is necessary due to the type of test that must be purchased for the different grade levels and to the costs of scoring each type of test. The cost of K & 1 tests are much higher since the small number of students that we test in these grade levels does not qualify us for McGraw Hill's group discount to score the test. At the end of this letter are two names of testing services where you can compare costs and order individually, if you prefer.

A separate \$10 per student security deposit is also required for those who choose Individual Testing. This deposit check will be voided if materials are returned undamaged.

Your payment must be included with the registration form you select. We will be ordering materials only for those who complete and return this form by the deadline of **JANUARY 31, 2012**. Late applications will not be accepted. We are unable to make refunds after the deadline.

Remember that NC homeschool law requires parents to test children between the ages of 7 – 17. Since children under seven years of age are not required to be tested, only those children who will be seven years of age by May 31, 2012, are eligible for testing. Children turning seven between January 1 and May 31, 2012, are eligible to take only the Kindergarten test.

Guidelines will vary for the Individual Testing and the Group Testing provided through HINTS. Something to keep in mind is that HINTS group testing only offers the minimum to comply with NC state requirements: the TerraNova **Survey** in math, language, and reading and the **Plus** test in spelling. Individual testing offers the option to also use the Survey tests for science and social studies and the additional Plus tests in math, language, and reading. The following information should help you in your decision.

INDIVIDUAL TESTING:

This testing format allows you to choose which week you will test your child(ren) and to administer the test over several days in a way which suits your schedule. Please be aware that either you or someone you designate will be the test administrator. The registration form asks for two different choices of weeks. We will try to honor your first selection of test week based on when you return the registration form.

In order to make this a successful program, it is imperative that everyone be punctual with the pick-ups

and drop-offs of these materials. You will receive an email confirmation indicating the week you will be testing. If you have not received this email confirmation by mid-February, please contact Beth Ritenbaugh.

GROUP TESTING:

Testing will take place on Tuesday, **April 3**, at Carmel Christian School (Carmel Baptist Church) in Matthews. The test will be administered in a group setting and tests for ALL students will be administered on this one day only. Testing will be between **9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** Since we are administering new tests this year the actual ending time may vary, so please be flexible.

Confirmations for Group Testing will be emailed to you by mid-February. Please check your confirmation receipt for accuracy and notify Beth Ritenbaugh immediately if there are any errors.

Some children may find group testing too stressful. Your child may feel uncomfortable in a group setting away from home. Also, although there are breaks between tests, it will be a fairly long morning, one that will require concentration and focus. We, also, are not equipped, in the group setting, to test children with learning disabilities who need special accommodations. We would encourage you to evaluate your child(ren) and determine whether testing with a group or participating in individual testing will give you the best evaluation of their abilities.

Group testing is a task that needs the cooperation of those who have a child being tested with the group. We will need parents to assist with testing by being administrators and proctors. When you complete the registration form, please indicate in the space provided the area in which you would prefer to serve. Administrators will read the directions and time the tests. Proctors will assist the Administrators in checking to see students are on the correct page and in addressing disturbances in the class.

Only children being tested with the group will be permitted in the testing rooms. HINTS cannot provide childcare during testing. If you have younger children who need childcare, you can indicate this on the registration form. We will make every effort to use parents who do not need childcare as Administrators and Proctors. However, if we have a shortage of workers and need your help, you will need to find childcare for your younger children. If this is a concern, you may want to consider registering for Individual Testing.

REMEMBER REGISTRATION FORMS FOR BOTH GROUP & INDIVIDUAL TESTING MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JANUARY 31, 2012.

If you have any questions about testing please contact Beth Ritenbaugh at 704-543-1838 or applebar@bellsouth.net. Thank you in advance for your help in making this year's achievement testing a positive experience for all of our children.

Sincerely,

Beth Ritenbaugh
Annual Testing Coordinator

Testing Services who advertise in the Greenhouse Report include:

Bayside (www.BaysideSchoolServices.com)
Thurber's (www.thurbers.net)