



Durham Intermediate School

Dear Parents of Carroll ISD Sixth Grade Students,

In the next few weeks, your student will be taking the *Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)* and the *Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS)*. These tests provide the school with information that can be used to improve instruction and to help make sound educational decisions about student learning.

What do the tests measure?

- CogAT measures learned reasoning and problem-solving skills in three different areas: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal. Reasoning skills develop gradually throughout a person's lifetime and at different rates for different individuals. Reasoning abilities are good predictors of success in school and are important outcomes of good schooling. CogAT does not measure such factors as effort, attention, motivation, and work habits, which also contribute significantly to school achievement.
- ITBS provides a nationally norm-referenced measure of a student's mastery of key academic areas; reading, language, and mathematics.

What does Carroll ISD do with these scores?

The scores from the *CogAT* and *ITBS* provide a picture of each student's measured ability and measured achievement.

- The results of the CogAT and ITBS will be used to identify students for CISD gifted and talented program.
- The results of the following scores identify the appropriate 7th grade math course.
 - CogAT - Nonverbal and Quantitative Composite Score
 - ITBS - Math Total
 - Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test (IAAT) - given in February
 - 5th Grade Math STAAR Advanced Performance
 - Math average at the end of the third grading period
- Please visit, <http://tinyurl.com/CISDMSMathPlacement>, for more information on Middle School Math Placement.
- Seventh grade math placement letters will be sent via US Mail in May.

When are the test dates?

- Both the CogAT and the ITBS are given during school hours during the month of October.

When will I get the results?

The results of both assessment will be sent home in the spring once the reports have been delivered to the campus.

Where do I go for more information?

For further detail regarding these tests, check out the Riverside website located at www.riversidepublishing.com

If you have questions about your child's scores, please contact your campus counselor.

Sincerely,

Counselors at Durham Intermediate