



Principal's Message

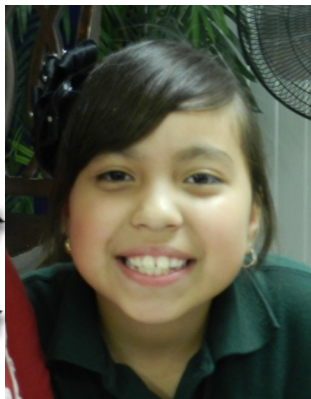
Greetings North Duncanville Parents,

Happy New Year! I am very excited about the New Year. I am anticipating tremendous growth in our students and know that with staff and parents working together all can be accomplished.

Please be sure that your child arrives to school on time each and every day, so that all instructional time can be maximized.

Thank you for your partnership in this matter. Together, all is possible.

Mr. Hay
Principal



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IMPORTANT NEWS from MR. SOTO.....

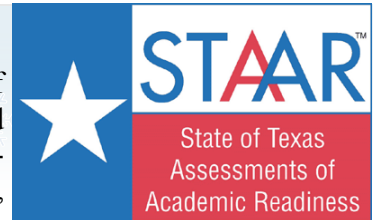
Parents,

Advantage Academy's campus weather closing information can be found on TV FOX 4, NBC 5, WFAA 8, and Radio 94.9 FM KLTY. If you do not see your campus listed on the closings or delays list, the school will be on regular schedule. We will not always follow the large ISD's in your area. If there is questionable weather or conditions and your campus is open, for safety purposes, the school will not mark any student who arrives late on that day as tardy.

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

STAAR – The Next Generation

A new testing journey begins with the launch of the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness or STAAR™ in the 2011–2012 school year. The standardized testing program includes tests for students in grades 3–12. The new rigorous program will **focus on readiness for success** in subsequent grades and courses and, ultimately, for college and career.



What is STAAR?

STAAR is the state's student testing program. Over the course of their public school career, students will be tested in the core subject areas—reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies. The number of tests taken each year will vary from two to four, depending on the grade level.

The STAAR tests for elementary and middle school grades will cover the same subjects and grades as the previous testing program, the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). At the high school level, 12 (EOC) assessments will replace grade-specific tests.

How does STAAR differ from TAKS?

The STAAR will be more rigorous than previous state tests. It will contain more test questions at most grade levels. The majority of new STAAR assessments will test material students studied that year. In contrast, TAKS high-school level tests were required by law to test content studied over multiple years. Also, for the first time since the state began its standardized testing program, the tests will have a time limit. Unless a student is eligible for an accommodation, each student will have four hours to complete each assessment.

Where can I get more information about the new testing program?

The latest information about STAAR is available at:

www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/



*Your child must be **FEVER FREE** for 24 hours prior to coming to school. Please keep children with fever or vomiting at home so they can fully recover.*



Health
News



Healthy Sleep Habits

A good night's sleep can help your child stay alert in class and behave better and that means he/she will learn more. Try these tips for a well-rested child:

1. Set a regular bedtime so your child is used to going to sleep at the same time each night. Establish a comforting routine (bath, story, lights out) to help him/her wind down. Note: Elementary school children need 9-11 hours of sleep a night.
2. Tell your child it's okay if he/she doesn't fall asleep right away. Instead, suggest that he/she get cozy and rest until he/she feels tired. Idea: talk about what to do if he/she can't fall asleep (focus on something pleasant, play a silent word game such as thinking of a food or an animal that starts with each letter of the alphabet.)

