

Standardized Testing: Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What will the test schedule be?

A: Testing will begin at 9am both mornings. Testing should end around 12:30 on Thursday. *Ending times for Friday are approximate. Some will be determined as soon as registration has closed and we can determine the best order to work the additional/optional tests into the schedule.*

<i>No Testing on Wednesday this year. All testing will be completed on Thursday and Friday</i>		
Thursday, April 27th	3-8th graders Core: Required Language portion of testing	9am – 12:30pm
Friday, April 28th	3rd-8th graders Core: Required Math Portion of testing	9am – 10:30pm
	3rd-8th graders Core <u>Plus</u> additional optional tests following Math	9am – pm
	High Schoolers Core	9am – 12:00 pm
	High Schoolers Core <u>Plus</u> additional optional tests	9am – pm

Q: Where will the testing occur?

A: Lexington Baptist Church has agreed to host testing this year.

Q: Will I be able to have my special needs child tested?

A: Due to limitations in testers, we regret that we will NOT be able to make any special concessions for special needs students. If your child can take the test under the same conditions as the other students (including the time limitations), they are welcome to be tested.

Q: Will you test my child if I'm not a member of SHIELD?

A: No. This is a service by SHIELD members for SHIELD members only.

Q: What is the difference between the Core and Core Plus?

A: The Core Battery consists of the required Math and Language portions of the tests. This year IOWA has changed their test somewhat and the 3rd – 12th graders have different optional tests available beyond the required Language and Math. These are what we refer to as the Core Plus options. They include Math Computation*, Science and Social Studies, and - for 3rd grade only – Word Analysis and Listening. Please pay attention when registering to make sure you understand and sign up for the test that best suit your needs.

**SCHAIS is requiring this test for their members.*

Q: Will my child only be tested with other children of the same grade?

A: The high school grades are a separate group. The lower grades (3-8) will be divided based upon the numbers in each age group. Usually this ends up being 3rd and 4th, 5th and 6th, 7th and 8th.

Q: Can my child use a calculator?

A: Students are permitted to use a calculator on some (not all) of the math subtests. A calculator is not necessary to complete the work and it is optional. If your child normally does not use one, I would not recommend them using one for this test. We will not provide calculators. If you want your child to use one, they must bring it themselves and you should indicate your permission on the Shield Application form. Also, please make sure any child with permission to use a calculator bring an actual calculator. Phones, iPods, nor any other electronic devices may be used as substitutes.

Q: Will my child receive any breaks and snacks?

A: We have breaks scheduled at intervals during the testing agenda. We will **not** provide a snack, but we do recommend that you send a snack with your child to eat during the break. Students may bring water into the testing area, but no other open snacks or drinks will be allowed in the testing room.

No peanuts, please! *We have a student with a known severe peanut allergy*

On Friday, all students who plan to take the Core PLUS Additional Tests, need to bring a lunch with them.

Q: Where can I get practice tests for my child?

A: You may order practice tests from Bob Jones Testing and Evaluation. (Follow the same steps as you did to order your tests) We do not order or administer practice tests.

Q: When will I get the results of the test?

A: BJU now has a system that requires you to visit their web site with your account number to access your scores rather than sending out paper copies. If you have any questions about how to retrieve your results, feel free to ask Jesseca Bennett during the week of testing. Return times vary, but you can begin checking your account after about two weeks for the results.

Q: How do I sign up?

A: Go to the Shield Website at www.shieldonline.org and follow the prompts on the site to register for IOWA Testing.

**If you have any further questions or run into any problems,
please contact Elizabeth Collins at aikosmom@sc.rr.com, (803) 356-5858 or (803) 960-4031.
Or Jesseca Bennett at angelmommy2nd@gmail.com, (803) 429-2645**

Important Announcements:

- If you have a four-year college degree and are willing to help with testing, **we are in need of three to four additional testers this year.** You will be placed with an experienced tester, have access to the Group Administrator if you have questions and the process is pretty straight forward. Having two certified testers in each room gives flexibility and makes the process go extremely smoothly. Please contact Elizabeth and she will give you the pertinent information.
- Because of the new scheduling adjustments this year with the additional testing options on Friday, **we need some parent volunteers** to help monitor hallways and break areas. If you are willing to volunteer, please let Elizabeth know as soon as possible so we can make sure we are covered.
- Please **have your child bring a book or drawing pad** – something to quietly entertain/occupy themselves during down time while testing sessions may overlap or they finish early and other children are still testing. LBC has generously allowed us to use their facilities for testing and our students need to be both respectful and considerate of them and their facilities as well as the other classes testing.