



## Spring Branch Independent School District

### Spring Forest Middle School

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**Kaye Williams PhD., Principal**

January 30, 2014

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In accordance with the SBISD Plan, Spring Branch ISD students in grades 2 - 7 will participate in norm-referenced testing February 11<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>. Norm-referenced testing compares your student's performance to thousands of other students in the same grade who took the same test at the same time of year. These tests are only one measure of your child's achievement. They provide valuable information to you about the academic performance of your child. In addition, they will provide information to the campus and the district about the effectiveness of our curriculum and programs.

The Stanford Achievement Test, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition (Stanford 10) will be given over several days, with no test lasting longer than 50 minutes each day. Most tests are 30 minutes each. The Stanford 10 is a comprehensive battery of tests designed to measure student achievement levels in reading and language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. Additional information about each of these tests may be found on the back of this letter.

In order for your child to do his/her best work during these tests, we suggest the following:

1. It is important that your child come to school every day.
2. Please make sure your child is on time each day of testing. Children are not allowed into their classroom once testing has begun.
3. Children will perform better if they receive a good night's sleep. Please see that your child is in bed at an early hour each night.
4. We recommend a healthy breakfast. This will allow your child to maintain a high energy level throughout the morning. Please avoid sugar as much as possible.

We look forward to sharing your child's test results with you when they arrive. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our school counselors, Jana Gwinn and Vanessa Croix at 713-251-4600.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kaye Williams  
Principal

*Inspiring minds. Shaping lives.*

Duncan F. Klusmann, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

[www.springbranchisd.com](http://www.springbranchisd.com)

## NORM REFERENCED TESTING

The **Stanford10 Achievement Test** measures academic performance in English for reading and language, mathematics, science and social studies, against standards established by professional educators. Students cannot “pass” or “fail” these tests. The results help show what your child has learned, and what he/she has not yet mastered.

### Reading

Reading comprehension is assessed through reading selections accompanied by questions about the selection. The Reading Comprehension subtest assesses students within the framework of three types of material: *Literary*: Material read for enjoyment or literary merit, including folk tales, historical fiction, contemporary fiction, humor and poetry. *Informational*: Level-appropriate expository material, with content from natural, physical, and social science, as well as other nonfiction general informational materials; *Functional*: Material encountered in everyday life, both inside and outside of school, including directions, forms, labels, personal notes, and advertisements.

### Spelling and Language

Spelling words are presented in context, with each item consisting of one sentence with three underlined words and a “No Mistake” option. Students must either recognize the misspelled word or recognize that all of the words are spelled correctly.

The Language subtest is divided into three sections; Mechanics, including capitalization, punctuation, and usage; Expression, which assesses sentence structure, identifying run-ons, fragments and awkward construction.

### Mathematics

The mathematics subtests assess the entire breadth of mathematical content, including numbers and operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, data analysis, and probability.

### Listening

Listening comprehension is assessed through dictated selections and questions. Three types of selections reflect the kinds of real-life listening material that students are confronted with both in school and outside of school. Literary selections are stories and poems. Informational selections represent the kinds of instructional material students might hear in science, history, current events, geography, health, government and other areas. Functional messages include step-by-step directions, advertisements, and announcements. Students are allowed to take notes as the listening selections are being read to them.

### Science

The Stanford 10 Science subtest is designed to assess understanding in the domains of life, physical, and earth sciences. The processes and concepts of science are emphasized. Test items allow students to use reasoning skills to reach answers rather than recall memorized, detailed information. Students are asked to use science concepts to interpret data, draw conclusions, and predict events.

### Social Science

The Social Science assessment covers the content areas of history, geography, civics and government, and economics. The Social science subtest assesses a wide range of social science knowledge and intellectual skills. Some of these include; identifying concepts, thinking chronologically, analyzing data, evaluating evidence, understanding multiple perspectives, and interpreting information.