

SP³ - Student Planning Pointers for Parents



Conversation Starters

Test-Taking Skills – 8th Grade

You know your student the best, so the following talking points are simply a guideline to use in starting a conversation with your 8th grader about test-taking skills.

- ▶ There is a strategy to doing well on tests, and if you learn to use it, you will get better results.
- ▶ Take full advantage of study guides and study sessions offered by your teacher. If these are not available, you should meet with your teacher to ask about the material that will be covered on the test and ask for help with anything you do not understand.
- ▶ Learn to develop a study plan and schedule. This involves listing out all the important topics that will be covered on the test, what you will do to master the topics, taking practice tests and working problems, and scheduling when you will do all these steps before the test.
- ▶ Good test-taking strategies include:
 - ▶ Reviewing all the questions when you are handed the test and creating a time allotment for each group of questions. You should monitor the time as you take the test to make sure you are working fast enough to answer all the questions.
 - ▶ Using a piece of scratch paper to identify questions where you are unsure of the answer, so you can skip them and come back to them after you answer the questions that you know. By doing this, you will not run out of time and be unable to answer questions you do know.
 - ▶ Using all the remaining time to double-check your answers and making sure you did not make any obvious mistakes. If you are filling in answer sheets, you should make sure you did not get off by a line and put the answer in the wrong space.



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