

# RMS Knightly News

April 2009



## Kirkland's Corner

March 16th marks the beginning of our final quarter, last nine weeks of instruction, for the 2008/09 school year. This is a time for students to "buckle down," and make one last push for success. Because of our comprehensive after-school programs, which include an academic assistance component, most all students still have an opportunity to be promoted to the next grade level. Parents, we encourage you to remain abreast of student academic progress by monitoring weekly progress reports, remaining in touch with teachers, and ensuring that your child is completing assignments during school hours and at home.

With the systems of support, and various methods of communication, no students academic standing, should come as a surprise. Nevertheless, in a rare instance where this is not true, please take this opportunity to e-mail or meet personally with your child's teachers. RMS is committed to the academic and the life success of each of our students. Let us join as partners in this final push for success on the CRCT and ensuring that our children are promoted to the next grade level.

*"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically... Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education."* — Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

### April/May Events!

CRCT Testing - Tuesday, April 14 - 20

School Council - Monday, April 20th (6:30 PM)

Awards Night (6:30 PM) - 6th grade, May 14th

7th grade, May 18th

8th grade, May 19th

8th Grade Carnival—May 18th

Last Day of School—Wednesday, May 20nd

## Spring Break

April 6 - 10



RMS website

[www.richardsms.org](http://www.richardsms.org)

Richards Middle School  
3555 Sugarloaf Pkwy.  
Lawrenceville, GA 30044  
Ph; 770-995-7133  
[www.richardsms.org](http://www.richardsms.org)

Have a safe holiday!  
Come back rested  
and ready for CRCT.  
See test-taking tips  
on page 2.



Check for your child's homework  
assignments daily by going to  
[www.homeworknow.com](http://www.homeworknow.com)

## Top Ten Test-Taking Tips for Students

(from TeacherVision.com)

### 1. Have a Positive Attitude

Approach the big test as you'd approach a giant jigsaw puzzle. It might be tough, but you can do it! A positive attitude goes a long way toward success.

### 2. Make a Plan

Make a list of the most important topics to be covered and use that as a guide when you study. Circle items that you know will require extra time. Be sure to plan extra time to study the most challenging topics.

### 3. The Night Before

Cramming doesn't work. If you've followed a study plan, the night before the test you should do a quick review and get to bed early. Remember, your brain and body need sleep to function well, so don't stay up late!

### 4. The Morning of the Test

Did you know that you think better when you have a full stomach? So don't skip breakfast the morning of the test. Get to school early and do a ten-minute power study right before the test, so your brain is turned on and tuned up.

### 5. Test Time

Before the test begins, make sure you have everything you'll need – like extra pencils. Read the instructions! You want to make sure you are marking answers correctly.

### 6. Manage Your Time

Scan through the test quickly before starting. Answering the easy questions first can be a time saver and a confidence builder. Plus, it saves more time in the end for you to focus on the hard stuff.

### 7. I'm Stuck!

Those tricky problems can knock you off balance. Don't get worried or frustrated. Reread the question to make sure you understand it, and then try to solve it the best way you know how. If you're still stuck, circle it and move on. You can come back to it later. What if you have no idea about the answer? Review your options, eliminate wrong answers and make the best guess you can.

### 8. Multiple-Choice Questions

The process of elimination can help you choose the correct answer in a multiple-choice question. Start by crossing off the answers that couldn't be right. Then spend your time focusing on the possible correct choices before selecting your answer.

### 9. Neatness Counts

For machine-scored tests, like the CRCT, fill in the bubbles completely and carefully.

### 10. I'm Done!

Not so fast - when you complete the last item on the test, remember that you're not done yet. First, check the clock and go back to review your answers, making sure that you didn't make any careless mistakes (such as putting the right answer in the wrong place or skipping a question). Spend the last remaining minutes going over the hardest problems before you turn in your test.



With Spring Break upon us, it seems the last thing any student wants to talk about is standardized testing. While we want our students to have a safe and relaxing Spring Break, it is important that they are reminded that CRCT testing will begin on Tuesday, April 14, only one day after students return from vacation. While we are doing everything we can here at Richards to help your child prepare for the test, there are a few things that you can do at home to help your child as well:

- \* Make sure your child is present at school and on time for each day of CRCT Testing (Tuesday, April 14- Monday April 20).
- \* Go to our website, [www.richardsms.org/home.html](http://www.richardsms.org/home.html) and click on the OAS parent guide to learn more about how your child can practice for the CRCT on the computer.
- \* Do not schedule any doctor or dentist appointments on testing days.
- \* If your child is feeling nervous, encourage them to try counting to 10, take deep breaths, or think positive thoughts in order to calm down.
- \* Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep each night before the test.
- \* Try to avoid arguments/conflicts on the morning of the test.
- \* Make sure your child gets up early enough on the morning of the test so that they are not rushing and running late.
- \* Encourage your child to eat breakfast here at Richards or prepare a light breakfast for them to eat at home.
- \* Encourage your child to listen, read test directions carefully, and take their time on the test.
- \* Encourage your child to do his/her do best on each day of the test so that they know and understand your expectations of them, but do not let the test be the main topic of discussion at home. Continuous "test talk" may cause increased stress and test anxiety for your child and could negatively impact his/her performance.

*Source: FamilyEducation. Com, American School Counselor Association*