

Standardized Tests Are Here To Stay

To test or not to test, that is 'not' the question: Standardized Tests are here to Stay

It's testing season again and students across North America are taking standardized achievement tests. Along with the growing emphasis on setting high and consistent standards for our schools comes the ever-increasing need to test students to see whether or not they are meeting those standards. Some U.S. states mandate that every public school student in grades 2 through 11 take a standardized achievement test annually – others require students to be tested only in specific grades, i.e. 3rd and 6th. A number of states require all students to take the same test, while others allow each school district to select the test it wants its students to take. And increasingly, states are creating their own tests in order to determine whether or not their students have mastered the content in the curriculum for that state. Regardless of what province or state you live in, what is certain is that the issue of testing students has been given a role of ever-increasing importance.

What does this mean to you and your Kumon child? First of all, long term Kumon study offers your child a strong foundation in basic reading and math skills. Basic skill mastery gives Kumon students a greater chance of avoiding careless errors, a common problem of standardized test-takers. Moreover, at Kumon, students learn time management, another essential test-taking tool. By timing their Kumon worksheets daily and by taking timed tests at the end of each level, Kumon students become accustomed to the idea of working within a specified time frame. Since it is the timing factor on standardized tests that accounts for a great deal of test anxiety, Kumon students have a leg up over those not enrolled in Kumon. Finally, the Kumon emphasis on good study habits, such as concentration and focus, enables the Kumon child to approach the test taking process efficiently.

In addition to the above benefits, the Kumon Math and Reading curriculum covers most of the **specific** content areas found on standardized tests: computation, number facts, fractions, decimal concepts, and algebra are Math content areas that Kumon covers; vocabulary, reading comprehension, punctuation, grammar, and capitalization are examples of Reading and Language Arts content areas covered by Kumon's Reading program.

For students today, standardized tests are a fact of life. How can parents help their children manage these tests? One solution is to provide them with the opportunity for long term Kumon study. By making Kumon available, children may reap additional benefits of the program such as increasing their chances of performing well on standardized tests.

Note from the editor:

Standardized Tests Are Here To Stay - Written by Andrea Pastorok, Ph.D. / Educational Psychologist - Published by Kumon.