

# SANTAN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

AN A+ SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE™

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March 6, 2017

Dear Parents:

Santan Junior High state testing will be:

- Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> (Writing),
- Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> (Math and Reading Part 1), and
- Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> (Math and Reading Part 2).
- Make-ups will be on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

Please know that the tests are on-line this year and each student will be supplied with a lap top to complete testing.

## How can I help as a parent?

*Although we have some on hand, it will help us tremendously if you could make sure your child comes to school with the following:*

- One pair of **wired** earbuds. Unfortunately, “Bluetooth” devices do not work.
- Supply your child with the appropriate calculator for the math portions
  - Graphing calculator for Alg 1, 2 and Geometry
  - Scientific Calculator for 7<sup>th</sup> grade and Pre-Alg

**Can parents encourage students do any type of practice tests prior to the testing window?  
YES!**

<http://www.azed.gov/assessment/azmerit/>

The link above will take you to practice tests that students are allowed to view and practice for upcoming tests. Within the same arena are resources and parent explanations to support your questions regarding the AzMERIT state testing.

**Attendance** is very important during the state testing. Please do not check out students early or check in late due to the **strict schedules** we must follow in order to complete tests. Students who have to leave the testing environment are not allowed to finish the test once interrupted.

Thank you very much for your on-going support of Santan Junior High.

Very sincerely,

*Barbara J. Kowalinski*

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## **What is AzMERIT?**

The AzMERIT test has been developed by Arizona educators to give teachers a better idea of how students are doing in reading, writing and math.

## **Why do we need a test?**

AzMERIT is like an annual checkup—an important opportunity to find out how your child is doing. Just as doctors check height and weight, teachers use the test to check how your child is doing in reading, writing and math.

## **Who takes the tests?**

Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through high school will take the AzMERIT test this spring. High school students will be given at the end of their courses, similar to a final exam.

## **How do I help my child prepare?**

All of the work your child has been doing in the classroom this year has helped prepare him/her for this test. Every project, assignment and discussion has helped teach your child critical thinking and problem solving skills.

As a parent, one of the most important things you can do is to talk with your child about the assessment to help minimize any fear or anxiety your child may be feeling. You can even take a practice test with your child at home to become more familiar with the format and types of questions that will be asked. Another important thing you can do, is to check in regularly with your child's teacher about his/her progress to see where your child needs more help or where he/she is ready to learn even more. Lastly, making sure that your child gets a good night's rest and is off their electronic devices.

Learn more about the test and what your child needs to know to be successful at [ArizonaAimsHigher.org/AzMERIT](http://ArizonaAimsHigher.org/AzMERIT)