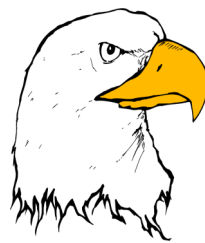


# Research Triangle Charter Academy

March 15, 2019



## RTCA Nears End of Year and Readies for EOG Exams

### HOW PARENTS CAN HELP PREP THEIR KIDS

Testing season is upon us and the stakes are high! Parents want their children to succeed; therefore the stakes are high for them as well. With knowledge of the purpose of the test and a few helpful tips on testing success, parents can rest assured that they have done their part in preparing their children for these important assessments. - In the weeks prior to testing, parents can do the following:

- Allow your child to practice “endurance” reading. The reading portion of the EOG requires focus and stamina, as there are many passages and question to get through. If your child loves to read, he probably won’t be stressed by this portion of the test. However, for children that have a hard time sitting down to read for ten minutes, push them to read for longer periods of time.
- Ask your child questions about what they are reading. Try to get them to explain the plot and describe characters’ actions.
- Encourage calculator use and make sure that your child is using the calculator appropriately to solve math problems. The calculator is only helpful if it is used correctly.
- Review strategies for solving math problems. Pose a problem and see how many different ways your child can solve it. This encourages higher order thinking skills.

Continued on next page...

### STUDENT CREED

#### We are Research Triangle Students.

We strive to achieve academic excellence.

We exemplify high moral character.

We strive to realize our potential.

We work diligently to prepare for the future.

### ADMIN TEAM TO SERVE YOU

- Wayne Muhammad, Principal
- Erin Huckel, Dean of K-2/ Specials
- Wintre Shaw, Dean of 3-5/EC
- Jamila Bowser, Dean of 6-8/ Title I Intervention
- Jacquetta Williams, Social Worker



## EOG TESTING PREP...(CONTINUED)

The week of testing, parents can:

- Be aware of the testing schedule and make sure that your child is at school on time on testing days.
- Make sure that your child has gone to bed on time the night before so they are well rested.
- Serve a healthy breakfast including protein so that your child is not hungry during the testing session.
- Encourage students to listen to and follow all directions given by the test administrator. If they have questions, they need to be addressed before testing begins.

High stakes testing can be taxing, but with positive reinforcement children will be inspired to do their best!

*There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.” – Colin Powell*

## Healthy Snacks for the EOGs

Parents, please help us prepare our students for the EOGs by providing healthy snacks, fruits, and veggies each school day April 22-May 31, 20189. With your help, we can prepare our students mentally and physically to take on the EOGs.

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## SPRING PARENT CONFERENCES AND PTATS

**It is almost time for our Spring Parent-Teacher Academic Team (PTAT) Meetings!!** The purpose of PTAT meetings--our version of traditional parent conferences--is to engage families so that teachers can better help YOU to help your child meet their academic and behavioral goals for your children. It is a critical time to reinforce parent-school relationships that will lead to the dynamic partnerships necessary to ensure the educational success of your children and all of our students. To support our students academically in and out of school, RTCA administrators, teachers, and families need to have a shared understanding of their children’s learning and work as partners to meet their academic and social-emotional needs. For PTAT meetings, our goal is to maximize family engagement.

### **What are Parent-Teacher Academic Team (PTAT) meetings?**

Parent-Teacher Academic Team (PTAT) meetings is a family engagement model, designed by Dr. Maria Paredes of WestEd, that strengthens teacher-family relationships by focusing on student academic growth and achievement. The PTAT Model elevates the efforts of traditional parent-teacher conferences by inviting all families of the same classroom teacher to meet together rather than individually. We believe it is important for parents to understand how their child is progressing academically. However, student progress is often viewed in isolation and therefore does not provide a truly holistic view of the student’s performance. Thus, the PTAT meeting provides an opportunity to anonymously see your child’s performance relative to the performance of all other students in the class.



**Three RTCA employees were selected as FINALISTS for NHA's Excellence in Teaching Award, recognizing excellent teaching among all of NHA'S 88 schools. Pictured are finalists Becky Sneigle (2nd grade), Molly Maskel (Title I) and Latasha McCollum (3rd Grade). Also pictured are Dean Huckel and Dean Bowser.**

## SPRING PARENT CONFERENCES AND PTATS...

### PTAT meetings will include the following:

- Team-building activity to build a rapport with and among parents and the classroom teacher
- Foundational grade-level skills and "high-dollar" standards that students must master by the end of the school year and should have mastered so far
- An anonymous graph of every child's status on the skill/standards as evidenced by various interim/benchmark assessments
- Teacher modeling the activities that are targeted to improve the skill
- Parents practicing the activities together in order to use them with their child at home

All parents receive materials for the practice activities to take home AND an updated graph of every child's progress and learn about another skill.

### Please mark your calendars for attendance for spring PTAT meetings.

- ⇒ **Monday, April 8** Grades K-2 PTAT Meetings 6:00-7:30pm
- ⇒ **Tuesday, April 9** Grades 3-5 PTAT Meetings 6:00-7:30pm
- ⇒ **Wednes. April 10** Grades 6-8 PTAT Meetings 6:00-7:30pm

**More details will be sent home closer to the dates regarding locations for each grade level's meetings.**

## EOG NIGHT TO BE HELD APRIL 2

On **Tuesday, April 2 6:00-7:30pm** we will host our K-8 EOG Night! This night is dedicated to giving parents vitally important information regarding all EOY testing in grades K-8 that could help YOU to help improve your child's success on the test!

We will discuss EOG logistics, testing guidelines, IEP modifications and accommodations, policies regarding the testing setting, EOG laws, general information regarding Read to Achieve, EOG proficiency levels for each test/grade, EOY NWEA and mClass testing for Grades K-2, and we will share our EOG schedule.

Parents will also report to the grade levels for presentations which detail information pertaining to THEIR particular grade level content test such as: what standards are most tested, preparation strategies, info regarding parent access to released test items, test day expectations, etc. (It is important to share with parents the standards and information that students will be tested on because YOU may be able to assist students with those or hire someone to assist them between now and test day.)

This is YOUR opportunity to create another layer of motivational and instructional support for your children's success on the state test.