

Herndon Magnet School
11845 Gamm Road
Belcher, LA 71004
(318) 221-7676



February 22, 2018

Dear Parents,

The new Louisiana Student Standards (LSS) focus on critical thinking, problem solving, and effective communication skills in ELA, math, science, and social studies. Teachers have been implementing these new standards over the last two years to help our students develop the knowledge and skills they need to be college and career ready upon high school graduation. To accurately measure our students' learning as well as help our teachers pinpoint areas in need of improvement, students in grades 3 – 8 will take the LEAP 2025 tests in ELA, math, social studies, and a field test in science as follows:


5 th and 6 th grades	April 16 – 20, 2018	Computer based
7 th and 8 th grades	April 23 – 27, 2018	Computer based
3 rd and 4 th grades	April 30 – May 4, 2018	Paper based

Our teachers and students have not only been working diligently to master the LSS, but also to prepare to take their tests. The tests are very different from the CAT or GEE that you may remember taking. Not only are the tests computer based for students in grades 5 – 8, but even the paper-based tests for students in grades 3 and 4 require much more than bubbling in an answer. One way that you can help us help your child is to practice the “Online Training Tools” with them at home.

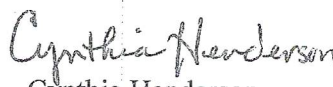
Students need practice using the technology and knowing the layout of the test on the computer. Technology enhanced items include drag and drop, hot spots, and matching interaction. The math tests include typing in the equation editor. All of the tests require typing of short answers, paragraphs, and essays. Additionally, students need practice enlarging pictures, maps, and graphs, ensuring they scroll down to see the entire document, moving between questions, using the review screen at the end of the test to ensure all questions have been answered, and knowing how to use all available tools as needed/required.

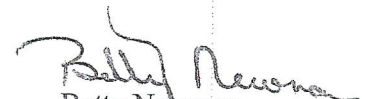
Parents can greatly improve their child’s knowledge of and usage of these items by having them practice and show you how it works at home. Over the next couple of weeks, please take some time on several different occasions to go to <https://wbte.drcedirect.com/LA/portals/la> with your child. Click on “Online Tools Training” under the LEAP 2025 Grades 3 – 8 blue button. You will then get a menu of items for ELA, math, science, and social studies. Each test has several practice questions and items for your child to practice. Students have been exposed to these in their classrooms, but being very familiar with the testing platform will help put students at ease when testing rolls around. Ask them to show you how to use the different tools; look around and click on every available item so that you can see for yourself what the LEAP 2025 will be like for your child.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the test coordinator via email at jldepriest@caddoschools.org or by calling (318) 221-7676. Thank you for your continued support of your child’s education and Herndon Magnet School.


 Tom Thomas
 Principal


 Jennifer DePriest
 Assistant Principal


 Cynthia Henderson
 Assistant Principal


 Betty Newman
 Instructional Coordinator