

Good morning, it's April 18, 2013, and welcome to Panther News. I'm _____, _____th grade.

STAAR exams are next week! We have talked about studying and preparing for these tests on PANTHER NEWS several times, but one more time ... the only way to prepare is to study, but how we study is very important to make sure that we are truly ready for the testing.

According to answers.com ...

Study in the position you will be in when you take the test. Sit at a table or desk in a chair.

Avoid distractions. Loud music, television, other people are not going to help. You need to focus on the task at hand, not have a bunch of distractions to pull you away.

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Take regular breaks when you are studying. Your mind is supported by your body. If you allow your body to get too tired, or out of condition, it won't support the brain the way it should. Go over your notes from class. Study old class exams.

An effective way to have a greater understanding of what you read is to: read the text; make notes from the text; and write a description of the subject material from your notes.

You reinforce your learning by making notes from the text in your own words. The process of converting the text to your own words is important so you can remember the information. By writing a description of the subject material from your notes, you reinforce the information in your memory.

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You can also draw a picture, label it and draw it again and again until you can do it quickly. You can create a mental picture representation of what you want to learn. Picture the representation repeatedly until it is easy to remember.

Writing something over and over also works. If you have to write an essay on a topic, write several drafts and then when you're ready, you'll be prepared to answer with ease.

Don't cram. If you learn something, you can learn it for life. That should be the goal. Look over your notes and look up anything you don't understand. Be alone. No noise. Rewrite your notes from class. Take notes from all assigned chapters. Don't leave it to the last minute.

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Let's take a look at "reading" since this is the way we acquire or get information from all of our subjects.

According to hubpages.com ...

You must learn to read with a purpose. In studying, you may read the same assignment three or four times, each time with a different purpose. You must know before you begin reading what your purpose is, and read accordingly.

Getting the main idea in reading is central to effective studying. You must learn what the central idea is, and understand it in your own way. Every paragraph contains a main idea. Make it a habit to find the main idea in each paragraph you read.

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Extract or find important details. This means that you locate in your reading the basis for main ideas. There is usually one important detail associated with every main idea. The more important details you can identify, the easier it will be to review for exams.

Don't read aloud to yourself. Generally, reading aloud to yourself does not help you study more effectively. If you move your lips while you read, you're not reading efficiently.

Like reading, note-taking is a skill which must be learned and improved upon. Learning how to take good notes is rather easy; applying them to your own situation depends on how serious you are in becoming a successful student.

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Let's take a look at the testing. Always read and listen to directions. Indicate your answers exactly the way the directions state. Make sure your answers are clear and bubbled on the scantron.

Answering easy questions first is the best strategy. If you stumble over difficult questions for too long a time, you may not be able to complete the exam.

Objective examination questions usually contain one or more key words. A key word or group of words are those on which the truth or falsity of a statement depends. Learn to spot or find the key words in the statement that define the meaning.

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Multiple choice questions are essentially true-false questions arranged in groups. Usually, only one alternative is correct. Your job is to pick the alternative that is more nearly true than the others. Read multiple-choice questions the same way as for true-false. Eliminate obvious false choices.

The methods used to answer true-false and multiple choice questions apply to matching questions as well. Always scan the entire list of alternatives before matching any. As in the other types of questions, try to identify key words in each list and test them.

Completion questions require you to provide a word or phrase. When you encounter completion questions, choose your words carefully.

Writing is important. It is a key to success in college and in many professions. Become a good writer by writing, revising, and reviewing your work. Don't be afraid to ask others to critique or comment on your work.

Try to write in your own natural style, be aware that most good writers go through many revisions, and be prepared to do the same. Writing and test-taking are the end results of developing good study skills.

Study skills depend on one thing, and that is your willingness to **WANT** to improve and do well in school. If you really don't want to make the effort and sacrifice, no amount of suggestions, ideas, or outlines can help much.

You are the one who is responsible for your education, and effective study skills can help you. Work smart, not hard!

Quick Announcements

The final blood drive is next Thursday, April 25 in the library from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Staff, teachers and students 16 and over, please donate. If you are 16 years old, you will need to have your parents' permission.

There will be a fundraiser for staff and teachers at Coushatta's in Louisiana, Saturday, April 27. All money raised will benefit the 2013 RYSS Senior Class. Cost: 20 dollars per person. The bus will leave TCCC/RYSS at 8:00pm, and will leave Coushatta's at 4:00am. For more information, contact Mr. Villarreal.

Send us your comments and other submissions.

PANTHER NEWS can only get better if you help us make it better. And if you are interested in being a newscaster, please let Mr. Chambers know in room 331.

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Let's make sure that we are following the uniform code in our student handbook. Being in proper uniform makes our school culture stronger. It brings us together. People from the outside see us as one.

We should wear our ID badge at all times while on campus. Many of us are not wearing it. It's important to have it in case of an emergency, and it also makes our school culture stronger. And again, people from the outside see us as one.

After school, stay in the gated area ... courtyard ... and wait for your parents to pick you up. Students have been seen wandering around.

If you see trash in the hallways of our buildings and anywhere on our campus, pick it up, and throw it in a garbage can.

Communities in Schools

Today:

<p>Reading Tutoring</p> <p>Vocabulary Review</p> <p>Homework Completion</p>	<p>College and Workforce Readiness</p> <p>“Career Highlight-Graphic Design”</p> <p>Homework Completion</p>	<p>Youth Development Enrichment</p> <p>Kickball</p> <p>Board games</p>
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Friday:

<p>Career Awareness</p> <p>“Academic Planning/Prioritizing”</p> <p>Homework Completion</p>	<p>Physical Activity-Individual</p> <p>Soccer Game</p> <p>Fine Arts-Technology</p> <p>XBox</p>	<p>Physical Activity-individual</p> <p>Soccer Game</p> <p>Fine Arts-Technology</p> <p>Wii</p>
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Lunch

Today: Spaghetti and Meat Sauce or Chunky Chicken Salad, Garlic Bread, Cucumbers Coins and Light Dressing, Black-eyed Peas, Pineapple Tidbits.

Friday: Whole Wheat Pepperoni Pizza, Romaine Salad, Sweet Potato Sticks, Light Ranch Dressing, Rice Krispie Bar, Fresh Fruit.

That's all for now. We will not have PANTHER NEWS next week due to STAAR testing. We'll see you on April 29. Have a great day, and study hard! Your future depends on it!