

# **The Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT)**

Information for Parents

# What is the CCAT?

- **The Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT) is a test of learning potential.**

- **The CCAT assesses factors that are associated with learning in school.**





**The CCAT does not test the curriculum taught in the classroom. Rather, it measures reasoning skills and problem-solving abilities which are common to a number of subject areas.**



- The CCAT is divided into **three** separate sections.
- Each section measures a student's ability to reason using a particular type of abilities.

# These abilities include:

- **Verbal** (words)
- **Quantitative** (numerical)
- **Nonverbal** (spatial)



The **verbal** section assesses a student's understanding of the structure of language and relationships between words. It measures the ability to use language for reasoning tasks.

- The **quantitative** area measures the student's abilities for reasoning and problem solving using numbers and mathematical concepts.



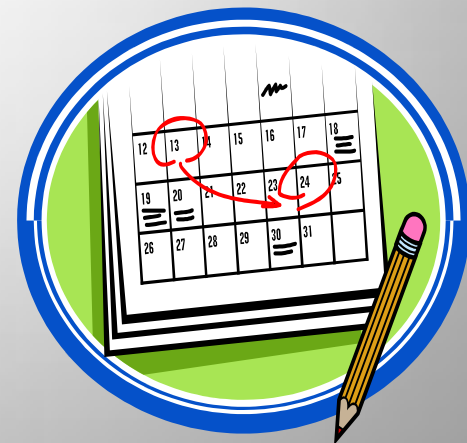


- Questions in the **nonverbal** section contain diagrams and pictures. This section assesses a student's ability to reason and problem solve independent of language.

- **Results of the CCAT also contain a **composite** score, combining verbal, quantitative and non-verbal abilities. This score indicates the scope and strength of a student's overall cognitive ability for learning.**

# When will my child participate in the CCAT testing?

- **Students in the Peel District School Board are administered the CCAT in November of their grade four year.**



# How much time will it take?

- **The CCAT is a timed group test and is administered by the classroom teacher. It takes a total of 90 minutes to complete and is usually conducted over three separate sessions.**



# **Will I be informed of my child's results?**

- **Yes, you will receive written communication of your child's results. The summary profile will also include an explanation of the scores and what they suggest regarding your child's learning profile.**



# How are the CCAT results used?

- As part of the overall learning profile of students to understand and respond to individual strengths and needs.
- As an initial screening for students who may have needs requiring enhancements to the curriculum.
- As additional information for parents, teachers and students that may help in making future educational choices and decisions.

# How can I help my child prepare for the CCAT?

- **Students do not need to prepare for the CCAT. Teachers will be encouraging students to do their best and parents can reinforce that at home.**
- **As always, you can help by ensuring your child is well rested and has had a healthy breakfast.**

