



Spring Happenings

- May 4-19 Elementary Testing Window
- May 9-13 High School Testing Window
- May 20 ECHS Graduation
- May 21 WCHS Graduation
- May 23 Last Day of School

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KEEP
CALM
AND

MAY THE FORCE
BE WITH YOU...

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Friday Focus

Carter County Schools

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Assessment Prep: May the Force be with you!

Battle Strategy #1 Inform

Share with your students the purpose for state assessment and the format of the test including how much time they have for each section. The more the students know about how the assessment will look beforehand, the less stress and anxiety they will feel.

Battle Strategy #2 Make it Fun with a Game!

Four Corners Multiple-Choice

Hang construction paper labeled A-D in the four corners of your classroom. Read or project review questions and put on some upbeat music. Students are expected to dance in the center of the room until the music stops, at which point they go sit in the corner under the letter matching the correct answer choice. Discuss the correct answer as a class, and then the game continues with a new question.

Table Wars (variation of Kagan Showdown)

Each table works as a team and receives one whiteboard. The teammates have to discuss the question you ask the class or project on the screen. They must agree on the answer together. Call out, "Ready, aim, fire your answer!" and one member of each team holds up their slate. Teams get points for correct answers.

Kagan Structures to Review

Quiz-Quiz-Trade Fan-N-Pick Flashcard Game Inside-Outside Circle Stand up/Pair up

Battle Strategy #3 Be a Cheerleader

Once testing day arrives, it's important for the students to know that you are not worried one bit. Relax. Realize that you have worked very hard this year to use best practice instructional strategies and that work will pay off with your students. Our students will face standardized tests for much of their academic career. So it is important that they feel empowered during this time. Your students' attitudes will often be shaped by the feelings you project.

Battle Strategy #4 Get Parents on Board

Let your parents know when their children will be testing and ask them to encourage them. Research shows that parent involvement increases student achievement. This is a valuable resource we can't afford to overlook.

Battle Strategy #5 Be Good to Yourself

Finally, stress can really take its toll, especially at this time of the year. Remember to be good to yourself. Whatever comforts you or gives you peace - spend time in it. Whether it is chocolate, a pedicure, time with family or friends, an afternoon on a creek bank or golf course, be kind to yourself.