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WICOMICO COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
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**A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

February 18, 2023

Wicomico County Public Schools will soon begin gathering information about Grade 2 students to help match students to appropriate instructional placement in Grade 3, and for High Performing Learner and Gifted and Talented (GT or TAD – *Thinking and Doing*) identification. During the week of March 13<sup>th</sup> – March 16<sup>th</sup>, all Grade 2 students in Wicomico County Public Schools will be assessed using the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT). The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) is a nationally standardized, norm-referenced test. The CogAT measures reasoning and problem-solving skills in three different cognitive areas: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal.

- The verbal section measures a child's ability to remember and transform sequences of English words, to understand them and to make inferences and judgments about them.
- The quantitative section measures a child's understanding of basic quantitative concepts and relationships.
- The non-verbal section measures reasoning using pictures and geometric shapes. This section reduces the impact of language on the student's score.
- The composite score is a total score for all three batteries.

Each subtest takes approximately 30-45 minutes to complete. Each subtest gives information that can be used to identify a student's strengths and instructional needs. The results will be used primarily to help students, teachers, and parents/ guardians understand educational needs, to help improve student learning, and to plan for future instruction. Over the next few months we will continue gathering information about each student from a variety of sources. These local assessments will be shared at the school level after each data collection.

If you have any additional questions regarding this assessment administration, please contact your school principal or the Office of Assessment and Accountability (410-677-4477).

Sincerely,

*Karen Hitch*

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