



ROE News

January 17, 2012

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

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CALENDAR ITEMS

| | |
|------------|--|
| January 19 | 1 st – 2 nd Spelling Bee |
| January 20 | Last day to order yearbooks at \$30 |

FROM THE DESK OF DR. FOVARGUE

In elementary and middle school, **STAAR** will assess the same subjects at the same grade levels that have been covered by the TAKS. In 3rd grade students will take math and reading, 4th graders will take math, reading, and writing, and 5th graders will take math, reading, and science.



Here are the Key Differences between STAAR and TAKS:

Reading: The STAAR assessments will be longer and will require analytical skills and an application of knowledge, rather than basic comprehension and recognition.

Writing: STAAR exams will be administered over the course of two days, unlike the single day of testing for the TAKS. A greater number of questions will focus on revising a document, rather than editing, since revisions require a student to have a greater depth of knowledge of sentence structures, patterns, and usage.

Science: The STAAR test will be longer than the TAKS test. STAAR will focus on fewer concepts and will address them in more depth. Tested content will cover matter and energy, force, motion, earth and space, and organisms and the environment. Forty percent of the STAAR test will incorporate scientific investigation and reasoning. Students will also have fewer multiple choice questions and more open-ended questions, which will require them to independently arrive at their conclusions.

Math: At least 75 percent of STAAR test questions will incorporate underlying processes and mathematical tools.

This is different from TAKS, which tested knowledge of tools and processes as separate student expectations. Although only 3rd-5th grades are tested, our Kinder-2nd grade teachers lay the foundation to support the upper grade levels. All teachers at ROE participate in staff development geared toward alignment of state standards in math, reading, science and social studies as well as the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program. For specific grade level questions, please contact your child's teacher.

--Dr. Keri Fovargue, Head of School

YEARBOOK ORDER DEADLINE JAN 20

Only three days left to order a yearbook!!-- The price is \$30 per book when purchased by the order deadline of January 20, 2012. The price is \$40 from January 21 to January 30, 2012 during a grace period for late orders. **No online or school orders will be taken after January 30, 2012** - We do not plan to have extra copies for sale in May. Free and reduced price yearbooks are available for qualified families but must be reserved by January 20. Please email yearbook@riveroakspto.org with questions or to confirm that you have already ordered.

Order online: www.roepto.org/yearbook or www.Jostens.com - Personalization is available only with online orders.

Order at school: Drop off a check made out to "ROE PTO" and your child's name and homeroom teacher in the memo line. Please place the check in the yearbook locker in the kindergarten hallway.

Donate a yearbook: either online or at school for \$30
Please consult www.roepto.org/yearbook for information on photo submittal or Spirit and Business Ads.

- Thank you!

CUB SCOUT FOOD DRIVE

Cub Scout Pack 46 is sponsoring a **Souper Bowl Food Drive** the week of **January 30th** at River Oaks Elementary. Cub Scout representatives of the Pack will be visiting each classroom and making a brief announcement and handing out donation bags with an instruction sheet.

The Pack is asking that all donations be returned to ROE in the bags provided by **Friday, February 3rd**.

Thank you for supporting the Cub Scouts of Pack 46 and helping provide food to those who need it.