



The Wheeler Wildcat Newsletter

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AzMERIT Important Information for March 2020:

AzMERIT Assessment Dates: March 30th – April 24th

What is AzMERIT: It is a computer-based test which provides engaging questions and measures critical thinking skills for **college and career readiness**. AzMERIT is aligned to Arizona's state learning standards which detail what students should be able to do at each grade level. The test is designed to measure student learning and progress towards **readiness for college or career**.

Who Takes AzMerit: Arizona students in public district and charter schools in **third grade through high school** take AzMERIT in reading, writing and math.

Where can you get more information? <https://www.azed.gov/assessment/azm2/>

For some students, taking tests can be stressful and may involve emotions ranging from panic to apathy. Whether they are worried or not, it is important, your child is mentally and physically prepared for the test. Here are a few simple ways to alleviate test-related anxiety.

Sample Tests: <https://azm2portal.org/sample-tests.stml>

The purpose of the AzM2 *Sample Tests* is to familiarize students, teachers, and parents with content, item types, and the user interface of the AzM2 assessments. These sample tests are approximately one half-length of the operational test, match the test blueprint, and include the same item types. Answer keys are provided in ancillary "Guide to the Sample Test" documents.

Tips for Helping Your Child Prepare for AzMERIT

1. **Serve a Healthy Breakfast:** *Research has shown the impact eating breakfast has on academic performance. Focus on foods that are healthy and a good source of energy, like eggs and whole grain toast, or oatmeal packed with fruit and nuts. Less healthy choices such as donuts and sugary drinks can leave your child feeling tired and hungry just an hour or two later. A nutritious breakfast will help her stay focused and alert.*
2. **Sleep:** *Make sure your child gets enough sleep the night before exams and in the days leading up to tests. Enforce a "tech curfew" – no phones, tablets, video games, or TV for 30 minutes prior to bedtime. This will help him wind down and prepare to get a good night's rest. All students need to be on time and attend school everyday.*
3. **Reinforce Critical-Thinking Skills:** *Your child has been preparing for this test since the school year began. All of the projects, assignments and discussions have reinforced critical-thinking and problem-solving skills. However, you can reinforce those skills at home by reading with your child and asking her to talk about the central idea or theme of book or article. Ask her to explain something she has written. Have her explain the steps she took to solve a math problem.*
4. **Practice at Home:** *You can support your child by learning about the skills being assessed, as well as what sample test questions might look like and talking with him about it. If your child will be taking the test on a computer, it would useful to go through an online practice test to become more familiar with the content, types of questions, and the user interface that he/she will use to take the test. <http://azmeritportal.org/>*

A note from the Wheeler Office- Online Registration is now available for the 20/21 school year. Please help us by registering your student now. The process is quick and easy. You will need a ParentVUE account. Please visit the Wheeler Office to pick up your activation key then visit the Wheeler Website at <https://wheeler.tusd1.schooldesk.net/> to enroll. Please call (520) 584-5502 or stop by the office if you need help with the online registration.

Lost and Found: Parents please stop by the Lost and Found outside the cafeteria doors and check for any missing sweaters or jackets. All left over items that are not claimed will be donated.

Important Dates to remember:

March 7, 2020 GATE Makeup Test 7:30 am

March 13, 2020 Grading Day – No School

March 16-20, 2020 Spring Break – No School

March 23rd, 2020 School Resumes – Please be on time

March 30th – April 24th: AzMerit Assessment Dates

