

## What's Going on In Classroom Visits?

For the month of April, upper elementary students will participate in Test Taking Skills activities. A test taking tips refresher will be given to all students (see below). Students will play "Are You Smarter Than Your Teacher?" Questions are related to what students can do to prepare for the test. Examples are: early bedtime, what to eat for breakfast, what to wear for the tests (comfortable clothes!). Students will also engage in relaxation technique activities and stress/anxiety management. Check out GoNoodle.com for stretching exercises to get the blood flowing and the brain working!

**GOOD LUCK 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> on the GMAS!!!!**

**Don't Stress The Test  
Give It Your Best!!**

**Listen carefully to the oral directions.**  
then read the directions carefully by yourself and highlight, circle or underline key words.

**Read the question and try answering it Before . . . .**  
looking at the possible answer choices.

**Even if you think you know the answer,**  
read all the answer choices carefully before you make a decision.  
You may find an even better answer.

**If you know the answer,**  
mark your answer carefully and go to the next question.

**If you don't know the answer,**  
highlight, circle or underline key words that can help you determine the correct answer.

**Cross out the answer choices. . .**  
that you know are definitely wrong.

**If you're still not sure,**  
make a reasonable guess. Ask yourself which is true more often or which answer makes more sense.

**Avoid spending too much time struggling with one question.**  
If you are not sure of an answer, put a check mark beside the question and move on.

**After you have finished the test,**  
go back and complete the ones with check marks that you skipped.  
Then review the section one final time.

**Do not change an answer. . .**  
unless you are absolutely sure you made a mistake.

**RELAX AND DO YOUR BEST!!**

Kindergarten, First, and Second Grade students will learn and practice teamwork skills and working together. Being able to cooperate with others is a vital skill we must all learn!

## What is cooperation?

Cooperation is when two or more people work together so that they are all better off. For cooperation to work, everyone has to be an active member of the team and do what they agree to do.



**What does cooperation look like?** People who are working as a team and cooperating with each other:

- Listen to each other without interrupting
- Encourage everyone to join in
- Are willing to hear and accept the ideas of others
- Are willing to change roles in the group. Example: may be a leader sometimes and a follower at other times
- Recognize the skills and strengths of others
- Don't compete with each other
- Discuss problems calmly
- Show respect for each other
- Take responsibility for their part of the task
- Are willing to work towards the success of the group rather than their own individual success.



## How to be a cooperative person:

People who cooperate with each other have interesting and busy lives, get on well with others and are valued members of the community.

Why?

- They are good listeners.
- They use good manners.
- They are ready to sort out differences and compromise so that everyone gets something of what they want - a 'win/win' result.
- They take responsibility for their actions.
- They keep promises.



---

**Be Respectful**

**Be Responsible**

**Be a Problem solver**

**Be safe**

- They always play fair and follow the rules.
- They don't cheat or gossip.
- They help others.
- They encourage others to try hard.
- They get involved in teams, clubs, student council, or community groups.
- They happily do whatever task is asked of them by parents and teachers.
- They share.
- They take turns even when it is something they don't really want to do - like chores at home.
- They 'give it a go' for the good of others in the team.
- They don't bully others into doing what they want.
- They make others feel needed.
- They don't leave others out.
- They don't try to take all the credit for a shared task.



## Cooperation in the Family:

Your family is the most important 'team' that you will ever work with. To be successful everyone in the family needs to:

- Respect each other
- Respect each other's space and belongings
- Listen to each other
- Do chores at the right time and willingly
- Learn how to work out problems without fighting each other
- Communicate well so that everyone knows what is happening
- Spend time together as a family
- Celebrate each other's successes and support each other through the sad times
- Learn to share.



## Cooperation at school:

To have real cooperation at school everyone needs to follow the school rules. These rules have been put into place to keep everyone in the school community safe and cared for. Your teacher and classmates should work together to add some more special rules about how you will work together so that everyone in the classroom gets a 'fair go'. Maybe you talked about the values which are most important to you and what they would look like if they were being followed in your classroom.



- **Cooperation** is an important value
- **Excellence** (everyone trying hard to do their best in everything)
- **Fairness** (everyone having an equal chance and being treated the same)
- **Integrity** (which is about honesty in the way we act and speak)
- **Respect** (for ourselves, others and property)
- **Responsibility** (for ourselves, our belongings and our actions)

## Spread the idea of cooperation:

If you are a cooperative person then you may want to get involved in some kind of community service.

- Talk with your class and teacher about ways in which you could help others, i.e., maybe your class or a group of friends could 'adopt' your local playground, beach or park and help keep it clean and safe for other kids to use.
- Talk with your youth group/sports group leader about ways in which your group might help, i.e., helping elderly people in your area by dog walking, shopping, putting out the garbage bins etc.

## What kids say about cooperation:

- "When everyone is cooperating it is nice in the classroom because people are working together."
- "Cooperation can keep the world in balance."
- "When anyone asks for help on the computer at home I'm there before they can finish saying 'Can you help me?'"
- "If dancers don't cooperate they will bang into each other and the dance will be ruined."
- "If you cooperate things get done faster and there is more time for fun!"

John Donne, a famous poet who lived from 1572-1631 wrote these words: "No man is an island entire of itself". In other words all of us have to rely on others as we are all part of the human race. The more we learn to cooperate with each other the better our lives will be.

So, next time you are working in a team, remember to do your best - even if your task is not something you are really keen on doing. The most famous people in the world are still part of a team of people who are all working together to achieve success. You can find some fun activities/cooperation games for you and your friends to play if you click here <http://www.youthwork-practice.com/games/cooperation-games.html>