

Dear Parent,

As one of the most influential people in your child's life, you have the opportunity to help him or her understand the importance of preparing for life after high school. While graduation day may seem to be far in the future, now is a critical time to make sure your child is prepared to take that next step after graduations, whether that means starting college or starting a career.

ACT is a not-for-profit organization also focused on helping students prepare for that time after high school through its commitment to helping students improve their college and career readiness. To that end, ACT developed the EXPLORE program for 8th or 9th graders to provide a baseline assessment of academic progress. Assessing students at this stage allows them to identify areas of need early and helps them make timely interventions. Assessing students before high school also helps them build rigorous high school coursework plans to get, or stay, on track for their educational and career goals.

- Taking EXPLORE provides other benefits for students including:
- Identifying where they need extra help or additional coursework
- Suggestions for improving their skills
- A look at how their scores compare to the ACT College Readiness Benchmark Scores
- The opportunity to begin exploring career areas that match their interests

Through the 2010 Federal College Access Challenge Grant (CACG) program and the federally funded NAU/GEAR UP grant (*Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs* . Our district has the opportunity to offer the EXPLORE test to our 8th grade students.

Through the EXPLORE initiative, students will not only take the EXPLORE assessment, but the goal is to ensure that counselors at the high schools into which these students *use*, the EXPLORE results to provide parents, teachers, administrators and counselors important data on students' academic preparation for rigorous coursework (strengths and weaknesses), as well as their career interest areas, and self-reported areas of need – all early awareness information / data that is important to consider as students register for their high school courses.

Taking the EXPLORE assessment is also an excellent way to prepare for the PLAN assessment, and begin early preparation for success on the ACT assessment. Visit www.explorestudent.org for more information.

Use your influence to help your child reach his or her greatest potential.

Regards,

Susan Avey, Principal

Bogle Junior High School

Enero 2011

Estimado(s) Padre(s),

Como una de las personas que más influyen en la vida de su niño, usted tiene la oportunidad de ayudar a su hijo o hija a entender la importancia de prepararse para la vida después de la Preparatoria (High School). Aun cuando la graduación de high school pudiera parecer todavía muy lejana, ahora es el tiempo de asegurar que su niño(a) está **preparado(a)** para lo que viene adelante, ya sea que significa empezar la universidad o empezar una carrera.

ACT, una organización enfocada en ayudar a los estudiantes a prepararse para ese tiempo después de preparatoria, ha desarrollado la Prueba EXPLORE para los estudiantes de 8o. grado para dar una evaluación temprana del progreso académico del estudiante, y para ayudarles a pensar acerca de sus planes futuros para educación y carrera. Evaluar a los estudiantes en esta etapa ayuda a los padres, estudiantes y maestros a identificar áreas de necesidad académica temprano para que esa ayuda extra pueda ser proporcionada, si es necesaria. Tomar el EXPLORE también ayuda a los estudiantes con la elección de los cursos en high school que son los correctos para lograr sus metas educacionales y de carrera.

Estamos contentos de anunciar que la Prueba EXPLORE será administrada a los estudiantes de 8o. grado en nuestra escuela este mes, como el resultado de una sociedad entre nuestro Distrito y GEAR UP de la Northern Arizona University, la cual ha recibido fondos federales a través de la Oficina del Gobernador para esta Iniciativa especial.

Más tarde esta primavera, su hijo o hija en octavo grado recibirá un reporte individual de sus resultados en EXPLORE, los que pueden ser discutidos con usted y usados también, para ayudar a los estudiantes de inscribirse para los cursos de high school del próximo año.

Para más información acerca de EXPLORE, siéntase en libertad de visitar el sitio en la red en www.explorestudent.org.

Muchas gracias.

Atentamente,

Susan Avey, Directora

Bogle Junior High School