Gallia County Local Schools
4836 State Route 325•Patriot, Ohio 45658
Phone (740) 379-9085•Fax (740 379-9136
www.gallialocal.org

Dear Families,

We want to share some important information regarding upcoming assessments for our 2nd and 4th-grade students. **Starting Monday, November 23–24 (right before Thanksgiving break) and continuing Dec. 1–4, 2026, all 2nd and 4th** graders will take two online tests: the **Iowa Assessments** and the **Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)**.

Why Are We Testing Every Student?
Instead of only testing a few recommended children, we use a "whole-grade screener." This ensures every single 2nd and 4th grader gets equal access to learning opportunities. Together, these two tests give us a complete picture of your child as a learner:

- **Iowa Assessments (Academic Achievement):** Shows what your child currently knows in reading, math, science, and social studies compared to national standards.
- **CogAT (Learning & Problem-Solving Capabilities):** Measures your child's reasoning abilities in verbal, math, and spatial skills. Think of this as measuring learning potential rather than memorized classroom facts.

How We Use the Results
These assessments help us tailor instruction to match your child's needs. We use the data to:

- Identify your child's individual strengths and pinpoint areas where they might need extra help.
- Track academic growth year over year.
- Identify students who qualify for our elementary **Gifted and Talented** programming.

What to Expect During Testing
The tests are taken on student Chromebooks using a simple multiple-choice format. To ensure every child feels confident and supported, test questions are read aloud, and sample practice questions are provided beforehand so students understand how to navigate the system.

How You Can Help at Home
You can help your child feel relaxed and ready to do their best by following a few simple tips:

- **Rest & Nutrition:** Ensure your student gets a full night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast.
- **Attendance:** Try to avoid scheduling doctor or dental appointments during testing dates.
- **Encouragement:** Keep things stress-free! Remind them that this is just one normal part of the school week, and encourage them to listen carefully to directions and ask the teacher if anything is unclear.

Scores will arrive in 2–3 weeks, and we will share the results with you, soon afterward. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Sandra Plantz or Brandy Marcum-Kirby. Thank you for your partnership and support!

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Gifted Education Department of Gallia County Local Schools

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Sincerely,

Sandra Plantz, Director of Gifted Education & Federal Programs

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