

Dear Parents,

January 2018

Happy New Year! I hope that all of you have started off the New Year on the right foot! That means different things for different people. For mentors and staff members, the start of the New Year means that we are getting closer to AZ Merit. Although that is not always our primary focus because we want to have well rounded scholars, we do have to think about it as well. From January to March, we do away with clubs because we focus on academics only. That is our way of supporting all students who will take AZ Merit and showing those who will take it in the future that it is an important time.

Like many athletes before a meet or a game, we have to prepare. We have to “stretch out” our brains and exercise our minds with the kinds of activities that we will be responsible for during AZ Merit testing. This is the time to prepare for the marathon that will be AZ Merit. You will hear your child talk about some of these things at home, so you should be ready for them! If you look on the AZ Merit webpage, you will find practice tests that you can do with your child at home: <http://azmeritportal.org/sample-tests.shtml> These tests are produced by the providers of the test and are intended to help your child see what kinds of test questions will be asked.

You and your child should create a space in the home where your child can do his/her homework. This space should have pencils, crayons, paper, good lighting, and plenty of space to write and move around. He/she should have to read a book, magazine, or newspaper at least 20 minutes a day. This will help build reading endurance. Scholars need to build tolerance and endurance for working longer periods of time, just like a runner needs to build endurance for running miles. Practicing math facts is another supplemental activity that can be done at home. This is a fun activity that can be done with flash cards or on the computer with various games. This is another way to build facts fluency.

Tutoring will begin on Monday, January 08. This is for the scholars who have been identified as needing Title I tutoring. If you feel that your child needs more help, please contact Mr. Enriquez at genriquez@berean-academy.com. He is the person in charge of the tutoring program for k-6. Remember that Fridays are available for ALL students who need extra help from 8:00-11:00. Students can come to their Mentor for help in any subject.

So we are off and running with our mental exercising for AZ Merit! We will be having a parent information night about AZ Merit later in March. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to continue to help you and your child. That is what we are here for! Happy New Year! We wish the very best for you and your family this year and every year to come!

Blessings,

Mrs. Bev Enriquez