

Harrison Happenings
March 4, 2009

Connecticut Mastery Test

Our remaining schedule is below for your reference:

Tuesday, March 10 th - Degrees of Reading Power	Wednesday, March 11 th - Reading Comprehension II	Thursday, March 12 th - Math I
Tuesday, March 17 th - Math II	All tests will begin at 10:00 am	Makeups begin on March 18th

Social Work Corner...

Mrs. Appi

As a reminder to all parents and guardians, please take an opportunity to check out the resources available to you at JHS. In the Main Office, there are booklets on a variety of child development and parenting topics. Check and see if there is one that could be helpful to you. Also available is the Family Resource Library that is located in the JHS library. This area has books for loan also in a variety of topics that may suit your needs in raising your children. Please take advantage of these resources available to you!

“When Children Lie”...

Let’s face it, all children lie and if they haven’t, then they will. Why do they lie? They are NOT taught to lie---it comes naturally to them, just like us adults, huh? It is a common thing and we should not be alarmed. Children tell lies for the same reasons adults do: 1) to escape punishment 2) to make a good impression and/or 3) to spare someone’s feelings. Children of course, are not like we adults; merely asking children to promise to tell the truth makes a big impression on them. It reminds children the importance of not telling lies. Children want to be good!

Usually parents, teachers and the whole community rises to the opportunity to teach children everything they need to know while growing up. Unfortunately lying is a behavior that has to be UN-TAUGHT. Instead of teaching, we are trying to undo a behavior that just comes naturally.

Here are some ideas that could be of help to parents and guardians to handle lying:

- Try not to blame yourself for your children’s lies. It’s a normal part of growing up. Remember back to your childhood and the lies you told!
- Instead of focusing on the lie, try to focus on why the child has lied. When confronting your child about a lie, try to stay calm and open to listening, rather than going into the conversation in anger and in a defensive stance.
- The word LIE is a very negative word; instead try to use a phrase such as, “I would like you to be honest with me”.
- Children often lie because they are scared or intimidated.
- The more open and honest you are with your child, the more open and honest they will be with you.
- Talk to your child about lying and how it makes you feel as a parent and how they would feel if someone lied to them.
- Ask questions that let your child tell their story without putting words in their mouth.
- Let them lead the conversation. It gives them the chance to own the lie and explain it using their own feelings.
- Emphasize that it is the actions that have hurt you and not your child. “I’m upset that you felt you had to lie to me” may be a good phrase at this time.
- Lastly, always finish with telling and showing your child how much you love them and nothing, even a lie, will ever change that!!

Also helpful is letting them know that when they make a poor choice they will have a consequence, but if they lie about it, they will receive a bigger consequence!

