Test Taking Tips

1. READ the QUESTIONS BEFORE reading the passage.

2. For reading passages, look for KEY words in the question, such as WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY and HOW, that tell you what to look for.

3. READ ALL the CHOICES before you answer. Sometimes there is more than one correct answer and you will need to choose “All of the above.”

4. ELIMINATE answers you know are not right.

5. If you come to a word in a reading passage you don’t know, look for CONTEXT CLUES; other words in the sentence or paragraph that help to define or explain the unknown word.

6. Don’t keep changing your answer; usually your FIRST CHOICE is the RIGHT one.

7. Watch out for negative words in the directions, such as NOT or OPPOSITE. These words often appear in bold or italic type, or in ALL CAPITAL LETTERS.

8. When asked to choose a word to complete a sentence, try out all the answer choices in the sentence. Don’t rush to fill in the blank - you might get tricked by words that are similar but have different meanings.

9. On the STAR test, GUESS if you do not know the answer. DON’T LEAVE QUESTIONS BLANK.

10. MAKE SURE that you are BUBBLING in the answer on the correct number.