

February 20, 2014

Hi Drummond parents,

We are the parents of 3rd through 8th graders at Drummond, and we are concerned about excessive standardized testing in schools and the impact it has on students, faculty, administrators and families, especially at Drummond Montessori.

This year, the ISAT is being phased out by CPS, so it will NOT be used for promotion to the next grade, eligibility for admission to selective enrollment schools, teacher evaluation or school performance measures. We have decided to opt our kids out of the ISAT this year, and encourage you to consider doing it too. We would rather have our kids engaged in Montessori schoolwork, artwork, independent projects or quiet reading, instead of "bubbling" on a test that doesn't count for anything.

There are NO consequences for students, teachers or schools related to opting out of the ISAT.

- \* It's the NWEA test in the spring that will count for promotion and selective enrollment applications.

- \* Drummond is not a Title I school, therefore the ISAT scores will not help or hurt the school—they count for absolutely nothing.

- \* You can find more information and opt-out forms at More Than A Score:  
[www.morethanascorechicago.org](http://www.morethanascorechicago.org)

Drummond parents that want to opt their kids out of the ISAT, or any other standardized tests, can simply write a note to Building Administrator Ms. Teasely or Assistant Principal Ms. Masny, or fill out the Opt Out Form attached here. Be sure to make a copy for the teacher, too. On testing days, kids who are opting out will be engaged in quiet, self-directed activities.

ISAT testing begins on March 4, so be sure to send your opt-out letters in advance so that teachers have time to plan. If you have any questions, feel free to contact any one of us and we'll do our best to answer. You are welcome to share this letter.

Sincerely,

Chris and Vivian Barrett  
Margaret Bedolla-Reyna  
Sherry and Steve Coleman  
Sabrina Craig and May Santiago  
Maria and Arlan DeVeyra  
Rachel and Steve Gross  
Megan and Jim Hinchsliff  
Monica Lasky and Jonathan Goldman  
Mary Livoni  
Laura Lopez

Rosemarie Martinez  
Cindy Nicita and Mike Hannan  
Sarah Nishiura and Matthew Groves  
Amanda Pacult  
Monica Rezman  
Mike Staudenmaier and Anne Carlson  
Melissa Sterne and Richard Kosmacher  
Esther Wallen and Marquese Martin-Hayes  
Lisa Wright and Brian Warling  
Mary Zerkel and Ian Morris