



Dear PWCS Family:

This fall, the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT®) will be administered to third grade students in Prince William County Public Schools (PWCS) as part of the universal screening process for Gifted Education. We want to take this opportunity to provide you with some information about this test and why it is administered.

CogAT is designed to appraise the cognitive development of students. More specifically, it intends to measure a student's learned reasoning abilities developed through both in-school and out-of-school experiences. Results from CogAT will be used in combination with other classroom achievement information to assist teachers in understanding the learning strengths and needs of each individual student. The purpose is to help design the most effective instructional plan for each student so that all perform to the best of their ability.

CogAT will be administered at your student's school sometime between October 21, 2024, and November 22, 2024. Actual test dates will be determined by staff in your student's school. The best way to prepare your student for this test is to simply encourage them to do their best. When results are available, a copy of your student's scores will be shared with you.

If you have questions about CogAT, please contact your student's school directly.

Sincerest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul F. Parker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul F. Parker, Ph.D.  
Supervisor of Testing