

GUNSTON

Middle School • Escuela Intermedia

October 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

November 8 -16, your child will be given the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT). All middle schools will be giving this assessment to students in grades 6 - 8 who have not previously taken the CogAT test.

The CogAT provides a snapshot of your child's reasoning and problem-solving abilities in the following three areas:

- **Verbal:** assesses a student's abilities to use search, retrieval and comparison processes that are essential for verbal reasoning.
- **Quantitative:** assesses a student's ability to reason about patterns and relationships using concepts that are essential in quantitative thinking.
- **Nonverbal:** assesses student's abilities to reason with somewhat more novel questions that use spatial and figural content.

The results of the assessment will serve several functions. First and foremost, the results will be used to drive instructional practices in the classroom. The scores will guide efforts to adapt teaching methods to the needs and abilities of students. The scores are also used as one component of the holistic case study approach to determine areas of strength and possible screening for gifted services.

We ask that you avoid scheduling any appointments that would require your child being absent from school during this testing window. It is very important that your child arrives at school on time on testing day. Please be sure your child has a good night's sleep before test day and eats a good breakfast on the morning(s) of the test.

Result reports will be shared with families via the ParentVUE portal in December. Please contact your student's school if there are any questions.

We appreciate your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Carolyn R. Jackson
Principal

Dena Golopp
School Testing Coordinator