

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS ERB TESTING

Ascension Episcopal School administers achievement tests in the spring of each school year for grades 3-7. The purpose is to measure student progress through the year, and assess the outcome of our teaching, to keep our curriculum current.

What does the CTP/ERB assess?

Educational Records Bureau (ERB) has been responsible for the development, administration and scoring of these tests for the majority of independent schools and suburban public schools in the US. ERB publishes achievement tests and admissions tests that are used at Ascension, as well as the college entrance test the SAT. You will often hear these tests referred to as the ERBs, but the actual name of the test is the CTP 4 (Comprehensive Testing Program), in its paper-pencil format and CTP in its online format. Ascension uses the CTP online assessment.

What skills are covered on the test?

The CTP/ERB assesses our students using two types of tests. The assessment of mastery of skills learned through classroom instruction is known as achievement tests. Questions on the two reasoning tests give a picture of the students' experience with abstract and logical relationships. Achievement and reasoning tests together guide the school in determining how to work with individual students.

Tests for Grades 3-7 are computer based. Using the newly developed ERB App, students take the assessment on their school iPads. Each grade level takes a different test. The table below shows the various subtests taken at each grade level.

Test Name/Grade Level	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7
Auditory Comprehension	*				
Reading Comprehension	*	*	*	*	*
Writing Mechanics	*	*	*	*	*
Writing Concepts and Skills	*	*	*	*	*
Verbal Reasoning	*	*	*	*	*
Vocabulary		*	*	*	*
Math Achievement	*	*	*	*	*
Quantitative Reasoning	*	*	*	*	*

What do these test scores mean for my child?

Since no test is a perfect measure of a child's knowledge, it is important to look at the whole picture. The CTP/ERB is a sample of questions that are age appropriate yet challenging. To best understand your child's progress, one must compare scores over several years. ERB recommends that test results be combined with a child's classroom performance throughout the school year. Teacher observation, classroom assessment, and classroom performance, combined with these scores, give you a better picture of your child's performance than test scores alone. These achievement tests compare us to other independent school across the United States. These results are one indicator of how affective our curriculum is and helps guide our professional development. We also use the results to track individual student progress over time.

How can I help prepare my child for the test?

These tests are considered low-stakes test and do not determine pass or fail. They determine what your child knows and can do at the time of testing. There is no need for prior preparation for these tests since they only help to identify strengths and weaknesses in achievement. We do help prepare our student by addressing good multiple choice testing techniques. In addition to the school's preparation, following are some tips that will help your child be prepared on test days:

- Get a good night's sleep.
- Eat a healthy breakfast.
- Create a positive morning experience for your child. Many times a child's emotional state of mind impacts how he responds on the tests.
- Encourage your child to approach the tests in a relaxed manner.

Please have your child at school on time on testing days. Students who arrive late will not be allowed in the classroom until the test that is being given is complete. The coming and going of children is disruptive to those students engaged in taking the test. Please make every effort not to schedule doctors, dentists, or orthodontic appointments during testing times. If your child is ill on testing day, please keep him/her home. Make-up testing times will be scheduled at a later date.

The tests are timed and the students have a "count-down" clock to help them gage their speed. ERB offers the accommodation of extended time when taking these tests. Students who receive this service during the school year and have an evaluation on file will have the clocks turned off and will receive the time they require to complete it.