



Your child. Your school. Your choice.

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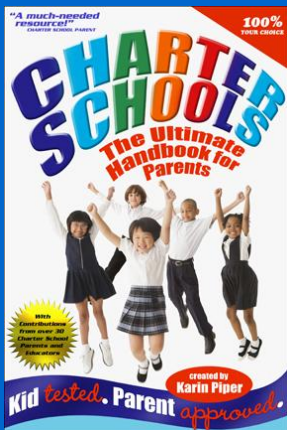


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**Charter Schools: the Ultimate
Handbook for Parents**

6 tips for students: How to test better

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Have you ever asked yourself what it takes to A's a test?

Sure, students who test high are smart and work hard. But the same goes for many bright and hard working individuals who don't always perform as well on tests.

The secrets to testing well are really not so much secret as it is a learned pattern which can be replicated. In other words, the study routines used by many honor students can improve test results for nearly everyone.

Please *do* try this at home:

- 1. Attitude:** Studying for a big test is like training for a distance race. With proper practice, technique and tenacity—anyone can do it.
The best test takers in class are not just smart, they know how to study and test smart. By applying the same strategies you can experience great results too.
The number one secret tip from veteran achievers is **confidence**. This is achieved by following the rest of the tips in this series. Successful individuals simply do not let the obstacles overpower them, and have adapted a Teflon like can-do attitude. You can too!
- 2. Master Plan:** All strategies include a master plan. It is time to create yours.
Start with gathering the facts:
 - Which chapters will be covered? Will notes be included? Can you use a calculator, dictionary, or other aids?
 - What were the main topics of the material you are being tested on?
 - Was there a portion of the contents that you found more difficult than others?
 - How much time do you have until the test?
Break out your calendar and block off dedicated study blocks ear-tagged specifically for prepping for the test. This time needs to be separate than what you use for studying other homework (studying for a test should not mean falling behind in other class work).
Divide the test material into the number of “portions” which you have scheduled studying blocks for (do not count the day before and the morning of the test as studying blocks).
Ask your teacher and friends review questions to clarify the

Charters are:

Public Schools

Tuition FREE

Education options

Accountable for Student Achievement

Held Responsible for Public Funds Received

Popular with Families
Mission Based

Charter School Numbers

There are 4,900 charter schools in the United States

Approximately 1.5 million children are enrolled in charter schools in 2009

There are estimated half a million children on the wait lists for US charter schools.

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topics you found challenging and highlight these sections as a reminder to spend extra care for studying these.

3. **Be prepared:** The boy scout motto, although cliché, applies to test taking.
Being properly prepared for the test, not only equals being well studied, but nerves will play less of a factor.
Use scheduled study time the evening before as a chance for final review of the material. Pack up pencils, calculators and supplies the night before, get ample sleep, and eat a good breakfast. Please note that preparation truly starts long before test taking eve. As step number 3, the tips here applies to the 24-hour window prior to the big test. However, you can't be prepared for a test without studying for it, so don't skip test taking tip number 1 and 2.
4. **Technique:** Game on. You're about to take the test. Here are a few best-practices tips that many top achievers swear by:
 - Put your name on top of the test. No-duh. You'd be shocked to learn that many students lose out on earning credit for tests they took because their tests fell into the black hole of anonymity.
 - Slow down and carefully read the instructions before you begin.
 - If there are multiple choice options, cross off the ones that don't make sense
 - There might be more than one question per line. Cross off the instructions as you progress
 - If you are unsure about a question. Spend no more than one minute thinking about it until you progress to the next. Go back to the ones you missed after you finished the ones you know.
5. **Neatness:** You might have the right answer, but the teacher does not know that unless he or she can read it.
 - Make sure all digits and letters are clearly formed and cannot be misunderstood as something other than what they are.
 - Keep you "work space" separate from your answer.
 - For machine recorded or multiple choice tests, clearly and completely fill in each key with the correct instrument (i.e. Number two pencil).
 - If you change your answer, make sure you erase all of the old answer.
6. **Review:** This test taking tip is what sets competitors apart from champions.

Before you turn the test in, check the clock and use any extra time for one last review of each question and answer. Spend extra time double checking the questions you found more challenging.
Review the instructions and check that you followed them to a t.

