GENERAL TIPS:

- Arrive 15 to 20 minutes before the test is scheduled to start to make sure you can find the room and get situated.
- Bring the materials you need – identification, admission ticket, and a watch.
- Get comfortable beforehand. Dress comfortably, have breakfast, visit the restroom, etc.
- Arrive at the test with a positive, successful attitude. For at least 36 hours before the test, do your best to avoid negative situations.
GENERAL TIPS:

- Listen to the administrator’s instructions and ask questions if anything is unclear.

- Read the test directions carefully to make sure you understand how to answer the questions.

- Remain relaxed during the test. Reassure yourself that the work you’ve done in class has prepared you to do well.

- Pause and take a deep breath if you find yourself losing your concentration or becoming tense or tired.

- Read each passage carefully and study the charts, diagrams, and graphs before you answer the questions.
GENERAL TIPS:

- Skip problems you are having difficulty with and come back to them after you have completed the rest of the test. Answer every question on the test. Make a note of questions you have skipped so that you know what to look at later.

- Use elimination to narrow down your answer choices.

- If you do have to guess for more than one question, choose the same letter for all of your guessed responses.

- Keep in mind that all of the problems carry the same weight. A problem that is more difficult is no more valuable than an easy one.

- Problems are not organized from easy to difficult. The easiest problems might come at the end!
MATH TIPS:

- Think about the situation described in the problem and what size answer would make sense.
- Use common sense as a way to check the reasonableness of your answers.
- Doing the wrong math right is more dangerous than doing the right math wrong.
- Use your knowledge of decimals to solve and check fraction problems on the calculator.
MATH TIPS:

- Write terms in ratios and proportions in the order they are mentioned in the problem.
- Read each problem carefully. Make sure you understand what you are being asked to find before you start any calculations.
- Estimate an answer using simpler numbers before performing complex calculations.
MATH TIPS:

- Remember that maps, diagrams, and geometric figures may not be drawn to scale. Don't "eyeball" an answer; do the work.

- Always read the titles and labels on a graph before you use the numerical information to solve a problem.

- Make a sketch and label it before you begin calculations on any problem describing a geometric figure.
READING TIPS:

● Note important details such as statistics, important places, events, and key words that are likely to appear in the questions that follow.

● Read every poem carefully and maybe more than once: first for literal meaning and then for deeper meaning.

● Ask yourself, “What does this poem mean?” If you can’t answer the question, read the poem a third time before you go on to the questions.
READING TIPS:

- Read each dramatic excerpt carefully, visualizing the setting, characters, and stage directions as if they were happening in front of you on a stage or screen.

- Ask yourself, "What conflicts and themes is the playwright representing in this scene?"

- The science and social studies tests are actually content-area reading tests. Don’t panic if the content is unfamiliar – the necessary information is probably in the passage.
WRITING TIPS:

- Skip any multiple choice items you are having difficulty with and come back to them after you have completed the rest of the editing test. BE SURE to note the problems you have skipped!

- Read the sentence in a multiple choice item to yourself so that you can "hear" the best way it could be written or revised.

- Scratch paper is not just for math! Scratch paper can be requested for ALL of the tests.
WRITING TIPS:

- Check a word that you think may be misspelled by closing your eyes, "seeing" and "saying" how you think it is spelled, and then comparing that word with the spelling on the paper.

- Word choice is more important than spelling, so a more precise word spelled incorrectly is preferable to a poor word choice spelled correctly.

- Read the entire passage before answering the questions on the editing section; this is especially important for organization questions.
WRITING TIPS:

- Picture the audience who will read your essay.
- Remember journal entries you have written if you “run dry” of ideas.
- Make corrections on your final essay by carefully drawing a single line through an error and making the correction above it.
- Each essay is scored in about 90 seconds. Make your essay make sense before spending too much time on punctuation or spelling.