

## Home Education & Family Services

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January 14, 2010

Dear Homeschooling Families,

Happy New Year to you all!

For the nineteenth year, I will be returning to your beautiful state to meet with your children and you. The dates this year are April 6-9 in High Point and then April 12-16 in Matthews. I am late in getting this information to you because our offices are in the process of moving.

To schedule your child's appointment, first decide which test you want your child to take and write it on the enclosed appointment form. (If you're not sure which test to choose, call or email me and we'll decide together.) Then include your desired amount of time to discuss the results, observations made, and curriculum recommendations. Once you return this form, I'll schedule your appointment. A deposit of 50% should be included with the form.

Also, do you know of folks who want to have their children tested or who would like to meet with me? If so, please give them my phone number and/or email address so that I can get a packet to them. My email is [sminster@seurespeed.net](mailto:sminster@seurespeed.net).

Remember, some parents do not want testing, but want to discuss a variety of concerns such as curriculum choices, special needs children, high school courses, and/or college preparation. If this is something that is desired, complete the section that is 'Consultation Only'.

I look forward to visiting with you and your children soon. Hopefully the weather will be warmer down there. It's mighty chilly up here.

Sincerely,  
Shirley M.R. Minster, M. S. Ed.

### **2010 Fees**

#### **Achievement Test Choices:**

\$120/test: Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement-II, Peabody Individual Achievement Test-R, Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Achievement-III, or Diagnostic Achievement Battery- 2

\$150: Diagnostic Achievement Test for Adolescents- 2

**Aptitude Test:** Detroit Tests of Learning Aptitude – 4: (learning aptitude test for ages 6 to 17): \$165

**Other Diagnostic Tests:** Fee is determined by type of subject-specific test (such as writing, math, reading, learning styles).

**Consultation:** \$30/half hour

**Travel Fee:** \$45 per family

### **A Brief Discussion of Individual Achievement Tests by Shirley M.R. Minster, M. S. Ed.**

What makes an individual standardized achievement test unique? Reasons include that the complete test is not timed, the student does not fill in little circles on an answer sheet, and the test is not usually administered to a group. The test also does not typically require more than one session be devoted to taking it. The approximate time necessary for each test administration is given below. Of course, individual children's times vary. Tests are not sent away to be scored by a company. Test results are not given to anyone other than the parents or legal guardians, unless the parents give their permission in writing.

Individual standardized achievement testing is useful when children are being taught in unique, one-on-one situations. The testing time allows the test administrator to meet and establish a rapport with your child and evaluate academic levels in specific subject areas. The test administration can be done in your home or in a centrally located spot in one day, with the written results completed that same week. When you schedule a follow-up appointment, you have the opportunity to discuss observations made during the testing time, curriculum choices, and other pertinent educational topics.

The following tests provide results such percentile rank, grade or age equivalent, standard score, and stanine. These nationally recognized tests were normed with children in both public and private schools throughout the United States.

~ The **Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement-II** is designed for students in grades K-12 ( pre-school through college-age (ages 4.5 - 25)). The basic areas covered are math concepts and applications, math computation, letter and word recognition, reading comprehension, nonsense word decoding, spelling, and written expression. The test results include lists of specific strengths and/or weaknesses. Supplemental tests include phonological awareness, listening comprehension, oral expression, word recognition fluency, decoding fluency, and associational fluency and naming facility. The total test time varies, depending upon which tests are administered. The basic achievement test takes about 1.5 hours.

~The **Peabody Individual Achievement Test - Revised** is designed for children in grades K-12 (ages 5-18). Areas covered are general information, reading recognition, reading comprehension, mathematics, spelling, and written expression. This test is unique in that paper and pencil are used only during the written expression section. I recommend this test if your child dislikes having to write a lot. Please note that no scratch paper and pencil can be used during the mathematics section. (It is a multiple-choice test.) The total test takes about 1.5 hours.

~ The **Woodcock - Johnson Tests of Achievement, III** is designed for people between the ages of 5 and 90. Areas covered in the basic achievement test: letter/word identification, passage comprehension, math calculation, math applied problems, spelling, writing, general knowledge. Supplemental tests are available: reading fluency, math fluency, writing fluency, handwriting evaluation, story recall, vocabulary, phonemic awareness, punctuation and capitalization. The total test time varies, depending upon which tests are administered. The basic achievement test takes about 1.5 hours.

~ The **Diagnostic Achievement Battery-2** is designed to 1) test children through age 14 who are suspected of having learning problems, 2) identify areas of academic strengths and/or weaknesses, and 3) measure academic progress. The twelve subtests cover the skills of listening, speaking, writing, reading, and mathematics. The total time takes about 1.5 hours.

~ The **Diagnostic Achievement Test for Adolescents-2** is designed for students in grades 7-12. This comprehensive achievement test covers reading decoding, reading comprehension, spelling, math computation, math problem-solving, science, social studies, reference skills, written expression, vocabulary, and grammar. The total test time is usually from two to four hours, depending upon the student's skill levels.

**April 6-16, 2010 North Carolina Testing and Appointment Form**

Parent(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Test Site of Choice:

High Point \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Matthews \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Students (first and last name):

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Test Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Test Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Test Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle your choice. ('pm' means afternoon, not evening)

**\* Best time to test:**

Mon. am                      Tues. am                      Wed. am                      Thurs. am                      Fri. am

Mon. pm                      Tues. pm                      Wed. pm                      Thurs. pm                      Fri. pm

**\* Best time for test results consultation and amount of time requested:**

Mon. am                      Tues. am                      Wed. am                      Thurs. am                      Fri. am

Mon. pm                      Tues. pm                      Wed. pm                      Thurs. pm                      Fri. pm

*Total amount of time requested for test results:*

**\* Consultation Only:**

Mon. am                      Tues. am                      Wed. am                      Thurs. am                      Fri. am

Mon. pm                      Tues. pm                      Wed. pm                      Thurs. pm                      Fri. pm

Total amount of time requested for consultation:

***HEFS Office Use Only:***

Test Site: High Point, NC Matthews, NC

Student Name:

Test Name and Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Consultation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name:

Test Name and Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Consultation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name:

Test Name and Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Consultation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Fee:

Prepaid: \_\_\_\_\_ Type: Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card      Money Order

Total Due: