

Dear Parents:

We are pleased to inform you that the Florida Department of Education offers students in Florida's public school system access to an educational Web site called FCAT Explorer. This free resource is designed to help your child practice reading, math, and science skills outlined in the Sunshine State Standards. Currently, FCAT Explorer offers reading programs for 3rd, 4th, 6th, 8th, and 10th grades, math programs for 5th, 8th, and 10th grades, and science programs for 5th, 8th, and 11th grades. You can find FCAT Explorer on the Internet at www.fcatexplorer.com. Your child's classroom teacher will provide your child with a sign-in name and password.

FCAT Explorer practice programs provide your child with practice questions and other educational materials that strengthen the skills measured by the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) for reading, math, and science. The FCAT Explorer provides a creative, exciting context for your child's learning experience while reinforcing subject areas such as science and history.

About FCAT Explorer:

- FCAT Explorer is available to all Florida public school children, their teachers, and their parents.
- Children can access the FCAT Explorer from computers at school or at home.
- FCAT Explorer includes a Parent and Family Guide, offering practical advice and focused activities for parents, guardians, and mentors who want to help children succeed.
- FCAT Explorer is free. **There is no cost to students, teachers, schools, or school districts.**

For your child to use FCAT Explorer at home, your home computer must meet the technical requirements listed below. If you have any questions concerning these technical requirements or the use of FCAT Explorer, please contact the FCAT Explorer Help Desk toll-free at 1-888-750-3228 or click on the "Contact Us" e-mail link available on the FCAT Explorer Web site. Technical support staff will be happy to assist you Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM.

- **Operating System:** Windows 98 or higher or Macintosh system 9.0 or higher
- **Web Browser:** Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher or Netscape Navigator 4.8 or higher recommended. Please note: Netscape Navigator 6.0 is not supported for FCAT Explorer use on any operating system.
- **Plug-ins:** Macromedia Flash Player 6 minimum. Science Station requires Flash Player 7 or higher. (a quick and easy download is available from the FCAT Explorer Web site.)
- **Display Resolution:** SVGA (800 x 600 or higher) recommended; VGA (640 x 480) minimum.
- **Display Color Depth:** 16-bit (thousands of colors) recommended; 8-bit (256 colors) minimum,
- **Internet Connection:** 56.6 kbps modem or network connection speed recommended (28.8 kbps modem minimum)
- **Sound:** A sound card and speakers or headphones are optional.

We believe you and your child will find the FCAT Explorer practice programs to be a valuable learning resource.