**Frequently Asked Questions about the**

**Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) for Parents**

**What is CogAT?**

CogAT is a group-administered abilities test that measures students’ reasoning abilities, which they develop through in-school and out-of-school experiences. It is not designed to test a student’s academic achievement but rather their potential.

**Why is CogAT being administered?**

CogAT will be administered to all third and fifth graders. It will help educators understand a student’s cognitive strengths and weaknesses and assists with adapting instruction to meet the needs and abilities of each student. It will also provide data for students’ placement into fourth grade G/T mathematics classes or middle school G/T content classes.

**What does CogAT measure?**

The test consists of three batteries – Verbal, Quantitative, and Nonverbal. Each section takes approximately 30 minutes to complete.

**When will CogAT be given?**

CogAT will be administered within a time period from November 30 – December 11, 2015.

**Who will administer CogAT?**

It will be administered by classroom teachers and other certified Howard County Public School teachers.

**What should I do to prepare my child for the test?**

A good night’s sleep and a nutritious breakfast are the only preparation necessary. All test administrators will review sample items with the students before administering each part of the test.

**What if my child is absent on the days the test is administered at his/her school?**

Each school will schedule a make-up day during the testing window for students who were absent for a portion of the test.

**What if my child has an IEP/504 Plan?**

Testing accommodations as noted in the IEP or 504 Plan will be followed for all CogAT testing.