

- It's ok to guess
 - Learn better ways of guessing
- Understand how to read questions
- Understand how to read answers
- Understand how to spot wrong answers

- *success depends just as much on knowing what the answer can not be as knowing the right answer



In addition to test strategies: (most of us already do)

- Emphasize reading comprehension skills. Students will not score well on tests they cannot read
- Incorporate vocabulary words which appear on the tests. Pay particular attention to the kinds of words used in the instructions and prompts.
- Routinely reteach earlier material. Conduct 4-5 minute reviews daily. Make sure they know what you think they know.
- Involve all students in class participation. Hear from everyone everyday.



Strategies

- **USE TWO HANDS**
 - One finger on the answer you chose, pencil on the answer sheet. Double check that you are on the right number, that you are filling the right bubble. Then mark.

- If frustrated or confused, make your best guess, fill in the bubble and move on. Maybe the next one will be easier. Come back to it later. (Any answer is better than no answer.)



Be a Detective

- Look for clues.
 - The right answer is in front of you!
- Read everything carefully
 - Look for words like *except*
- Use the process of elimination
 - Finding wrong answers and trick answers
 - Narrow down choices



Math Strategy

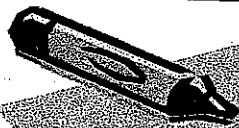
$$\begin{array}{r} 16 \\ 13 \\ + 11 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{A. } 31 \\ \text{B. } 39 \\ \text{C. } 40 \end{array}$$

- Just add the ones column, because we know the answer ends in a zero and only one answer has that.
 - OR
- Sometimes it takes more than ONE step!
- Look for clue words: for example *difference=subtract*



Don't Suck on your Eraser

DON'T PANIC



Two ways to get the right answer

- KNOW IT
- GUESS IT



19 WAYS TO GO WRONG

- You don't know the answer or how to figure it out
- You guess wrong
- You were in a hurry
 - Sloppy work on scratch paper
 - Tricked by one the answers
- You knew the right answer but filled in the wrong bubble
 - Or the right bubble on the wrong line
 - Your test pages stuck together
 - You started on the wrong section of the answer sheet
- You leave an answer blank (the worst)
 - Because you circle your answers instead of filling them in
 - Because you forgot to mark your answer sheet
 - Because you didn't know what to put
 - Because you thought you were out of time
- Fill in too many bubbles because you forgot to erase
 - or didn't erase well enough
 - Smear your answer sheet
 - Tear your sheet
 - Didn't care



Three Kinds of Questions

- Ones you know
- Ones you need to solve
- Ones you don't know
 - (you make a best guess)



Bubble Sheet Blues & other fine tips

- Put bubble sheet on same side of desk as your pencil
- Read ALL of the directions
- Read the answers first
- Sometimes a questions will help answer another question.
- Proofread - check yourself



