

## Study Island Web-Based Test Prep Software Available At School And Home

Our school now has access to a great resource for preparing our kids for the state standardized tests (TAKS).

We have purchased a district license for a web-based program called Study Island, which is accessible to students from school or home.

If you have Internet access, your child can access Study Island from home or the local library as well as school to prepare for the state assessments.

We are excited about the potential benefits this program can bring to our students, and we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity by using Study Island.

Please feel free to contact Study Island at 800-419-3191 or support@studyisland.com if you have any questions.

Since the Study Island state assessment program is completely web-based, students can access it from any computer with an Internet connection and a standard web browser (Internet Explorer or Netscape).

Results from students study sessions are recorded and made available to the teachers. This includes results from sessions completed at home.

The program is divided into sections based on subject (math, reading, etc.). Each section is made up of 10 to 25 topics.

Each topic contains about 20 to 25 questions with explanations. All topics are accompanied by a lesson, which includes some brief information about the material covered by the questions in the topics.

It is helpful to view the lesson before answering the questions in the topic.

Follow the instructions below in order to use the program:

Go to [www.studyisland.com](http://www.studyisland.com)

Enter your username and password at the upper-left of the screen, and click "Login".

Note: Students will receive a username and password from their teacher at school.

Click on the section tab (math, reading, etc.) that you wish to work on.

Click the "Pretest" in order to begin the pretest for the section. You must complete 10 pretest questions before moving on to the topic in the section.

Once you complete the "Pre-

test," you may work through the remainder of the topics in any order you like. You must "pass" all topics before taking the "Post Test".

To pass a topic, you must satisfy the topic's passing requirements which are based a minimum number of questions answered (usually 10) and a minimum percentage correct (around 70%). A blue ribbon icon is displayed next to all passed topics.

Once you have passed all the

topics in the section, you have to pass the "Post Test" for the section before the section is complete. Ignore this step if the section has no "Post Test".

When you pass all topics in all sections, you have completed the program and will be well prepared to take the state test.

To access the Reports:

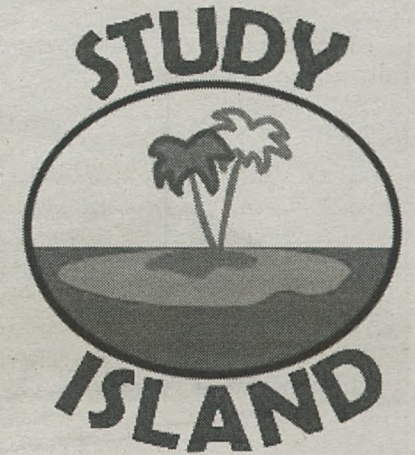
After your child has logged in, select a subject from the left-hand side of the screen to access the reports. (See the

screen shot below.)

Here, you will find a variety of reports with information such as how much time your child has spent on various subjects, how they used their time, and what questions they missed.

You will also be able to compare your child with other children in their state that are using Study Island.

You can select reports by Subject or select the Summary option to get all subjects.



## Rice Offering Parental Literacy Classes

Your child's education is the key to them experiencing success in their life.

Opportunities abound for them that were no more than a dream for previous generations.

Let them know the importance you place on education by becoming involved in the parent literacy classes offered

by RCISD.

In addition to providing literacy training for parents of Rice CISD students, assistance with developing English language skills will be offered.

Parents also receive training on the importance of parental involvement in their child's education, ways to become involved in the education process, parent-teacher confer-

ences, School/Parent/Student Compacts and what they mean, how to interpret test results, and general information for parents.

The classes are taught by Dr. Vilma Vavrusa.

Dr. Vavrusa brings many years of educational experience to the classes with an expertise in literacy and cultural diversity.

If you are a parent and interested in attending, please join us at the Eagle Lake Primary campus, beginning in October.

Computers and other instructional materials will be provided.

A reminder about the classes and additional information will be sent home with your child and published in the paper.

## Staff Development Opportunities For Year

Professional development opportunities for teachers have been scheduled for the 2009-2010 school year based upon the results of the Needs Assessment Survey conducted to identify areas for improvement along with Performance Based Monitoring, AEIS, and AYP results.

These staff development opportunities will support instruction, inclusion strategies, and Response to Intervention (RtI) to help ensure the success of each individual student.

The year will start off with a motivational speaker on August 18, who will present "Making a Difference." Region III ESC will work with teachers on September 11 on Robert Marzano's "Classroom Instruction That Works".

The district has contracted with Lisa Rogers to present "Learning and Diversity: Research-based Strategies for Increasing Student Achievement" on October 12 and "Including Students with Disabilities in General Education Classrooms" on November 30.

In an effort to support and

continue the district's efforts in RtI, we have contracted with Dr. Molly Cordeau for an additional 4 days to work with the identified campus RtI teams across the district.

These teams will help to identify struggling students and to provide support to teachers in implementing strategies to help these students.

Plans are underway to convert the existing High School Band Hall into the Rice CISD Staff Development and Training Center.

The Center will be dedicated to keeping the administration, faculty, and staff abreast of current trends and advances in instructional methodology and technology.

Opportunities to enhance instruction in the four core academic areas and elective subjects will be provided to faculty and staff incorporating strategies for G/T, ESL, and Special Education students.

In addition to the traditional training formats, the district will also implement instructional

modeling and teacher mentoring.

Teachers will continue to take advantage of professional development opportunities offered by Region III ESC in Victoria throughout the year.

The Service Center publishes a catalog describing opportunities offered in the fall, spring, and summer.

The goal of Rice CISD is to provide the highest quality instruction possible to our diverse population delivered by 100% highly qualified teachers and paraprofessionals.

