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Rebecca Jahn
Steven James
Reese Jarrett
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Torri Geisler, 10, gets prepared for the test. She thought the OGT was stressful. Every morning students had two and a half hours to take their OGT. It seemed as if the OGT added even more stress to the students.



Lisa Routt, 10, does not let pressure get to her. Even with all of the pressure that the OGT put on students, some found a way to be positive. Some, like Routt, thought that the OGT was a breeze.



Raising standards

Test makes graduation more challenging

By: Brittany Lewis

Remember the proficiency tests? The last class to take them was the Class of 2006. The Class of 2008; however, had to take the OGT.

"I think that the OGT is a lot better than the proficiency tests because they are a lot easier," said **Avra Joffe, 10.**

Otherwise known as the Ohio Graduation Test, the OGT was a standardized test that all sophomores had to take. The test was designed to provide a much greater challenge to students because it was based on learning objectives through the tenth grade.

The OGT was also a harder test because it required writing essays in all areas. The students were still tested in many basic areas, including writing, reading, math, science, and social studies.

"The OGT was not too hard. It was a nice chance to get out of classes," said **Helen Chang, 10.**

The Class of 2008 got ready for the OGT in many ways. They used the skills and talents from their teachers to accomplish creative and critical thinking. Sophomores also prepared for the OGT by using Study Island, a website designed to help students take practice tests in order to prepare. Along with the tests, Study Island also set up lessons which helped the students study the curriculum.

Students felt pressured to pass the test; even though, they had eight chances to pass to be eligible to graduate.

"We already have too many tests that we have to worry about. Why make a new one now? I don't think it's fair that kids have to pass a test to graduate," said **Samantha Hunter, 10.**

After all of the tests were sent in, all of the schools and districts in the state of Ohio were rated. If a student did not pass, they could not graduate.