PREPARING FOR NAT EXAM, A REVIEW FROM THE START
(Written by: Cristina S. Reyes)

The National Assessment Test (NAT) is given by the Department of Education to grade 3 and grade 6 students in the elementary level and also to Fourth year students in the High School level. The purpose of NAT is to check how much and how well students have learned the basic competencies.

As teachers, we should teach our learners not to “hate and fear” national exams like the NAT. We should help them beat exam jitters by doing the following:

1. *At the start of the school year, let’s prepare our students.* Mastery of the basic concepts and skills is the key for NAT. NAT is usually given during MARCH. If we prepare our students earlier, there will be earlier mastery, not crammed review.

2. *Know and understand the Exam.* NAT is not a test to measure achievement but instead it assesses students’ mastery of the basic skills and contents of the curriculum.

3. *Orientation is a Must.* Explain to our students why they are taking the NAT. Their scores help the government student performance and needs. Tell them that the result will help us assess their abilities.

4. *Have a schedule.* As simple as posting the date of the exam can help in preparing the students for the national exam. Just make sure that the design is not intimidating. Make it friendlier.

5. *Provide a checklist on things to bring-* Remind them what they must bring and also their schedule and room assignment.

Prior to the exam, give them a pep talk. An inspirational quote. Tell them just to do their best and NOT TO CHEAT.

References:
http://academic-clinic.com/2012/04/nat-exam-overview/