# UNDERSTANDING TEST... Anxiety

# **Apprehension**

Apprehension of not living up to other's expectations of you.

## **Grades**

Allowing grades to determine your personal worth.

## Fear

Fear of losing affection of significant people in your life if you don't succeed.

# **Control**

Sense of being helpless with feeling that you have no control over what happens.

# Goals

Set your own goals and try to attain them. Don't let others determine your aspirations.

## **Guides**

Understand that a grade is only an approximate measure of performance. Grades don't determine your worth as a person; they are only a guide to help you determine what you need to review.

## **Friends**

Know that people like you for a variety of reasons which have nothing to do with the grade you receive on a test.

## **Habits**

Take control of your life and improve your study habits. Prepare for your next test and see the relationship between the amount and quality of your studying and the grade you receive.

#### Relax

Muscle relaxation exercises help you control the physical symptoms of test anxiety.

## Accept

Face your fears and accept that you have a problem. This way you can eliminate the cause. Define your fear and determine its origin.

#### **Focus**

Give total attention to the test. While papers are being passed out, silently review what you have learned. Fight distractions.

## **Think Positively**

Engage in positive self-talk and replace negative thoughts with positive ones.

## **Improve**

Improve the way you prepare for tests.

#### Learn

Learn to recognize signs that you are becoming anxious and then try relaxation exercises.

#### Dress

Dress comfortably for tests. Choose layers of loose-fitting clothing.

### **Normalize**

Develop a test-day tradition – like a "lucky" outfit!