



April 15, 2014

Faythe Mutchnick
Principal

Joseph Shaw
Assistant Principal

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Our school will be participating in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Field Test this spring. Schools in twenty-two states will administer the online assessment in mathematics and/or English starting this March. Our entire district will be participating in this field test.

The Smarter Balanced assessments are a key part of implementing our new academic standards and preparing all students for success in college and careers. When the assessments become operational in the 2014-15 school year, they will provide an academic checkup by measuring real-world skills like critical thinking and problem solving. In addition, they will provide information during the year to give teachers and parents a better picture of where students are succeeding and where they need help.

This practice run of the assessments will be used to evaluate the testing software, ensure the quality of assessment questions, and evaluate the effectiveness of the assessment administration and training materials. It also provides teachers and students at our school an opportunity to preview the types of questions that will be part of the Smarter Balanced assessments and practice test administration procedures.

For our school, students in 3rd through 5th grade have been selected to take the Field Test in English/Language Arts and Math. The assessment will take place from April 28th – May 9th. The Field Test will take approximately four hours, spread out primarily over the first week. Participation is confidential, results are not distributed, and your child's grades will not be affected.

Additionally, fifth grade students will continue to take the California Science CST/CMA and the Physical Fitness assessment with testing dates scheduled for early to mid-May . A few special education students will take the CAPA exam in their self-contained classroom setting.

If you would like more information about Smarter Balanced, please visit their website at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/>. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher or administration if you have any questions. We thank you for your support of this process.

Sincerely,

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