

DUBLIN  
UNIFIED



School District

All Dublin Students Will  
Become Lifelong Learners

# DUBLIN SCHOOLS

## DUBLIN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

7471 Larkdale Avenue, Dublin, CA 94568-1599 • 925-828-2551 • FAX 925-829-6532

April 17, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Each spring, most students in California participate in the statewide testing program, known as the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) System. CAASPP is a system intended to provide information that can be used to monitor student progress and ensure that all students leave high school ready for college and career.

In grades three through eight and grade eleven, most students take the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) online tests for English language arts/literacy (ELA) and Math. However, students who have a significant cognitive disability (as designated in their individualized education program) are eligible to take the California Alternate Assessments (CAAs). In grades five, eight, and ten, students will also take a pilot of the new California Science Test (CAST) or the CAA Science Test.

This year, your child will take the following assessments:

- Smarter Balanced tests for ELA and Math **OR** CAAs for ELA and Math
- California Science Test **OR** CAA Science Test – these tests are for 8<sup>th</sup> graders only

**We will be administering these state tests at Fallon beginning with the California Science Test. This test will be given to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students only and will be administered in their regular science classes on Thursday and Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup> and May 5<sup>th</sup>. Beginning on Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup> and continuing through Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, students in all three grades at Fallon will take the ELA and Math SBAC tests. While we encourage all families to plan appointments outside of this testing timeframe, students who are absent during testing will be able to take the tests during our makeup sessions the following week.**

### **Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAC)**

The Smarter Balanced online tests are based on the new California Content Standards, also known as the Common Core State Standards, for mathematics and ELA. While last year's test results provided parents with **a two year comparison of student progress with** information on how their children were performing in ELA and mathematics, in 2017 parents will be able to compare results across **three years** (2014–15, 2015–16, and 2016–17) and determine their children's progress in meeting California's rigorous academic standards.

The California Department of Education (CDE) has developed several resources to help students and parents understand the grade expectations of the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments:

- The *Parent Guides to the Smarter Balanced Assessments* (in English and Spanish) are posted on the CDE's CAASPP Web page, under the Students and Parents Tab, at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/index.asp?tabsection=3#ssr>.
- The practice and training tests, which can be found on the CDE's Smarter Balanced Practice and Training Tests Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/practicetest.asp>, can help parents and students experience the type of test items that students will encounter on the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments

### **California Science Test—Pilot Test**

California's new state standards for science call for students to think and work like scientists and engineers—asking questions and learning through hands-on investigation and discovery. Working with science teachers, California is developing a new assessment that emphasizes scientific thinking and reasoning. This year your child will participate in the tryout of test items for this future assessment. While this tryout will not provide scores for your child, it is an important first step in developing an assessment that will fairly and accurately measure how students are achieving on the new science standards. For additional information about the new science tests and sample questions, please visit the CDE's CAASPP Science Assessment Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caasppscience.asp>.

If you would like more information about the CAASPP System, please visit the Parent/Student tab of the CDE's CAASPP Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/index.asp?tabsection=3#ssr>. We also have a significant amount of information on our district website under our parent channel tab (<http://www.dublin.k12.ca.us/Page/7648>).

If you have any questions regarding your child's participation, please contact **Assistant Principal Ed Jackson** at 925-875-9376 ext.6302 or [jacksonclyde@dublinusd.org](mailto:jacksonclyde@dublinusd.org)

Sincerely,



Sheri Sweeney, Principal  
Fallon Middle School