



ST. HELENA UNIFIED

High Expectations Lead to High Achievement

Date: April 12, 2021

To: SHUSD Parent/Guardian

From: Dr. Marylou Wilson, Superintendent

Re: California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress
Summative Assessments and California Science Test

Each year, students in grades three through eight and high school participate in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP).

This year, your child will take the following test(s), depending on their grade level:

- Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for English language arts/literacy and mathematics in grades three through eight and grade eleven (Assessment flexibility might be an option for this school year, if approved at the State and Federal levels, SHUSD might give the NWEA Measures for Academic Progress in lieu of the CAASPP assessment in any or all the tested grades).
- California Science Test (CAST) in grades five and eight and once in high school (This might be waived for the 2020-2021 school year; notification of the State's and Federal governments decision will be announced as soon as we know).

The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments and the CAST are online tests that measure what your student knows and is able to do. The tests include many different types of questions that allow students to interact with the test questions. Results help identify gaps in knowledge or skills early on so your child can get the support needed to be successful in school.

Testing will begin at the High School for grade 11 students on April 19th and May 2021.

You are an important part of your child's education. To help your child get ready for the test you can:

- Talk about the test with your child. Make sure they are not scared or anxious.
- Tell your child that you and their teacher have high expectations and are both there to help, every step of the way.
- Take a practice test with your child.
- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast before testing.

To learn more about the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments or the CAST, go to the California Department of Education Parent Guides to Understanding web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/parentguidetounderstand.asp>.

You also can look at sample test questions on the practice tests, which can be found on the CAASPP Web Portal at <http://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html>.

If you have questions, please contact your school principal or Mary Allen at mallen@sthelenaunified.org.