



Abbott Middle School

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Joe Hadley, Principal
Andrew Campbell, Asst. Principal

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

California's academic standards—what we want our students to know and be able to do—are designed so students graduate college and career ready. One way we measure their progress on these standards is through the **California Assessments of Student Performance and Progress** (CAASPP for short).

Students across California in grades 3–8 and 11 take the CAASPP each spring. This year SMFCSD students will be testing during the weeks of **May 13-June 14**. Please note that not all students will be testing at the same time.

Because the CAASPP is given statewide, it provides an opportunity to measure the skills of all students against the same academic standards in English language arts/literacy (ELA), mathematics, and science. They measure the skills called for by the academic standards, including the ability to write clearly, think critically, and solve problems. The tests are computer-adaptive, meaning that correct responses will be followed with more challenging questions, and incorrect responses with less challenging questions, to help get a more accurate score in fewer total questions.

This year, the CAASPP program is comprised of the following assessments:

- Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for ELA and Mathematics
- The California Science Test—grades 5 and 8 only
- The California Alternate Assessment (CAA)--for students with certain disabilities only.

The Smarter Balanced Assessments

The Smarter Balanced ELA and Mathematics tests reflect California's rigorous academic standards and allow students to demonstrate analytical writing and critical thinking skills as well as their knowledge of facts. The scoring for each test is comparable between grade levels allowing parents and students to compare results across multiple years to determine a student's learning growth.

Test results for this year's administration as well as previous years' reports are available through the [Aeries parent portal](#). If you do not have access or need support for the parent portal, please contact your school front office. To learn more about the tests, please visit CDE's Test Score Guide Web site at <http://www.testscoreguide.org/ca>, which provides informative guides and test score descriptions as well as sample test items at different levels of difficulty.

The California Science Test

The Next Generation Science Standards for California Schools (CA NGSS) 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 an assessment that emphasizes scientific thinking and reasoning. This year students in grades 5 and 8 will participate in the first year of the test. For additional information about the science tests and sample questions, please visit the CAASPP Science Assessment Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caasppscience.asp>.

The California Alternate Assessment

Students in grades 3 through 8 and grade 11 who have an IEP that designates the use of an alternate assessment are eligible to take the CAAs in ELA, mathematics, and Science. The goal of the CAAs is to ensure that students with the most significant cognitive disabilities attain increasingly higher achievement levels and leave high school ready for academic or career options. If you would like more information or resources about alternate assessments, please visit the CDE's CAASPP Alternate Assessments Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/altassessment.asp>.

Families can do a few things to help their student's testing go smoothly:

- The CAASPP is important and its results are used to guide supports for our students in our SMFCSD schools and even ultimately in CA colleges. Please encourage your child to do their best, to get plenty of rest and eat a good breakfast before testing.
- Some tests require listening to the assessment using headphones. Students are encouraged to bring and use their own wired headphones (3.5mm jack compatible.) Otherwise, headphones will be provided.
- Note that electronic devices are not allowed in the testing room. All devices must be off and put away, including smartwatches. We suggest your student consider leaving unnecessary devices at home.

Note that California Education Code allows parents/guardians to choose for their student to not participate in the CAASPP. If you have any questions regarding your child's participation in the CAASPP, please contact Deborah Ujcic at dcarson-ujcic@smfcsd.net/650 312-7700, Ext.4001.

Thank you.