



March 18, 2016

Dear Walnut Grove 3rd-5th Grade Parents/Guardians:

This year, your child will be taking assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics, known as the Smarter Balanced Assessments. The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) replaced the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program in 2015 as the new state academic testing program. 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.

CAASPP includes the Smarter Balanced Computer Adaptive Tests and Performance Task tests in English Language Arts and Mathematics for students in grades 3-8 and 11. These assessments are focused on the Common Core State Standards. Walnut Grove will be administering the Smarter Summative Assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics to students in 3rd-5th grade from April 18 through June 3. If you want to see what types of questions students will be asked or how the test will be presented, visit one of the following links: [SBAC Practice Test](#) or <http://bit.ly/18mQpfj>. The CAASPP Parent Guide is also available here: [CAASPP Parent Guide 3rd-5th](#). No additional preparation or studying at home is needed or expected for this assessment.

CAASPP also includes paper-based tests for Science in grades 5, 8 and 10. Our 5th grade students will be taking the Science assessment in their class between April 18 - May 6.

Pupils in applicable grade levels will participate in the CAASPP except as exempted by law (EC § 60615, 5 CCR § 852). Each year, a parent may submit a written request to excuse his or her child from any or all parts of the CAASPP assessments for that school year. If the parent submits the exemption request after testing begins, any test(s) completed before the request is submitted will be scored; the results will be included in the pupil's records and reported to the parent. School district employees will not solicit or encourage any exemption request on behalf of a pupil or group of pupils. This information can also be found on page 39 of the [PUSD Student/Parent Handbook](#).

Walnut Grove will be on our regular bell schedules during testing and testing will be proctored by your child's regular classroom teacher. Your child's teacher will be sending home additional information about the exact testing dates for your child. For additional information about CAASPP, please visit the [Assessment Department](#) page on the [Pleasanton Unified School District](#) website. Note that this letter will be emailed and on our school websites with links activated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Beth Cutter'.

Beth Cutter

Vice Principal / CAASPP Test Site Coordinator