



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

ALFRED BERNHARD NOBEL CHARTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, & MATH MAGNET • *SCHOOL FOR ADVANCED STUDIES*

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Michelle King
Superintendent of Schools

Vivian Ekchian
Superintendent, Local District NW

Derek Horowitz
Principal

Dear Parent/Guardian:

California's academic standards—the things we want students to know and be able to do—are designed so students graduate ready for college and a career. One way we measure their progress is through the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) assessments. Students across California in grades 3–8 and high school take these assessments each spring. These tests were created specifically to gauge each student's performance in English language arts/literacy (ELA), mathematics, and science. These tests measure the skills called for by the academic standards, including the ability to write clearly, think critically, and solve problems.

Because CAASPP tests are given statewide, they provide an opportunity to measure the skills of all students against the same academic standards. Given online, the tests are computer-adaptive, allowing more precise measurement of individual skills.

This year, your child will take the following tests:

- Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for ELA and mathematics
- The California Science Test—Pilot Test
- California Alternate Assessments (CAAs)

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. In 2017, parents will be able to compare results across three years (2014–15, 2015–16, and 2016–17) to determine their child's progress in meeting the standards.

To learn more about these 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.

Another great resource are 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>. Here, parents can experience the kinds of questions that students will encounter on the tests including the grade 8 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 you 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>.

As the parent or guardian, you have the option of excusing your child from any part of the CAASPP. If you would like to excuse your child from the test, you must submit your request in writing to the school. [Education Code 60615.] We will grant your request. Please let the school know as soon as possible so we can make alternative arrangements for your student.

If you have any questions regarding your child's participation in statewide assessments, please contact Laura Yankie, Testing Coordinator, at 818.773.4700 or ljy4666@lausd.net.

Sincerely,



Derek Horowitz, Principal