

## Smarter Balanced Tests 2015 – 2016

### How Parents Can Help

Dear BHUSD Parent or Guardian:

Students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> are assessed annually on their mastery of the Common Core State Standards in mathematics and English Language Arts. The tests are taken on computers and require keyboarding skills and familiarity with test functions such as highlighting and marking answers for review. This school year the Smarter Balanced Assessments are currently scheduled to take place April 11<sup>th</sup> through May 13<sup>th</sup> and will take five to six hours of your child's time. The assessment will be administered over multiple days. Participation is confidential, and your child's grades will not be affected, but the results are a good independent measure of your child's skills.

Below are two ways you can help your child feel and be more successful in demonstrating their skills:

**Use the Practice Tests:** You and your child can become more familiar with the assessment by encouraging your child to use the Practice Tests at the following website:

<https://practice.smarterbalanced.org/student/>.

**Practice Keyboarding:** Additionally you can help your child become more comfortable with keyboarding by using any of the free keyboarding programs found on our K-8 school websites. (Look at the "Websites for Learning Page" under the "Academics" tab.)

Or, use these Keyboarding resources:

- <http://www.tvokids.com/games/keyboardclimber>
- [http://www.learninggamesforkids.com/keyboarding\\_games/jumping.swf](http://www.learninggamesforkids.com/keyboarding_games/jumping.swf)
- <http://bigbrownbear.co.uk/learntotype/>
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Dr. Jennifer Tedford

Mr. Chris Hertz

Chief Academic Officer

Director of Student Services & Special Projects