



# ORCUTT Union School District

*Where a Dedicated Staff Means Kids Come First*

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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. These tests are given online, the ELA and math tests are computer-adaptive, allowing more precise measurement of individual skills. The science test is not adaptive at this time.

This year, your child will take the following tests depending on his/her grade level:

- Grades 3 – 8 and 11: Smarter Balanced Assessments for ELA and mathematics (SBAC) or the California Alternate Assessment (CAA -for students who have this designated in an IEP/504 plan).
- Grades 5, 8, and 12: The California Science Test (CAST) or the California Alternate Assessment Science Test (CAA - for students who have this designated in an IEP/504 plan). Students take this test one time in high school, the precise year is not mandated. Students in grade 12 will take the CAST at OAHS.

## **California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)**

The CAASPP 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.

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 has developed this assessment that emphasizes scientific thinking and reasoning. For additional information about the science tests, please visit the CDE's CAASPP Science Assessment Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caasppscience.asp>.

The Practice and Training Tests are other good resources for the ELA, math and science assessments. They can be found on the CDE's Smarter Balanced Practice and Training Tests Web page at <http://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html>. (Click on the green Student Interface button.) Here, parents can experience the kinds of questions that students will encounter on the tests.

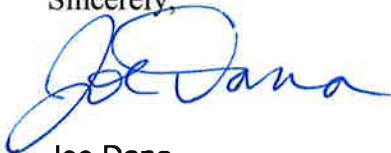
To learn more about these tests, please visit the California Department of Education's (CDE's) Test Score Guide Web site at <http://www.testscoreguide.org/ca>. This site provides informative guides and test score descriptions as well as sample test items at different levels of difficulty.

CAASPP assessment results will be available to parents through our Aeries Parent Portal. Score reports will not be mailed home to parents. We expect the ELA and mathematics scores to be accessible in the Parent Portal this summer. Science scores for students in grades 5, 8 and 12 will also be accessible in Aeries Parent Portal this fall. This will allow parents more immediate access to student performance on the CAASPP assessments. We will be informing parents via email when scores are available as well as how to find them within the Parent Portal.

Students in applicable grade levels will participate in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) except as exempted by law. Each year, a parent may submit a written request to the school principal 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 tests(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. This exemption does not exist for the ELPAC or Physical Fitness Test.

If you have any questions regarding your child's participation in statewide assessments, please contact your child's teacher and/or your school principal.

Sincerely,



Joe Dana  
Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services