

March 23, 2014

Dear Parent/Guardian of a Grand View Third, Fourth, or Fifth Grade Student,

Along with thousands of schools across California, Grand View is participating in a field test of a new assessment system designed to support and inform teaching and learning in the classroom and across our school. Known as the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress – or CAASPP – these computer-based tests replace the STAR program.

These online assessments are aligned to the Common Core State Standards for English and math. These standards describe the knowledge and skills our students need to be well prepared for college and careers.

Part of the goal of the field test this year is to determine how well individual questions allow students to demonstrate what they know and still need to learn. We are also taking this opportunity to see how well our technical capabilities meet the demands of computer-based assessments and to learn what resources our teachers and school may yet need.

Finally and importantly, this year also gives your student an opportunity to try out the new system without pressure, as we will not be receiving score reports this year. Instead, we will use what we learn from this field test to help ensure a successful full launch of the system in the 2014-2015 school year.

Our next step is to administer the field test to students in grades 3-5 during the window of April 28-June 6, 2014. If you want to see the types of questions students will be asked or how the test will be presented, there is a practice test available online at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/practicetest.asp>. Fifth grade students will take one additional assessment in science during that same window that will be in a paper and pencil format.

If you would like more information, please visit the California Department of Education Smarter Balanced Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/smarterfieldtest.asp>. I also highly recommend the California PTA's Parent Guides to the Common Core available at: <http://www.capta.org/sections/programs/e-standards.cfm>.

If you have any questions regarding your child's participation in the field test or fifth grade science test, please contact me at rsteinberg@mbusd.org

Sincerely,

Rhonda Steinberg
Principal