



WALNUT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Robert Chang, Principal



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Dear Parent/Guardian:

California's academic standards are designed so students graduate college and career ready. One way we measure student progress is through the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). Students across California in grades 3–8 and 11 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. Given online, the tests are computer-adaptive, allowing more a precise measurement of individual skills.

This year, students will take the CAASPP tests from **(Science Pilot March 27-April 3 and ELA/Math April 17-May 12)**

This spring, students will take the following tests:

- Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for ELA and mathematics (3rd through 8th grades)
- The California Science Test—Pilot Test (5th and 8th grade only)

Parents can utilize 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>. Students and parents can experience the types of questions that are on the tests.

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. (Exceptions: Only two years of data will be reported for students in grade 4, and only one year of data will be reported for students in grade 3.)

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.

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 5th and 8th graders will participate in the pilot of test items for this future assessment. While this pilot **will not** provide scores for your 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 your child's school. [Education Code 60615.] Your request will be granted. Please let the school know as soon as possible, so alternative arrangements can be made for your child.

If you have any questions regarding CAASPP, please contact **Jill Igarashi-Takayama** at **909-594-1820** or **jigarashi-takayama@wvusd.k12.ca.us**

If you would like more information on CAASPP, please visit the Parent/Student tab of the California Department of Education (CDE) Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/>.

Robert Chang
Principal