

Alisal Elementary School  
1454 Santa Rita Rd.  
Pleasanton CA 94551

March 25, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Each spring, students in grades three through eight and high school participate in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP).

**This year, your child will take the following test(s), depending on his or her grade level:**

- Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment in English language arts/literacy (grades three through eight and grade eleven)
- Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment in mathematics (grades three through eight and grade eleven)
- Students who have the most cognitive disabilities, as designated in their active individualized education program (IEP) are eligible to take the California Alternative Assessments (CAAs) for English language arts and Mathematics.

The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments are online tests that measure what your child knows and is able to do. The tests include many different types of questions that allow students to interact with the test questions. Results help identify gaps in knowledge or skills early on so your child can get the support he or she needs to be successful in school.

California is in the process of implementing the California Next Generation Science Standards. As part of that implementation, students in grades five, eight and high school will try out a new test called the California Science Test, or CAST.

To learn more about either the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments or the CAST, go to the California Department of Education Parent Guides to Understanding Web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/parentguidetounderstand.asp>. You can look at sample test questions on the practice tests, which can be found on the CAASPP Web Portal at <http://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html>.

**How can I help my child get ready for the CAASPP?**

You are an important part of your child's education. Some things you can do to help your child are:

- Talk about the test with your child. Make sure they are not scared or anxious.
- Tell your child that you and his or her teacher have high expectations and that you are both there to help, every step of the way.
- Take a practice test with your child.
- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast before testing.

To learn more about the CAAs, please read the *Parent Guide to Understanding the CAAs* which can be found on the California Department of Education (CDE) Parent Guide to Understanding the CAAs Web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/caa-pgtu.pdf>.

The CAA practice tests, which can be found on the CAASPP Web site at <http://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html>, are another good resource. Practice tests are a good way to preview the test and view sample questions. Reference guides are available to help you find and log on to the practice tests. The “Reference Guide for the CAAs” can be found on the CDE’s Quick Reference Guides Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caasppqrg.asp>.

Students at Alisal will be taking CAASPP sometime between April 22-May 31st. For more information on which specific days your child will be testing, please contact their teacher. If you have any additional questions, please contact Lisa Padway (925) 426-4200..

Sincerely,

Lisa Padway, Vice Principal