



La Costa Canyon High School

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Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments California Science Test

Dear Parents/Guardians of Grade 10 Students:

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. Because CAASPP tests are given statewide, they provide an opportunity to measure the skills of all students against the same academic standards.

This year, your child will take the following tests:

- **The California Science Test—Pilot Test**

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 your child will participate in the tryout of test items for this future assessment. While this tryout 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>.

Next Year's Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments

Next year, as a grade eleven student, your child will be taking part in the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for English language arts/literacy and mathematics. These 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.

To learn more about these tests, please visit CDE's Test Score Guide Web site at www.testscoreguide.org/ca, which provides informative guides and test score descriptions as well as sample test items at different levels of difficulty.

Another great resource is 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>. Here, parents can experience the kinds of questions that students will encounter on the tests.

If you have any questions regarding your child's participation in statewide assessments, please contact Assistant Principal, **Reno Medina** at reno.medina@sduhsd.net .

Bryan Marcus
Principal