



TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

CAASPP System Assessments 2022-23

Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments and California Science Test Parent and Guardian Notification Letter

March 2023

Dear 11th and 12th grade Families:

Every year, California students take several statewide tests that measure progress towards California's academic standards. When combined with other measures such as grades, class work, and teacher observations, these tests provide a more complete picture of student learning. This spring year our students will participate in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) assessments. It is important that families partner with Tamalpais Union High School district to ensure students participate in these assessments.

The CAASPP assessments 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 the assessments are online, the tests are computer-adaptive, allowing more precise measurement of individual skills.

The CAASPP test is one of six state measures that provide information on how our schools are serving our students and the results are indicated on the California Dashboard. The data gathered from the CAASPP assessments help teachers understand their impact on student learning and provide data points that inform practices. In addition, this data informs us how our schools in TUHSD compare to schools with similar profiles. 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, and participation is required:

Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment (ELA)	Smarter Balanced Assessment (Mathematics)	California Science Test CAST
All 11th graders	All 11th graders	All 11th and 12th graders

Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAC) - Juniors in ELA and Math

The Smarter Balanced ELA and mathematics tests reflect California's rigorous academic standards, the Common Core, 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 <https://ca.startingsmarter.org/>, which provides informative guides and test score descriptions as well as sample test items at different levels of difficulty.

Another great resource are the Practice and Training Tests on the CDE's Smarter Balanced Practice and Training Tests 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.

California Science Test -Juniors and Seniors

California's state standards for science, the Next Generation Science Standards, call for students to think and work like scientists and engineers—asking questions and learning through hands-on investigation and discovery. California's science assessment emphasizes scientific thinking and reasoning. For additional information about the 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>.

Federal regulations require schools to report 95% participation rates on all state assessments, so your support in encouraging all students to attend, and put forth best effort is much appreciated.

For more specifics on about Tamalpais High School's testing schedule, please review <[this link](#)> or the attached. Additionally, please see this [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#). If you have any additional questions regarding your child's participation in statewide assessments, please contact Ms. Ranzy, Assistant Principal at tranzy@tamdistrict.org or 415-380-3528.

Sincerely,

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