

Save the Dates!
11th and 12th Grade State Assessments

11 Graders Only: CAASPP (California Assessment of Student Performance), March 21-24

12th Graders: CAST Field Test (California Science Test Pilot with 12th Graders), May 21

There are no state tests for 9th or 10th graders this year.

Questions (after reading this communication)? Email assistant principal in charge of testing, Wendy Stratton at wstratton@tamdistrict.org.

The Good News!

Thanks to last year's junior class and the commitment of Tam's teachers, Tam High's participation rate (99%) exceeded those of the other two large high schools in the district! Additionally, student performance on the test increased in both Math, and in English Language Arts. As our school ratings are based on improvement, from year to year, we are advocating for all students to participate and perform to their best ability. Please support your student in doing their best on these tests. We are thankful to the PTSA for playing a huge role in supporting improved participation and performance on CAASP (aka Smarter Balanced Tests). Additionally, the PTSA allocates funds to provide snacks during each day of testing.

Why are these tests important?

As you may be aware, California recently implemented a new way to display school performance data. As of April, 2017, each school in the state has it's own "**Dashboard**" which includes visual displays, graphs, and pie charts reflecting how well the school, and like schools are meeting standards in several categories. The academic category uses CAASPP data to display academic performance. The dashboard is highly accessible and visible to colleges, the community, and the public. For more information go to the following link: <http://www.sfgate.com/education/article/How-is-your-school-doing-California-School-11001927.php>

CAASPP testing is the only school, district, and statewide assessment that effectively establishes whether or not our school is succeeding in the delivery of common core standards, and whether or not our students (in all sub-groups) are being appropriately served.

Advanced Placement Testing (May 7-18): If your student will be taking AP tests, please see links below.

Test	Save the Dates	Do we need to sign up?	Is there a cost?	Why is this test important?	How do we prepare?	Who qualifies for accommodations?
Smarter Balanced Testing: CAASPP ELA/Math (Mandatory) 11th Graders http://www.caaspp.org/faqs/all-faqs.html	March 21-24	NO	NO	Our school's results are posted on the California Dashboard, which informs our school, colleges, and the broader community of the quality, and growth of our school in comparison to all other California public high schools. Links: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQmQ4B1eqFk https://www.caschooldashboard.org/#/Home	Critically engage in all classes and develop Common Core associated Skills.	Students are pre-identified for testing accommodations through special education and English Learner status.
CAST Science (Mandatory) 12th Graders	May 21	NO	NO	Same as above http://www.caaspp.org/faqs/all-faqs.html	Same as above, but science specific	Students are identified for testing support through special education and English Learner status.
Advanced Placement Testing (Optional)	May 7-18 For exam dates visit: www.tamdis.trict.org/page/7680	Registration is from 1/22 through 3/02/18. Registration forms will be sent in January.	Each exam is \$100.00 (Fee reduction waiver applications due by 3/02/18)	AP exams provide students the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of content covered in AP classes. Depending on results, and individual college policies, college credit may be earned.	Participation in an AP class prepares students for the test.	Students who are pre-approved by College Board qualify. Confirm eligibility with your counselor.