



Drake Direct

A Newsletter for the
Drake Community

Fall 2016



California Assessment of Student Proficiency- The Results

Drake does well in English and continues to need growth in math
By Tara Taupier, Assistant Superintendent and Liz Seabury, Principal

The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) is the umbrella assessment system used by the state to measure student progress and proficiency on common core state standards. This test includes the Smarter Balanced assessments in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. These tests are computer-based and adaptive tests. Spring 2016 was the second official administration of the new Smarter Balanced Assessments in ELA and math. The purpose of these tests are to assess student progress and proficiency on the California Common Core Standards. This test is administered to all 11th grade students in April. For students who score “standard met” or “standard exceeded” on this tests means that they conditionally ready to enter a first year college level course. These tests and subsequent scores are significant for us in that they are one measure of success, student achievement and college and career readiness. They provide us insight that can inform our pedagogical practices as they align to California Common Core State Standards and they provide benchmarks against which we can measure our growth as a district in these particular skill and content areas.

The CAASPP is a new assessment system and we are still learning about the impact on school monitoring or assistants programs. It is important to use this as a benchmark by which we can measure growth. Understanding our scores is helpful for the Drake community to see overall college readiness and our areas of on-going academic growth:

2016 Scores	% Met or Exceeded Standard ELA/Literacy	% Met or Exceeded Standard Math
California	59	33
Marin	67	47
TUHSD	72	56
Drake HS	80	56
Redwood HS	77	67
San Andreas HS	7	8
Tam HS	67	49
Tamiscal HS	71	45

California Assessment of Student Proficiency - continued

This is the second year for the SBAC assessments. Looking over a two-year trend is helpful to look for both areas of strength and areas of growth and to better understand the test across multiple schools.

Scores for 11th grade students	Met/ Ex ELA 2015	Met/ Ex ELA 2016	Met/ Ex math 2015	Met/ Ex math 2016
California	56%	59%	29%	33%
Marin	70%	67%	48%	47%
TUHSD	79%	72%	61%	56%
Drake HS	79%	80%	65%	56%
Redwood	84%	77%	70%	67%
San Andreas	18%	7%	16%	7%
Tam HS	72%	67%	52%	49%
Tamiscal	100%	71%	63%	45%

It is also helpful for us, as a district, to look towards similar districts to understand our performance and learn from others if we determine growth is necessary.

District	ELA % Met/Exceeded	Math % Met/Exceeded
TUHSD	72	56
Acalanes	83	69
Los Gatos-Saratoga	86	80
Mountain View-Los Altos	69	64
Palo Alto	92	89
Novato	75	46

California Assessment of Student Proficiency... Next Steps



After reviewing this and more extensive data. (please see September 6, 2016 Board Report), the district has specific next steps we will be addressing at the site:

- ▶ Continue to review our curriculum and instruction for alignment to California adopted Common Core State Standards
- ▶ Capture what is working-mine for successes
- ▶ Work with instructional coaches to continue to improve our capacity to serve the needs of diverse learners
- ▶ Work with our teachers and administration to hone our district and site action plans to address specific areas of achievement
- ▶ Drill down in the data to uncover what specific skill areas require closer attention
- ▶ Continue to set high expectations for all of our learners and ensure we are providing support in reaching the learning goals
- ▶ Ensure we are seeing the whole student- we need to know our students in order to fully serve them
- ▶ Ensure we are providing safe, inclusive and welcoming learning spaces for our students and staff
- ▶ Work with sites to improve participation rates on the SBAC assessments

DRAKE HIGH CALENDAR FOR FALL 2016

Date	Event	Notes
9/8 or 9/9/16	DRAKE 101:New Parent Information	9-8@ 6:30 pm Student Center 9-9@8:15 am Student Center
9/9/16	Club Faire: For students	During break, tutorial and lunch
9/15/16	Senior Night	5:30pm in the Student Center
9/19/16	Professional Development Day	No school for students
9/20-9/24/16	HOMECOMING!!	See information on page 7
9/29/16	Drake Talks: A Community Conversation	6:30pm in the Main Office
9/30/16	Make-Up Picture Day	All Day- See Tanya for details
10/4/16	Staying Connected to your Teen	Parent Ed Event 7pm @ COM
10/6/16	College Information Night	5:30pm in Student Center
10/12/16	Professional Development Day	No school for students

Pirate news...

DRAKE TALKS!

Join us throughout the school year at our Drake Talks! These forums are designed for our community to come and share their thoughts on a series of topics related to the Drake experience. Our first Drake Talks will be an open forum to gather feedback on all things Drake.

Thursday September 29th
6:30 pm in the main office

Be the Influence.....MARIN!

Join *Be the Influence* and become a part of the Marin community who works collaboratively to ensure a safe teen environment. Drake's Btl program has joined forces with a larger Marin movement to connect parents together to create a network. Please consider joining today. Information can be found at betheinfluencemarin.com

New Faces at Drake!

We have many new staff members at Drake....here is a quick snapshot of new faces you may see on campus- Welcome to Drake!

- ▶ Larry Pratt- Assistant Principal
- ▶ Eugenia Ives- English and ELD Teacher
- ▶ Khoa Dao- MathTeacher
- ▶ David Wronski- Math Teacher
- ▶ Millie Milstead- Chemistry Teacher
- ▶ Alan Nealley- TLC Integrated Science Teacher
- ▶ Byron Easton- Physiology Teacher
- ▶ Terry Egan- Spanish Teacher
- ▶ Valerie Wynn- Social Studies Teacher
- ▶ Diane Peterson- PE and Leadership Teacher
- ▶ Amy Louton- Special Education Teacher
- ▶ Molly Baker- Counselor
- ▶ Katrina Southard- Wellness Coordinator

Drake Student Activities

Clubs @ DHS

Involvement in clubs can provide students with a connection to school that provides relationships, purpose and sometimes community service. Our Club Faire is Friday September 9th. Encourage your student to sign up and get involved!

Some of our Drake Clubs for 2016-17:

- Chess Club
- Darja Club (Human Rights)
- PALS (Partnerships with DHS students)
- Body Positive
- GSA (Gay/Straight Alliance)
- Game Club
- Green Routes
- Girl-Up
- GSE
- Personal Finance
- Robotics
- Youth and Government

Clubs that look like Athletic/Academic Teams:

- Mountain Biking
- Sailing
- Mock Trial
- Academic Decathlon
- Model UN

Drake Homecoming September 20-24, 2016

Theme:

- ▶ Seniors: Search Lights (Police, etc.)
- ▶ Juniors: Night Light (City life)
- ▶ Sophomores: Sun Light (hippie)
- ▶ Frosh: Stadium Lights (sports)

Events:

- ▶ **Rally-** Friday during the school day for our students.
SATURDAY 9-14-16
- ▶ **Parade-** Saturday 10:00 a.m. Floats and Homecoming Court through San Anselmo and Fairfax
- ▶ **Festival-** 11:00 am-2:00a.m. Join us for a festival on campus from the Drake Fund!
- ▶ **Game-** 2:00 p.m. against Novato High
Crowning of the Homecoming Court at half-time
- ▶ **Dance-** 8:00p.m.-11:00p.m. at the Drake Gym. Dress in theme.

Welcome to the Drake Community

Larry Pratt, Assistant Principal

As we begin the school year, we would like to provide a few reminders to help students have a successful and rewarding year at Drake High School. Both Mr. Stuart and I are visiting all classes to discuss this with all our students this month. This year we will focus on building a sense of community, developing agency, and learning.

In building community, we strive to be inclusive, empathetic of others, and respectful of the learning institution. Students should be mindful of their conduct during school dances, athletic events, and all school functions to ensure that they are appropriately representing themselves and the Drake community.

In developing agency, we seek to support students in taking an active role in their growth, and their future. To this end, we are asking that all students take time to read and become familiar with the parent/student handbook so that they know their rights and are aware of student expectations. Our handbook can be found under "Our School" on our website. Students are expected to display personal responsibility in abiding by the dress code and support each other in making positive decisions regarding drugs and alcohol. All students should seek to make well informed decisions in all of their actions. Please seek out and learn about the many resources we have on campus to support students.

Finally, we seek to raise our level of learning as an institution. We ask that students and parents be particularly mindful of the amount of time we spend out of class. As we recognize attendance to be an important factor in a student's success, it is expected as well as required that students attend every class on time. During our open campus lunch, students are expected to practice responsible behavior by walking and driving safely to their destination and returning to their next period on time. Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds at any other times without permission. In addition, we want to display respect for the institution of learning by practicing academic honesty and displaying digital citizenship. Students should remember to properly cite their work and learn the electronic device policy of each teacher.

We want every student to feel as though they are a valued member of our community, display agency in accelerating their growth, and continue to develop a respect and love of learning. We hope that these guidelines will help your students to have a positive more fulfilling experience at Drake. Have a great year.

Attendance Matters!

Wes Cedros, Senior Director of Student Services TUHSD

Your student's success in high school and their ability to transition successfully into their chosen pursuits after high school are responsibilities we take very seriously. In an effort to help each student maximize their success in school, I want to take a moment to emphasize the significance of regular attendance.

Did you know?

- ▶ By 9th grade, strong attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- ▶ There is a statistically significant relationship between "modest" to "high" levels of school absence and academic achievement even when controlling for gender, ethnicity, family income and English language learner status.
- ▶ Attendance during high school has even been shown to have an effect on a student's success after high school. Studies show that among students who graduate from high school, those who missed 10 or more days of school during their tenth grade year were 25% less likely to enroll in post-secondary education, compared to students with better attendance, even when researchers controlled for ethnicity and family income.

The point is that regular school attendance is very important and we expect all students to be in school every day. Poor attendance is not just about unexcused absences or students willfully not attending class. Schoolwide, our rates of excused absences are quite high and it's important to understand that excused absences and tardies affect performance for the individual student, and may have broader negative implications on instruction for the whole class.

Here's how you can help:

- ▶ Simply talk to your student about the value of regular attendance at school.
- ▶ Track your student's attendance on **eSchool**. If you need help setting up your account, please email Brittany Mullery at bmullery@tamdistrict.org
- ▶ Schedule family trips at times that do not conflict with class. Vacations, even one day to extend a weekend, can set a student behind academically and count as unexcused absences.
- ▶ Absences can be a sign that a student is struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other potentially serious difficulty. Please reach out to our Counselors, Wellness staff and administrators for assistance. We're here to help.
- ▶ If there is a need for an extended absence from school, please contact your student's Counselor to develop a plan to keep up with school work.
- ▶ If you are facing challenges related to access to health care, unstable housing, poor transportation or lack of food, please reach out to your student's Counselor, Wellness staff or administrator. We will do everything we can to help you and maintain confidentiality.

My hope is to see every student thrive and grow into the best possible student they can become. Good attendance is one of the skills that will help each student achieve this goal.

Drake Wellness Update

By Jessica Colvin, Wellness Director TUHSD

The Drake Wellness Center is set to open in January 2017! The Wellness Center at Drake will offer prevention and education, youth engagement opportunities, counseling support and coordinated services for students focusing on health, mental health, substance use/abuse and sexual health.

We are thrilled to have just hired our new Wellness Coordinator, Katrina Southard, who will be starting at Drake in September. We are also in the process of creating a Drake Wellness Youth Advisory where students at Drake will come together monthly to bring youth voice and input to Wellness! Although our physical space will not open until later this year, many of our new support services will start this fall including new partnerships at Drake with Dominican University Nursing School, Family Works, Huckleberry Youth Programs, YouthElevate, The Spahr Center and Marin Community Clinic. Services from these organizations include nursing and health services, individual and group counseling, substance use/abuse counseling, social-emotional learning including yoga and mindfulness, counseling and advocacy for LGBTQ Youth and reproductive health services and education on site.

These services will compliment and expand existing support services offered at Drake, including support from School Counselors and our ongoing partnership with BACR who also provides mental health counseling.

If you would like support for the physical or emotional health needs of your teen, please contact their School Counselor or for questions about the Wellness Center, contact Jessica Colvin, Wellness Director at 415-945-1046. For more information check us out at www.tamdistrict.org/wellness.



Katrina Southard, DHS Wellness Coordinator and Jessica Colvin, TUHSD Wellness Director

Tutorial- A time to learn

Chad Stuart, Assistant Principal



Tutorial - Plan for Academic Success

We have a total of 100 minutes of time built into our schedule each week for students to utilize in order to be successful in all classes. We call this time Tutorial. Our expectation for tutorial is student learning. We recognize that students have different needs for their learning and Drake Tutorial has a tiered approach to providing student the environments they need to support their academics. Students are expected to plan their tutorial time and sign-up to access Independent or Work Centers.

There are three types of spaces students can sign up for:

Independent Work Centers: These are quiet spaces for students to have the time and space to work independently in a location that needs no teacher oversight. There will also be spaces where students can work in their project groups.

Work Centers: These are spaces that students can get support from their peers or from teachers in the room.

Workshops: These are spots where students in need of extra support can get it in a workshop with a teacher. They may include individual intervention for the student or re-teaching in some way. These could be made mandatory for some students in need of this support.

A student planning their own success is a team effort. We ask that parents take as active a role as possible with students' academic tutorial plans. Please ask questions of your students such as:

- ▶ What do you do during the tutorial period?
- ▶ Do you focus on academic work or do you socialize more often?
- ▶ Do you attend tutorials with the teachers in the classes you need the most support?
- ▶ Do you reach out to your peers for help?
- ▶ Are you planning your weeks based on your biggest academic needs?