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Dear Parent/Guardian:

The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, or CAASPP, which has replaced the Standardized Testing and Reporting, or STAR Program, is the new state academic testing program. CAASPP is a system intended to provide information that can be used to monitor student progress and ensure that all students leave high school ready for college and career. This year, CAASPP includes computer adaptive tests in English–language arts and mathematics as well as paper-based tests for science.

Last year, most students participated in a computer-based field test. This practice run of the test, though no scores were provided, allowed students to experience computer-based testing and new types of questions. In addition, the field test also helped evaluate how well districts technology systems could meet the demands of computer-based tests, and determine what resources teachers and schools would need to better prepare students for future assessments.

Lessons learned from last year's field test will help ensure a successful, full launch of the CAASPP system this school year. In moving forward, students will take the test in grades 3-5 from mid-April through the beginning of June. To learn about the types of questions on the computer-based test, you and your child can view the practice test online at the California Department of Education (CDE) Smarter Balanced Practice Test Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/practicetest.asp>.

Following the spring 2015 testing, students will receive individual score reports. Student score reports will be sent home to parents and will include an overall score, a description of the student's achievement level for English–language arts and mathematics, and other information. It is important to note that these scores cannot be compared to scores that your child previously received on the STAR Program tests because this test is based on the new Common Core State Standards, involves different types of test questions, and will not be reported using the STAR Program reporting categories.

If you would like more information, please visit the Parent/Student tab of the CDE CAASPP Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/>. If you have any questions regarding your child's participation, please contact me.  
Sincerely,

Pat Magda, Principal