

March 9, 2020

Dear Westlake Families:

Each year, students in grades three through eight and high school participate in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP).

This year, your child will take the following test(s) between April 27th - May 29th, 2020, depending on his or her grade level:

- Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for English language arts/literacy and mathematics in grades three through eight and grade eleven
- California Science Test (CAST) in grades five and eight and once in high school

The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments and the CAST are online tests that measure what your student knows and is able to do. The tests include many different types of questions that allow students to interact with the test questions. Results help identify gaps in knowledge or skills early on so your child can get the support needed to be successful in school.

You are an important part of your child's education. To help your child get ready for the test you can:

- Talk about the test with your child. Make sure they are not scared or anxious.
- Tell your child that you and their teacher have high expectations and are both there to help, every step of the way.
- Take a practice test with your child.
- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast before testing.

To learn more about the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments or the CAST, go to the California Department of Education Parent Guides to Understanding Web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/parentguidetounderstand.asp>.

You also can look at sample test questions on the practice tests, which can be found on the CAASPP Web Portal at <http://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html>.

Lastly, Westlake Charter School would like to inform you that pursuant to California Education Code Section 60615, parents/guardians may annually submit to the school a written request to excuse their child from any or all of the CAASPP assessments. If a parent or guardian submits an exemption request after testing has begun, any test(s) completed before the request is submitted will be scored and the results reported to the parent or guardian and will be included in the student's records. If you wish to opt your student out of the CAASPP assessments, please follow the process listed below and complete on or before **April 24th, 2020**.

- Write a letter addressed to your student's principal stating that you would like to opt your student out of CAASPP testing for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Submit the letter to your student's principal.

If you have questions, please contact Jenifer Callau at 916-567-5760 or jcallau@westlakecharter.com.

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