

March 24, 2023

Dear Westlake Families,

Every year, California students take several statewide tests. When combined with other measures such as grades, class work, and teacher observations, these tests give families and teachers a more complete picture of their child's learning. You can use the results to identify where your child is doing well and where they might need more support.

**This year, your child will take the following test(s) between April 24th - May 31st, 2023, 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

You are an important part of your child's education. To ensure your child feels comfortable taking these tests, you can:

- Explain to your child that these tests are used as tools to help them learn, and they should not be anxious or scared.
- Remind your child that you and their teacher want them to try their best and are there to help every step of the way.
- Explore the practice tests with your child at [caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html](https://caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html) so they can become familiar with the platform and setup of the tests.
- Have your child get a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast before testing.

You will receive your child's results at or before the beginning of the next school year. The results will identify where your child is doing well or needs more help, so you can better support their learning at home, and teachers can better support their learning in the classroom.

To learn more about these tests, visit the Starting Smarter web page at [ca.startingsmarter.org/](https://ca.startingsmarter.org/), or review the Parent Guides to Understanding at [cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/parentguidetounderstand.asp](https://cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/parentguidetounderstand.asp).

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 21st, 2023**.

- Write a letter addressed to your student's principal stating that you would like to opt your student out of CAASPP testing for the 2022-2023 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](mailto:jcallau@westlakecharter.com)

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