



Hercules Titans

*Diverse 21st Century scholars and leaders
with integrity & academic excellence*

March 3rd, 2015

Dear Parents and Guardians:

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 a work 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. The field test was a “practice run through” of the test which was not scored. However, it allowed students to experience computer based testing as well as answer new types of questions. In addition, the field test also helped our school district evaluate how well the school’s technology systems could meet the demands of computer based tests, as well as determine what resources teachers and schools would need to better prepare students for future assessments.

In moving forward, all 11th grade students will take the smarter balanced tests from April 13 – May 1st, 2015. 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: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/practicetest.asp>. Each Practice Test has about 30 questions, as well as an answer key.

Following our 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 along with other information. It is important to note here: these scores cannot be compared to scores that your child previously received on the CST’s, as the CAASPP test is based on the new Common Core State Standards, involving different types of test questions—not included in past STAR testing. For more information regarding the CAASPP test, please visit the following website <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/parents-students/>

We encourage you to explore the Practice Test with your child and discuss the test with your child. Before closing, I want to inform you that your child will also be able to access the Practice Test on our school computers.

Sincerely,

Hercules High School, Principal

Academic Workplace- It’s all about Excellence
◆Effectively Engaged Communicators ◆Critical Thinkers ◆Responsible Citizens ◆