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West Covina Unified School District

March 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) is the state academic testing program. CAASPP is a system intended to provide information that can be used to monitor student progress on an annual basis and ensure that all students leave high school ready for college and career. CAASPP assessments include computer adaptive tests in English-language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics for students in grades 3 – 8 and 11 and paper-based tests in science for students in grades 5, 8 and 10.

This year, students will take the CAASPP tests from April 11 to May 13. 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 www.caaspp.org. Our students have already been practicing the test by using the CAASPP Interim assessments in their English and math classrooms.

Following spring 2016 CAASPP testing, individual student score reports displaying CAASPP results from 2015 and 2016 will be sent home to parents. Student score reports will include an overall score and a description of the student's achievement level for ELA and mathematics. The Early Assessment Program (EAP) results will be included on the score reports for students in grade 11. These results provide an early indication of readiness for college-level coursework, and may prevent the need to enroll in remedial coursework as a college student – saving your family a lot of time and money.

With CAASPP, the purpose of statewide annual assessments shifted from producing annual accountability reports to assisting teachers, administrators, and pupils and their parents to improve teaching and learning throughout the school year. [Education Code 60602. (a)] Results from the CAASPP assessments will be used, along with other available data, to determine the impact of selected curriculum/programs, and to make other instructional plans.

As the parent or guardian, you have the option of excusing your child from any part of the CAASPP. If you would like to excuse your child from the test, you must submit your request in writing to the school district. [Education Code 60615.] Please let the school know as soon as possible so we can make alternative arrangements for your student. Keep in mind, Grade 11 students who do not take the CAASPP test will not receive an EAP college readiness status.

If you have any questions regarding CAASPP, please contact your school.

If you would like more information on CAASPP, please visit the Parent/Student tab of the California Department of Education (CDE) Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/>.

Sincerely,

Gloria Duncan, Ed.D.
Director of Secondary Education and Student Services

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