Dear Parent/Guardian:

California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, or 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. CAASPP includes computer adaptive tests in English–language arts, mathematics and a pilot test for science.

Students will take the ELA and Math tests in grades 3-8, and grade 11, March 20 to May 8, 2017. California Science test pilot grades 5, 8, and a designated grade in high school, March 20 to May 8, 2017. California Alternate Assessment March 20 to May 8, 2017. 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. Here, parents can experience the kinds of questions that students will encounter on the tests.

Following the spring 2017 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. Students will not receive scores for the pilot test; however, student participation data will be collected and reported for accountability.

The Smarter Balanced ELA and mathematics tests reflect California’s rigorous academic standards and allow students to demonstrate analytical writing and critical thinking skills as well as their knowledge of facts. In 2017, parents will be able to compare results across three years (2014–15, 2015–16, and 2016–17) to determine their child’s progress in meeting the standards. (Exceptions: Only two years of data will be reported for students in grade 4, and only one year of data will be reported for students in grades three.)

To learn more about these tests, please visit CDE’s Test Score Guide Web site at http://www.testscoreguide.org/ca, which provides informative guides and test score descriptions as well as sample test items at different levels of difficulty.

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/. You have the right to opt your student out of a California Assessment. If you have any questions regarding your child’s participation, please contact Dawn Carl, 530-745-1323 or dcarl@placercoe.k12.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Susan Connolly
Director, Student Services