Dear Parent/Guardian:

The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) has replaced the state’s previous Standardized Testing and Reporting, or STAR Program you and your child may have been accustomed to. This new state testing program is intended to provide information that can be used to monitor student progress and ensure that all students graduate high school college-and-career-ready. The CAASPP exam covers computer adaptive tests in English/Language Arts, mathematics, and a traditional paper-based tests for science evaluation.

Last year, most students participated in a computer-based field evaluation; however, the practice test was not used to provide scores. The exam allowed students the opportunity to experience computer-based testing and new types of questions. Additionally, the field test helped evaluate the effectiveness of district technology systems in meeting the demands of computer-based tests.

The district strongly feels that lessons learned from last year’s field test will help ensure a successful full-launch of the CAASPP system this year. Students in 11th grade will take the test in their English class over a two week window during April or May. To view testing information, visit the state’s Smarter Balanced Practice Test web page at: http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/practicetest.asp. Students in 10th grade will test April 21st-22nd.

At the conclusion of this year’s testing period, individual score reports will be sent home to parents. This will include an overall score, a description of the student’s achievement level for English/Language Arts, mathematics and other information. Please be aware that the CAASP scores cannot be compared to scores your child received on the previous STAR Program tests. The new exam is based on the state’s new Common Core State Standards and involves different types of test questions.

We hope you will take advantage of the valuable information the CAASPP testing will provide regarding your child’s academic achievement as it relates to Common Core State Standards. For more information, please visit the Parent/Student tab of the CDE CAASPP Web page at: http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/.

If you have any questions regarding your child’s participation please contact Kevin Thompson at (760) 901-8016.

Sincerely,

Alex Bennett
Principal