



GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

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April 7, 2022

Dear Parent or Guardian:

I am writing to inform you that the Connecticut state-wide tests will be administered to students in Grades 3-8, and in Grade 11 in May and June. Connecticut has adopted challenging academic standards, including the Connecticut Core Standards in mathematics and English Language Arts, as well as the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Groton teachers and administrators are committed to working together to support students with excellent instruction and resources to meet these academic expectations.

This is one way that educators in Connecticut can measure student performance, determine strengths and challenges, and inform instruction. State summative assessments are like academic checkups. They help teachers and parents see students' academic growth from year to year, in a typical year. The results can reveal areas where students excel and where they need support. They also indicate areas where we can improve curriculum and instruction. The state requires assessments in the subject areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics using the Smarter Balanced Assessment at the elementary and middle school levels (grades 3-8) and in Grade 11 using the SAT which can also be used as a college entrance exam. The state also requires assessments in science in Grades 5, 8 and 11, using the NGSS standards.

The Smarter Balanced and NGSS Assessments are both administered on computers. Computer testing enables assessment of more complex skills efficiently. The assessments are designed to measure skills in reading comprehension, writing, mathematics, and real-world science using questions that require students to demonstrate that they truly understand the content. Additional supports are available for students with special needs, as determined by an individualized education program (IEP) or 504 Plan.

Please refer to your child's school website to view the exact testing dates/times or contact the building administration if you have any questions.

To find resources specifically for parents and guardians, including ways to help your child with the CT Core Standards at home, please visit www.ctcorestandards.org or <https://www.nextgenscience.org/parentguides>.

As always, we ask for your assistance as we encourage our students to do their absolute best. It is important that they come to school well rested and nourished in order to perform optimally.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your student's building administration. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Philip Piazza
Assistant Superintendent
Groton Public Schools