

# Teach, Learn, Every Day, No Excuses



Oakdale Joint Unified School District

168 South Third Avenue, Oakdale, California 95361

(209) 848-4884 • Fax (209) 847-0155

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s):

March 5, 2024

Greetings! You are receiving this letter because our records indicate that you have a student currently in grades 3-8 or in 11th grade. Some 10th and 12th graders may also take the CA State Science Test (CAST).

This year, your child will take the following test(s):

- **Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for Math and English Language Arts/Literacy (grades 3-8 and 11)**
- **California Science Test (CAST) (grades 5, 8, 10, and some students in grades 11 and 12)**

The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments and the CAST online tests measure what your student knows and is able to do. Results help identify gaps in knowledge or skills early on so your child can get the support needed to be successful in school. OJUSD appreciates the support you give your child to do their very best effort on these assessments. Testing will take 4-5 hours depending upon the grade of the student, and is done over several days. To help your child get ready to give their very best effort on testing days you can:

- Talk about the test with your child. Make sure they are not scared or anxious. This test does not affect their grade in any subject area, but it does help us to know in what areas we can better educate them.
- Tell your child that you and their teacher/s have high expectations and are there to support them.
- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast before testing.
- This year, the State of California has prohibited bluetooth earbuds/Airpods during testing. We know many students prefer listening to music during the test, but as they are now prohibited, we strongly recommend that students leave these at home on testing days.

The SBAC and CAST will be administered during the window of April 4-April 26. Your school site will communicate the precise days your child will be completing these assessments.

Families who would like to opt their students out of Standardized Testing are reminded that the request must be submitted each year, but there are several benefits of participating, including seeing your child's academic growth over time and helping teachers to see areas of need and strength overall. For high school students, providing important criteria for the California Golden State Seal of Merit, the State Seal of Biliteracy, and the Early Assessment Program (EAP) which allows community colleges and universities an early look at a student's academic preparedness for college. District scores also reflect on our community; a community with good test scores is typically seen as a good place to live.

The State of California makes SBAC and CAST Student Score Reports available digitally. You will have the opportunity to view your child's digital Score Reports during the Online Data Confirmation Window this summer. Any families not accessing the Score Reports digitally will be provided a hard copy.

If you have questions, please contact your school site or the OJUSD District Office at (209) 848-4884.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gilligan Wegener".

Gillian Wegener, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
Oakdale Joint Unified School District