



Tamalpais High School

Established 1908

700 Miller Avenue . Mill Valley . CA . 94941 www.tamhigh.org Phone (415)388-3292 . Fax (415)380-3526

Dr. Kimberly Clissold, Principal Dr. Logan Manning, Assistant Principal Sam Passarow Assistant Principal Andrew Schroeder, Assistant Principal

Dear Tam Community,

I hope this message finds you well. I'm writing to share our upcoming CAASPP testing dates, to provide important context around our CAASPP state test scores from the 2023-2024 school year, and to share how we address state assessment as a school community.

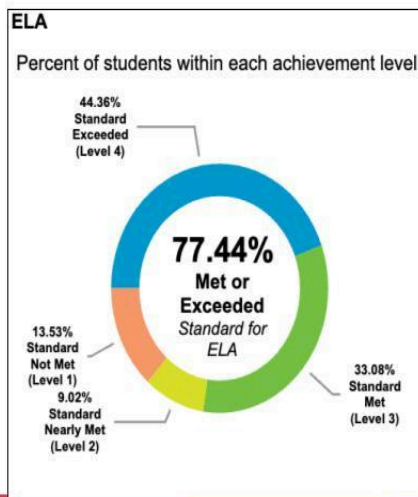
Testing Dates for Spring 2025 at Tam High School:

- Thurs. 27th Math
- Mon. March 31st-Science
- Wed. April 2nd -ELA
- Thurs. April 3rd -Make-Up
- Fri. April 4th-Make-up

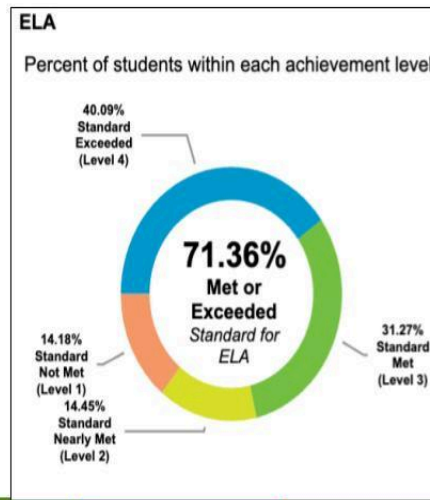
On these dates, students who are not testing will start late so that we can provide a focused test environment. Please see the attached bell schedules for details about the schedule on these days.

State testing, including the CAASPP, has unique implications for our students and community. While I am confident in our students' skills and abilities, last year's scores do not fully reflect their potential. However, these numbers shape how others—state officials, colleges, and families—perceive our school, making it vital to view them with accountability and focus on improvement.

TAM ELA 2023-24



TUHSD ELA 2023-24





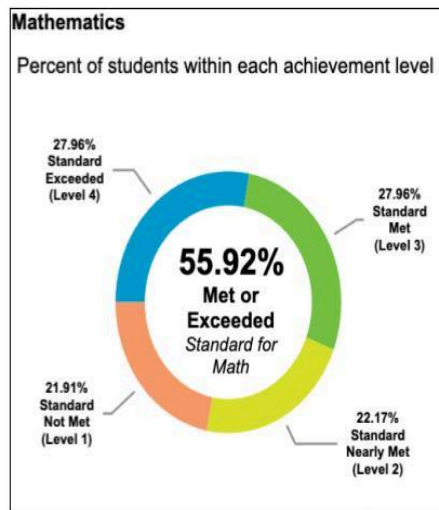
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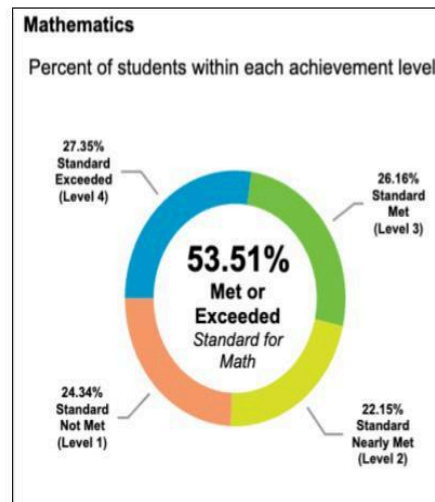
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TAM Math 2023-24



TUHSD Math 2023-24



Historical Context

To fully understand the role of state assessments like CAASPP, it's essential to reflect on how standardized testing has evolved in our education system. The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) era (2001–2015) introduced federal policies that linked school funding, teacher evaluations, and perceived success to test scores. This often resulted in a “teach to the test” culture that placed undue pressure on students, educators, and families, with many feeling defined by a single metric.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which replaced NCLB, marked a turning point. It shifted the focus from punitive measures to promoting deeper learning and critical thinking skills. In California, this shift was mirrored by the introduction of the CAASPP system, designed to assess higher-order thinking and readiness for college and careers. Unlike traditional multiple-choice tests, the CAASPP incorporates tasks that require students to analyze evidence, explain their reasoning, and articulate their ideas in writing. These are precisely the skills colleges look for when evaluating applicants.

This evolution also reflects broader societal changes. In 2013, California's new school funding formula emphasized equity and accountability, requiring annual academic performance and school climate reporting. These reports now influence internal school improvement and external perceptions, such as housing trends, school rankings, and college admissions practices.

While the current approach is far from perfect, it represents progress. Today's assessments aim to evaluate not just rote memorization but critical skills needed for the modern world. Understanding this history reminds us of the need to balance accountability with a holistic view of education.



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Why the CAASPP Matters

The CAASPP provides a benchmark for comparing academic preparedness across schools and districts statewide. It also holds practical value for students, such as waiving placement tests at California community colleges and state universities. Performing well on this test can streamline pathways to higher education by demonstrating readiness for college-level work.

Furthermore, CAASPP scores are part of the broader academic narrative that informs how colleges, particularly selective ones, perceive our school. Alongside other measures—such as AP scores, graduation rates, and extracurricular achievements—the CAASPP reinforces the message that our students are well-prepared for academic success.

CAASPP SBAC ELA and Math Results 2022-23 vs 2023-24				
School	2022-23 ELA % meeting or exceeding the standard	2023-24 ELA % meeting or exceeding the standard	2022-23 Math % meeting or exceeding the standard	2023-24 Math % meeting or exceeding the standard
AWSHS	76.2%	62.6%	52.7%	42.6%
Redwood HS	79.6%	73.8%	64.9%	61.7%
Tam HS	78.4%	77.4%	60.9%	55.9%
San Andreas	7.7%	62.5 %	0%	11.8%
Tamiscal	70%	26.1%	22.7%	13.6%
TUHSD	77.1%	71.6%	58.2%	53.5%
San Rafael	49.4%	60.5%	23.2%	28.6%
Novato	61.9%	53.5%	32%	29.4%
Acalanes	82.5%	82.3%	65.1%	63.2%
State overall HS	47.0 %	55.7%	27.4%	27.9%

Our Next Steps

To address challenges and improve outcomes, we are focusing on:

Reading Proficiency Assessments: Refining instruction using Benchmark Reading Assessment data.

- Staff Data Review: Analyzing CAASPP results in January to identify trends and areas for growth.
- Instructional Alignment: Ensuring consistent, standards-based learning experiences across classrooms.
- Parent & Student Engagement: Start conversations with 11th-grade families about the importance of the March/April CAASPP exams.
- We will share information on how you can view your student’s historical CAASPP data through Parent Vue. Additionally, video explanations of your students’ upcoming assessments will be provided.



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We are committed to fostering a school culture that balances the value of assessments with a broader view of student success. Thank you for your partnership in this effort. Our goal is to have all of our 11th graders complete these assessments and do their best on them. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or feedback.

Warm Regards,

Dr. Clissold

Principal, Tam High School

CAASPP Bell Schedules at Tam High School

Thursday, March 27, 2025	11th Grade	12th Grade	9th & 10th Grade
8:30 - 9:30	CAASPP Math (CAT)	No Classes	No Classes
9:30 - 9:40	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
9:50 - 11:40	CAASPP Math (PT)	No Classes	No Classes
All Students (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th) 40 minutes per class period			
11:40 - 12:20	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
12:30 - 1:10	1st Period	1st Period	1st Period
1:20 - 2:00	2nd Period	2nd Period	2nd Period
2:10 - 2:50	3rd Period	3rd Period	3rd Period
3:00 - 3:40	4 th Period	4 th Period	4 th Period



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Monday, March 31, 2025	11th Grade Science Test	12th Grade Science Test	9th & 10th Grade
8:30 - 10:10	CAST	CAST (If not completed in 2024 in 11th grade)	No Classes
10:10-10:20	Break		
All Students (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th) 30 minutes per class period			
10:20 - 10:50	1st Period	1st Period	1st Period
11:00 - 11:30	2nd Period	2nd Period	2nd Period
11:40 - 12:10	3rd Period	3rd Period	3rd Period
12:10 - 12:45	Lunch		
12:55 - 1:25	4th Period	4th Period	4th Period
1:35 - 2:05	5th Period	5th Period	5th Period
2:15 - 2:45	6th Period	6th Period	6th Period
2:55 - 3:25	7th Period	7th Period	7th Period

Wednesday, April 2, 2025	11th Grade	12th Grade	9th & 10th Grade
8:30 - 9:30	CAASPP ELA (CAT)	No Classes	No Classes
9:30 - 9:40	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
9:50 - 11:30	CAASPP ELA (PT)	No Classes	No Classes
All Students (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th) 40 minutes per class period			
11:30 - 12:10	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
12:20 - 1:00	5th Period	5th Period	5th Period
1:10-1:30	Tutorial	Tutorial	Tutorial
1:40 - 2:20	6th Period	6th Period	6th Period
2:30 - 3:10	7th Period	7th Period	7th Period