

Taylor Carpenter - K12 School Counselor, District Testing Coordinator

Taylor.Carpenter@k12.sd.us

(605) 983-5597 ext. 6



Dear Arlington Families,

From March 24th to May 2nd, students in grades 3-8 and 11 will take the state assessment in (a) English Language Arts and (b) Mathematics. Students in grade 5, 8, and, 11 will also take the state assessment in (c) Science.

The assessments measure student achievement of our state's standards in the areas of English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. In addition, score reports will provide information about student performance in the following areas:

- English: Reading, writing, listening, & research
- Math: Concepts and procedures; problem-solving and modeling/data analysis; & communicating reasoning
- Science: physical science, life science, and earth & space science

The assessments are given through an online computer application and are unique in the way they adapt to a student's responses. This is important as it provides questions appropriate for your child's level of learning. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. These assessments are not timed; however, we provide the following times as estimates of assessment duration: (a) English: 3.5 - 4 hours, (b) Math: 3 - 3.5 hours and (c) Science: 1 - 1.5 hours.

Student grades will not be impacted by their performance on this assessment; however, the assessment does serve as a way for the school to analyze how well we are helping students meet the standards. Shortly after the testing period is complete, you will receive a report showing your child's scores.

There is no need to study in preparation for the assessments. We do, however, ask that parents help students prepare for testing days by ensuring they get plenty of rest on nights before testing and providing a good breakfast the mornings of testing. We want students to try their best, so words of encouragement would be great, too!

It is important for students to come to school on test days. State assessments are required. Therefore, making up a missed assessment leads to reduced instructional time and a loss of important learning opportunities.

Thank you for supporting your child and our school during this assessment period! On the back is a schedule (subject to change) of our Smarter Balanced tests. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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Testing Coordinator

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	ELA	Math	Science
3rd Grade	April 8 - 11	April 15 - 17	N/A
4th Grade	April 8 - 11	April 22 - 24	N/A
5th Grade	April 7 - 11	April 22 - 25	April 14 - 16
6th Grade	April 7 - 11	April 22 - 25	N/A
7th Grade	April 22 - 25	April 15, 22, 24 & 25	N/A
8th Grade	April 14 - 17	April 22 - April 25	March 31 - April 4
11th Grade	April 14 - 17	TBD April	March 31 - April 4