

Standardized State Testing

Each year public schools participate in standardized testing which provides feedback about how students are progressing and performing through the education standards. This data also helps schools monitor program effectiveness. Please take a moment to review the information below about this year's testing.

Who takes standardized tests?

- Our 3rd - 6th graders will participate in the tests.

What tests will be administered?

- All 3rd-6th graders will take the California Assessment for Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) for math and English language arts.
- All 5th graders take the California Science Test (CAST)
 - CAST is in a pilot year so no results will be provided.
- All 5th graders take the Presidential Fitness Test (PFT)

When will the tests be administered?

- CAASPP will be given during the week of May 15th. Your teacher will provide specific days for your child.
 - The test has 4 sections which will be spread across 2 to 3 days.
- CAST was given on April 28th.
- PFT is conducted over several weeks starting in late April through early May.

How are the tests administered?

- The CAASPP and CAST are online tests. Students use their Chromebooks to access the test through a secure browser app. Parents do not need to install anything.
- The PFT is a set of exercise activities that students complete which are observed and evaluated by our PE teacher.

What happens with the results?

- Parents get a summary of performance for their child.
- Schools get the same summary plus data about the entire school.
- Results are provided to schools in the summer and forwarded to parents at the start of the school year.
- Results are analyzed to identify strengths and weaknesses in programs so the school can make necessary adjustments.
- Student specific data is kept private. School data is publicized.

What do I need to do to help my child prepare for the tests?

- No studying is necessary. The entire school year has been designed to meet the standards which the test is designed to assess. Students have been preparing all year.
- Make sure your child has a good night's rest and a healthy breakfast.

- Be sure your child's Chromebook is fully charged for school.
- Send a brain boosting healthy snack. Avoid sugary foods.
- Treat the test like it is just another day. We want them to perform their best but there is no need to apply extra pressure on our scholars. Stress often has a negative effect on test performance.

Where can I get more information about the tests?

- California's Department of Education oversees all standardized testing. Please visit the following link for more information. <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/>

Final thoughts about testing:

Historically our scholars have performed quite well on standardized tests without putting a tremendous focus on testing. Our scores far outperform all state averages. At AEA we believe that our scholars are more than a test score. We value the feedback from these important assessments but we also know that each child is a multifaceted individual. Our goal is to use data from tools like this, combined with in class observation and assessment, to best meet the needs of each student. We are confident that our standards based instruction has prepared them for the tests, but are even more confident that our World Language courses and STEAM/PBL approach are preparing them for lifelong success.