

Dear Parent/Guardians:

Starting in the spring of 2015, all of Washington’s students in grades 3-8 and 11 will take the new Smarter Balanced tests in Math and English Language Arts. The purpose of these tests is to measure whether students are on track to be college or career ready after high school. These new tests are being developed to assess the Common Core State Standards in Math and English Language Arts, which states across the nation adopted, including Washington State back in 2011. To learn more about these standards please visit the Teaching and Learning webpage of our district website.

Woodland Middle and High School has volunteered to participate in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium’s field test(s) in Math and English Language Arts this spring. All students in grades 7th 8th and 11th will be participating in this new assessment. The Smarter Balanced Assessment will take the place of the Measure of Student Progress (MSP) in Reading, Writing, and Math that your student may have taken in previous years for grades 7 and 8. Please note that the 8th grade students will still be taking the

2013-2014 Subject Areas Assessed

Grade	Math	English Language Arts	Science	TEST TYPE
7	SBA	SBA	<i>not tested</i>	SBA = Smarter Balanced Assessment MSP = Measure of Student Progress 7-8 EOC = End of Course 8 and 11 HSPE: High School Proficiency Exam 11 th who have not yet passed as 10 th graders.
8	SBA/EOC	SBA	MSP	
11	EOC	SBA/HSPE	EOC	

MSP Science this spring and 11th grade students will still need to pass the HSPE if they have not already done so as 10th graders.

The advantages of participating in the Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA) for our

students and staff are immense. Participating in the SBA’s allows staff to solely focus their day to day instruction on implementing the Common Core Standards. Participating also allows our staff and students to see, feel, and try on the SBA assessment a year prior to other districts. In addition, Woodland students will be included in the pool of students used to set the standards for the new Math and ELA assessments that will be given to all students in all states administering the Smarter Balanced Assessment. The lessons that we will learn as a system from full participation of the pilot will go far in shaping our instruction for our students. For more information about the Smarter Balanced tests and to try out a practice test yourself, please visit www.k12.wa.us/smarter.

Because the field test is a trial-run of new items and the test-delivery system, **results from this particular assessment will not be provided to us this year.** Rather, performance on individual items by students in many states will help determine how the new tests are put together and what scores will be needed to “meet standard” once the tests are used statewide in 2015. Although students will not receive these scores, Woodland School District will use other standards based assessments to provide **families information regarding their child’s achievement of standards.**

Thank you for continuing to work with us to make sure your child is successful. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to better support your child. We want your child to leave us with a solid foundation of skills and a future full of opportunities.