



## Morgan Hill Unified School District

15600 Concord Circle  
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

February 2016

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) System was established on January 1, 2014 replacing the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) testing system. The CAASPP System encompasses the online Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) in English-language arts (ELA) and mathematics in grades 3 – 8 and 11, the California Standards Test (CST) in Science in grades 5, 8 & 10, the California Alternate Assessment (CAA), for some Special Education students in ELA and Math and the California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA) in grades 5, 8 & 10 for some Special Education students.

The Smarter Balanced assessments are a key part of implementing more rigorous standards and preparing all students for success in college and careers. The assessments will provide an academic checkup by measuring real-world skills like critical thinking and problem solving. The Smarter Balanced assessments are completed online, and are not timed to ensure students have the time they need to complete each section. There are online tools built into the assessments such as a highlighter, calculator on certain math problems, digital notepad, English dictionary and glossary. Students with Special Education Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) may also be assigned additional accommodations and modifications. MHUSD students will take the Smarter Balanced Assessment between April 25 – June 3, 2016.

Federal requirements still include continuing to administer the STAR CST test in science for all students in grades 5, 8 & 10 as well as the California Modified Assessment (CMA) Science or California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA) Science for specific students. The district testing window for the STAR CST, CMA and CAPA science tests will be April 25 – May 12, 2016.

The California Alternate Assessment (CAA) test will give students with significant cognitive disabilities the opportunity to demonstrate their achievement of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) by taking a test commensurate with their abilities. The testing window for the CAA will be April 11 – June 17, 2016.

For further information about CAASPP, go to <http://www.caaspp.org/>. More information about the Smarter Balanced Assessments can be found at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/>. Please contact your child's school for specific information about any of the testing sessions mentioned above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glen R. Webb".

Glen Webb  
Director, Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment