

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
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Serving The
 Timberlane Regional School District
 Hampstead School District

March 5, 2016

Dear Parents,

In the upcoming weeks, the Smarter Balanced Assessment will be administered to students statewide in grades 3-8. As you may recall, the Smarter Balanced Assessment replaced the Mathematics and English Language Arts NECAP Assessment beginning last year in 2015. The Smarter Balanced Assessment is a measure of the New Hampshire College and Career Readiness Standards adopted by the state of NH in 2010. These standards provide a consistent framework for what students are expected to learn in Mathematics and English Language Arts K-12.

Smarter Balanced is computer adaptive, with questions that will increase or decrease in difficulty based on student responses. More information for parents regarding the assessment can be found by visiting the Timberlane Regional School District Website at <http://wp.timberlane.net/?s=smarter+balanced>. Parents and students can also access additional information and sample practice tests at <http://nh.portal.airast.org/>.

The Smarter Balanced Assessment is broken into multiple testing sessions on multiple days, which are untimed. In both Mathematics and English Language Arts, there will be various test components which include:

- A computer adaptive test (CAT),
- A whole class lesson (delivered by the teacher to provide background for the performance task)
- A performance task (short answer and extended response).

With the exception of the whole class lesson, students will have as much time as they require for the completion of each session and breaks will be built in, however, the following general guidelines reflect expected testing times:

English Language Arts:

	CAT	Whole Class Lesson	Performance Task	Total
Grades 3-5	1:30	:30	2:00	4:00
Grades 6-8	1:30	:30	2:00	4:00
Grade 11	2:00	:30	2:00	4:30

Mathematics:

	CAT	Whole Class Lesson	Performance Task	Total
Grades 3-5	1:30	:30	1:00	3:00
Grades 6-8	2:00	:30	1:00	3:30
Grade 11	2:00	:30	1:30	4:00

Individual schools have established testing schedules (see the attachment for you school's schedule). These dates will fall within testing windows which have been established by the New Hampshire Department of Education:

Grades 3-4: March 15-April 22
Grades 5-6: March 29-May 6
Grades 7 -8: April 12-June 10

We want parents to be aware that testing days are rigorous for students, and a certain amount of test fatigue is to be expected. It is always helpful to make a special effort to ensure that students come to the testing environment fully rested and with a hardy breakfast. Sending in healthy snacks for breaks is also suggested.

We look forward to providing all students with a positive testing experience and welcome your feedback. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions of concerns regarding the Smarter Balanced Assessment.

Sincerely,



Christi Michaud
Director of Data, Assessment and Accountability