Dear Parent or Guardian:

It will soon be time again for statewide California Assessment Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) testing. Teachers are helping students learn and presenting course information in new ways. We are using challenging tasks that require students to participate in lessons/activities that support creativity, critical thinking, communication, collaboration and community/college access.

The next step is measuring our progress by participating in the CAASPP testing. CAASPP testing includes the following tests:

- The Smarter Balanced Assessments for California (SBAC) in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics for grades 3-8 and 11.
  - This is a computer based test. Some questions are interactive, and a greater variety of supporting tools can be provided to eligible students, such as magnification of text, and text-to-speech read-aloud of questions.
  - This is a computer adaptive test. Students receive test questions that help pinpoint what they know and can do. A correct answer is followed by a more difficult question, and an incorrect answer is followed by an easier question. This provides a more precise estimate of student understanding.
  - Results help identify gaps in knowledge or skills early on so your child can get the support he or she needs to be successful in school.
  - No time limits: Students can take the time they need to do their best.

- The California Alternate Assessments (CAA) tests in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics are administered to students in grades 3-8 and 11 whose individualized education program (IEP) teams have determined that the student’s cognitive disabilities prevent him or her from taking the online CAASPP Smarter Balanced Assessments.

- California Science Test (CAST) computer-based test in Science for SBAC and CAA for Science will be administered to students in grades five, eight, and twelve. California implements the California Next Generation Science Standards. As part of that implementation, students in grades five, eight and twelve will take either the CAST or CAA for Science depending on eligibility.

**PARENT OPT OUT RIGHTS**

These assessments provide teachers with important academic information about your child that is viewed and used by teachers to improve instruction. We encourage your child to take the test because it is important. **However, you have the right to opt your child out of all or part of the testing listed above.** If you would like to opt your child out of CAASPP testing, please submit your opt out request in writing with parent or guardian signature to Consuelo Hernandez Williams, Director, VCOE, 5189 Verdugo Way, Camarillo, CA, 93012 or cwilliams@vcoe.org or to your child’s school site. If you have questions or concerns or would like assistance submitting your opt out request, please contact Consuelo Hernandez Williams, Director, at (805) 383-1939 or cwilliams@vcoe.org.

Sincerely,

Stanley C. Mantooth
Ventura County Superintendent of Schools