

Dear Parents,

Annual spring testing at William J. Johnston Middle School is just around the corner. The Smarter Balanced assessments determine students' progress toward college and career readiness in literacy and math. These are given at the end of the school year and consist of two parts: a computer adaptive test for English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA) and Mathematics and a performance task in Mathematics. The summative assessments describe both student achievement (how much students know at the end of the year) and student growth (how much students have improved since the previous year) to inform program evaluation and school, district, and state accountability systems.

The SBAC tests are not timed and students will be allowed to take breaks when needed. Also, we will provide snacks prior to testing each day. ***Spring testing sessions will be scheduled May 13th-May 17th with make-ups taking place the following week of May 20th-May 24th.*** Portions of Smarter Balanced testing contain listening activities that will require students to use headphones. Headphones are available in our media center and in classrooms. **Students are also encouraged to bring in their own headphones or earbuds to use during testing if they have them.**

Additionally, all grade eight students will participate in taking the NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) computerized assessment. Only grade eight students will be taking this test, as it is only assessed at grades 5, 8 and 11 across the state.

We are often asked how a child can be ready for SBAC or any other big test. Students do well on state tests when they come to class regularly and do their schoolwork. Since most WJ students do that, we cannot be any prouder. There are other things that we suggest to reach success:

1. Reduce or remove digital distractions prior to testing
2. Eat well
3. Get a good night's rest and take a nap after school
4. Read short and long passages from text and have conversations about them (makes great dinner talk)

*Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or administration with any questions or concerns that you may have.*

Your partners in education,

Chris Bennett & Stacy Ewings

Principal                      Assistant Principal