



VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of Teaching and Learning
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February 19, 2016

Dear Parent or Guardian:

In our continuing efforts to ensure that your child – and all children/students – in Vernon School District are prepared for success, our teachers have implemented the Connecticut Core Standards that provide consistent guidelines in English language arts/literacy and mathematics at each grade level. These standards provide clear expectations of the knowledge, skills, and abilities students need to be successful beyond high school. The Smarter Balanced Assessment is aligned to the Connecticut Core Standards and is designed to assess student progress toward college and career readiness in mathematics, reading, and writing. Administered online, these assessments will adapt to each student's ability, giving teachers and parents/guardians information to help students succeed.

The Smarter Balanced Assessment will be administered to students in Grades 3 – 8. Our schedule for testing is as follows:

- Smarter Balanced Assessment March 15th – June 9th, 2016.

As required by Connecticut General Statute 10-14n, all students are required to take a mastery examination in Grades 3 – 8 for mathematics, reading, and writing.

Key Features of the Smarter Balanced Assessment

- ✓ Measures critical thinking with questions that ask students to demonstrate their research, writing, and problem solving skills
- ✓ All testing is administered using a secure online assessment system that includes a variety of tools and technology enhanced test questions that will improve the assessment experience for our students
- ✓ Accessibility tools for all students and accommodations – such as text-to-speech, key word translation glossaries, American Sign Language translation, and Braille – for those who need them
- ✓ Assessments are untimed and students can take breaks so that they can do their best

To learn more about the assessments, explore the Smarter Balanced Practice Tests <http://ct.portal.airast.org/training-tests> with your child. Visit the Connecticut Smarter Balanced website www.ct.gov/sde/SmarterBalanced to find additional information for parents.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 860-870-6000, or your child's building principal.

Sincerely,

Jason Magao,
Director of Teaching and Learning