



Snoqualmie Valley

Public Schools

8001 Silva Avenue S.E., P.O. Box 400, Snoqualmie, WA 98065
Phone (425) 831-8100 ♦ Fax (425) 831-8040 ♦ www.svsd410.org

April 4th, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Our school has volunteered to participate in the Smarter Balanced Assessment field test this spring.

This new test is being developed to assess the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in Mathematics and English/Language Arts (*reading and writing*). The CCSS were adopted by our state in 2011 and the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) field test will allow assessment and education experts to make sure the tests are fair and the questions work the way they are intended.

The purpose of the SBA field test is to test the delivery system which means there will be no results for individual students, schools or districts. Rather, performance on individual items by students in many states will help determine how the new tests are put together and what scores will be needed to “meet standard”.

All of our district students in grades 3-8 will participate in the SBA field test this spring instead of the state’s Measurement of Student Progress assessment. Students will take the field test online during the assessment window, April 28 – May 16, 2014.

Our building administrators and staff are enthusiastic about the decision to participate in the field test as it will allow our staff and students to experience what it’s like to administer this new test before it becomes operational in the spring of 2015. It will provide us time to ensure our district infrastructure can support the online assessment, and will allow our teachers to focus on the required transition to the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics and English/Language Arts rather than having to address our current state standards in the content areas of mathematics, reading and writing at the same time. (*The CCSS will replace our state learning standards beginning in the fall of 2014*).

For now, we will continue to administer our state’s Science MSP assessment at 5th and 8th grade which address our current state standards in science.

For more information about the Smarter Balanced tests and to try out a practice test yourself, please visit www.k12.wa.us/smarter. More information about the Common Core State Standards may be found at www.k12.wa.us/corestandards and www.corestandards.org.

Please call or email our Teaching and Learning Department at 425.831.8018 or mcconkeyd@svsd410.org, if you have any additional questions.

Thank you for continuing to work with us to make sure your child has a successful learning experience. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to better support your child. We want your child to leave us with a solid foundation of skills and a future full of opportunities.

Sincerely,

Ray Wilson

Ray Wilson
Principal, Cascade View Elementary School
(425) 831-4100 wilsonr1@svsd410.org