

Dear Blue Ridge Court School Families:

Every year, California students take several statewide tests. When combined with other measures such as grades, class work, and teacher observations, these tests give families and teachers a more complete picture of their child’s learning. You can use the results to identify where your child is doing well and where they might need more support.

Your child may be taking one or more of the following California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC), and Physical Fitness Test assessments.

Pursuant to California *Education Code* Section 60615, parents/guardians may annually submit to the school a written request to excuse their child from any or all of the CAASPP assessments. This exemption does not exist for the ELPAC or Physical Fitness Test.

CAASPP: Smarter Balanced Assessments for English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA) and Math

Who takes these tests? Students in grades 3–8 and grade 11.

What is the test format? The Smarter Balanced assessments are computer-based.

Which standards are tested? The California State Standards.

CAASPP: California Science Test (CAST)

Who takes the test? Students take the CAST in grades 5 and 8 and once in high school, either in grade 10, 11, or 12.

What is the test format? The CAST is computer-based.

Which standards are tested? The California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS).

ELPAC

Who takes the test? Students who have a home language survey that lists a language other than English will take the Initial test, which identifies students as an English learner student or as initially fluent in English. Students who are classified as English learner students will take the Summative ELPAC every year until they are reclassified as proficient in English.

What is the test format? Both the Initial and Summative ELPAC are computer-based.

Which standards are tested? The 2012 California English Language Development Standards.

Physical Fitness Test

Who takes the test? Students in grades 5, 7, and 9 will take the FITNESSGRAM[®], which is the test used in California.

What is the test format? The test consists of five performance components: aerobic capacity, abdominal strength, trunk strength, upper body strength, and flexibility.

Which standards are tested? The Healthy Fitness Zones, which are established through the FITNESSGRAM[®].

Although these tests are individualized and parents will receive the results, our programs use this to look at program development and not necessarily the individual student. We use the global results to study how our program is benefiting our students and what improvements may help all our students. We encourage your students to take these tests to help our programs improve.

Tests will be given at the end of May. If you are interested in learning more about the tests, please reach out to your caseload teacher.

Sincerely,

Principal Carey Buchanan