



April 02, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Each year, students in grades three through eight and high school participate in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) Assessment System. Depending on the grade level and instructional program in which your child is enrolled, your child may have to take one or more of the following tests:

- Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics are required in grades 3–8 and 11.
- California Science Test (CAST) is required in grades 5 and 8 and once in grade 11 or grade 12.
- California Spanish Assessment (CSA) is required for newly enrolled Spanish-speaking English learners in grades 3-8 and high school and students in a Spanish Dual Language Program in grades 3-8.

Patrick Henry Middle School will administer the CAASPP assessments on April 29 – May 14, 2024. To make sure your child feels comfortable taking tests, you can:

- Explain to your child that these tests are tools to help them learn and they should not be anxious or scared.
- Explore the practice tests with your child at <https://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html> so your child can become familiar with the platform and setup of the tests.
- Remind your child that you and the teacher want them to try their best and are there to help them prepare.

In early fall of 2024, the state will make available your child's score report, which will include the scores for all the tests your child takes this spring. When combined with other measures such as grades, classwork, and teacher observations, these test scores give families and teachers a more complete picture of the student's learning. You can securely access, download, and print your child's current and prior year's test score reports in the LAUSD Parent Portal (<https://parentportalapp.lausd.net/parentaccess/>).

Parents or guardians have the option of exempting their child(ren) from participating in the CAASPP program. Parents/Guardians must initiate and submit a written letter that is signed and dated to the principal specifying the test(s) from which they want their children exempted [Education Code 60615]. Please let the school know by Friday, April 19, 2024, so we can make alternative arrangements for your children.

To learn more about CAASPP, go to the Starting Smarter web page at <https://ca.startingsmarter.org/>, or review the Parent Guides to Understanding at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/parentguidetounderstand.asp>.

At Patrick Henry Middle School, our goal is for all students to achieve their full potential. The CAASPP test results are one way we can better understand if we are meeting that goal. Thank you for all that you do to partner with us in your child's education. If you have any questions regarding CAASPP testing at our school, please contact Mr. Klein, Testing Coordinator, at 818-832-4429 or at bck5700@lausd.net.

Thank you,

Kristy Santi
Principal