Santa Clara High School  
3000 Benton Street  
Santa Clara, California 95051  
408-423-2600  

Gregory Shelby  
Principal

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, or CAASPP, is the state academic testing program. CAASPP is a system intended to provide information that can be used to monitor student progress and ensure that all students leave high school ready for college and career. CAASPP includes computer adaptive tests in English-language arts and mathematics (Smarter Balanced Assessments), the CAA in English Language Arts and Math for students with severe disabilities, as well as the pencil/paper CST, CMA or CAPA for science in grades 5, 8 and 10. The CST for Science is based on 1997 Standards that teachers have begun to transition away from; however, the state continues to mandate this test until further notice.

Santa Clara High School will begin Smarter Balanced testing from on April 25th and April 26th. Most high school juniors will participate in the Smarter Balanced online assessments for English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics. Parents and students should note that participation is important as results from this spring’s assessments will impact students in the following areas:

- **Golden State Seal of Merit.**
  In January of 2016, the State Board of Education (SBE) approved that results from the CAASPP assessments may be used to satisfy eligibility requirements and earn the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma, which recognizes graduates who have demonstrated mastery in specific subject areas.

- **California State University’s (CSU’s) Early Assessment Program (EAP).**
  The CSU and participating California community colleges will use student results from this spring’s Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments as a student’s EAP status in English and mathematics.

The California Department of Education (CDE) has developed several resources to help parents and students understand the grade expectations of the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments. Some of those resources include the Parent Guides to the Smarter Balanced Assessments and practice and training tests.

The results of your student’s Smarter Balanced Assessments will be mailed to your home address in late summer or early fall. Student score reports will include an overall score, a description of the student’s achievement level for English-language arts and mathematics, and other information. Administrators and Teachers will have access to preliminary results prior to the beginning of the school year in order to help plan for next year.

Finally, while we would like to encourage every student’s participation in state assessments to help us have a full picture of our students’ results, under California Education Code Program Provisions, parents have the right to excuse their child from participating in the CAASPP assessments. If you have any questions regarding your child’s participation, please contact Tony Lam at tlam@scusd.net or (408)423-2600 ext. 2602

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Gregory Shelby
Principal

February, 2016

Angela Kretsch  
Vice Principal

Tony Lam  
Vice Principal

Antonio Vela  
Vice Principal

“Prepare every student to succeed in an ever-changing world”