



52 Schoolhouse Road
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Dummerston School

April 27, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Beginning May 8th, Dummerston School will begin administering the Smarter Balanced Assessments, developed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), in grades 3-8. Classes will alternate weeks to take these tests through the end of May. In addition, students in grades 4 and 8 will also participate in the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) in Science. Based on the latest information from the VT Agency of Education, this May will be the last administration of the NECAP Science assessment. For specific information regarding your child's testing schedule, please review the SBAC and NECAP testing information on our website, www.Dummerston-School.com.

SBAC offers significant improvements over tests of the past, including writing at every grade as well as questions and performance tasks that demonstrate an array of writing and problem solving skills. Smarter Balanced Assessments also use computer adaptive technology, which provides more accurate information about student achievement in a timelier manner. The SBAC aligns with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), provides teachers and parents with information about whether students are meeting the expectations set by the Common Core State Standards and provides timely information about student achievement and progress toward college and career readiness.

The Smarter Balanced Assessments and the NECAP Science assessment are two measures available to parents and educators to determine how well our school is helping students meet college and career expectations. As with any assessment, scores are only as meaningful as the effort students put into the tests. Please help us by encouraging children to take these tests seriously and to give their best effort. You can help our students prepare for the assessments by making sure they are rested and, as always, have a good breakfast and a healthy snack each morning. If possible, appointments should be scheduled for when school is not in session. Thank you for supporting your child and our school during the testing period.

Sincerely,

Jo Carol Ratti, Principal

