

Diamond Bar High School

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Julie Salas Pathways Academy Coordinator To all parents of twelfth grade students,

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California's academic standards—the things we want students to know and be able to do—are designed so students graduate college and career ready. One way we measure student progress is through the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) assessments. Students across California in grades 3–8 and high school take these assessments each spring. Because CAASPP tests are given statewide, they provide an opportunity to measure the skills of all students against the same academic standards.

This year, twelfth grade students will take the California Science Test (CAST)—Field Test on Wednesday, April 11th. The field test will take approximately two hours to complete.

California's new state standards for science call for students to think and work like scientists and engineers—asking questions and learning through hands-on investigation and discovery. Working with science teachers, California is developing a new assessment that emphasizes scientific thinking and reasoning. This year your child will participate in a science field test. While this field test will not provide scores for your child, it is an important first step in developing an assessment that will fairly and accurately measure how students are achieving on the new science standards. For additional information about the science tests and sample questions, please visit the CDE's CAASPP Science Assessment Web page at http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/ca/caasppscience.asp.

To learn more about these tests, please visit CDE's Test Score Guide Web site at http://www.testscoreguide.org/ca, which provides informative guides and test score descriptions as well as sample test items at different levels of difficulty.

Other resources include the Practice and Training Tests, which can be found on the CDE's Smarter Balanced Practice and Training Tests Web page at http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/practicetest.asp. Parents can experience the kinds of questions that students will encounter on the tests.

As the parent or guardian, you have the option of excusing your child from any part of the CAASPP. If you would like to excuse your child from the test, you must submit your request in writing to your child's school. [Education Code 60615.] Your request will be granted. Please let the school know as soon as possible, so alternative arrangements can be made for your child.

If you have any questions regarding your child's participation in statewide assessments, please contact Instructional Dean, Matt Brummett, at 909-594-1405, Ext. 33512 or **mbrummett@wvusd.k12.ca.us**.

Sincerely,

Reuben Jones Principal