



Strafford School

22 Roller Coaster Road
Strafford, NH 03884
(603)664-2842
fax(603)664-5269
www.strafford.k12.nh.us

Dr. Scott C. Young, Principal
Miss Alison Roberts, Asst. Principal

Turning Today's Learners into Tomorrow's Leaders

Greetings to Strafford Parents and Caregivers,

March 4, 2016

This spring students in grades 3-8 will be taking the Smarter Balanced Assessment (this test replaces the NECAP assessment that we used to take in the fall). Fourth and eighth graders will still take the Science NECAP in May. The Smarter Balanced Assessment consists of an English Language Arts (ELA) section, along with a Mathematics section. Within each of those subjects, students will take two sub-tests, a computer adaptive test and a performance task. The computer adaptive test asks students single questions at a time and adjusts the difficulty of the questions based upon how well the student is doing. The performance task is a longer, single item that requires deeper thinking skills. The ELA portion consists of a writing task, broken into two parts. The first part consists of a research component where students need to organize their ideas. Part two involves writing a final draft. In math, the performance task is usually a multi-step, real-world math problem. If you would like to see the practice test along with the types of questions students will be working with, go to the NH Smarter Balanced Portal <http://nh.portal.airast.org/students-and-families/> and take the practice tests.

When we begin the testing, there are specific timelines to which we must adhere when scheduling and administering the tests. We have specific windows in which to administer the tests, and all test sections must be completed within a set number of days of starting. Here are the testing windows provided by the New Hampshire Department of Education:

- Smarter Balanced Math/ELA Assessment for Grades 3 & 4: March 15, 2016- April 22, 2016
- Smarter Balanced Math/ELA Assessment for Grades 5 & 6: March 29, 2016 - May 6, 2016
- Smarter Balanced Math/ELA Assessment for Grades 7 & 8: April 12, 2016 - June 10, 2016

*Our Smarter Balanced testing is scheduled as follows:

- 3rd & 4th Grade: Test sessions will be held on March 22nd, 24th, 29th, & 31st
- 5th – 8th Grade: Test sessions will be held on April 12th, 14th, 19th, & 21st

In addition, our special education department has been working to organize appropriate accommodations, just as we have for other similar forms of testing such as NWEA. Attached to this email, I have included a parent fact sheet as an additional resource.

If you have any questions about the test, please feel free to email or call me.

Sincerely,



Scott

**Please be sure to have your child(ren) well-rested for these testing dates. Also, please make every effort to not schedule out-of-school activities for these important testing dates.*