



March 17, 2017

Good Afternoon Mill Falls Families,

It is finally that time of year, where we begin the state-mandated standardized assessment called Smarter Balanced. On Monday, April 3rd, our third through six graders will begin the first session of testing in either math or language. Our anticipated completion date will be Monday, April 10th.

As reminder Smarter Balanced Assessments are designed to measure real-world skills like critical thinking and problem solving. This assessment is web-based, untimed and adaptive and as you know we will be using our iPads and Chromebooks to implement this task.

Where this obviously is a change from our normal routine, we have a few suggestions to make this testing time more comfortable for the students.

- For some classes, testing will begin shortly after morning drop off, so please be sure to be prompt in the arrival of students in the morning.
- A good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast are key to ensuring children are ready for this mental task. We want to be sure they have good energy, so sending along a selection of snacks and a water bottle will also be beneficial.
- While at home, remember to stay positive and support your children in this endeavor. This may be the first time students have ever taken an assessment with technology, and for some children, they could express some frustrations with the task.
- If your child would like to bring in their own headphones or stylus pens, please encourage them to do so! Just remember to write their names on their headphones so that they do not become displaced.
- On our end, breaks are scheduled to ensure they have ample time to relax or work on different choices during the day. In addition, we are anticipating scheduling different exercise-oriented classes such as Zumba or Yoga for some extra special fun on a daily basis during the testing period.

As the students' educational team, we appreciate all of your support at this time and expect this experience to fly by with minimal bumps in the road. If you do have any questions, please free to contact me via email at Laura.Wrubleski@MillFalls.org at any point along the way.

Sincerely,

Laura Wrubleski
Educational Program Director