



Torrington Public Schools

DENISE L. CLEMONS
SUPERINTENDENT

March 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Our goal is to provide your students with the skills to prepare them to be critical thinkers and problem solvers, utilizing real world skills they need to be college and career ready. Student progress assessments, end of unit/semester tests as well as project rubrics reflect what the students have learned. In addition, schools in Connecticut are also required by federal law to administer state mandated assessments. These assessments guide instruction and provide more information about student progress.

During the month of March, your children will be taking the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT), grades 5 and 8 in science, or the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT), grade 10 in science. This year, students in grades 3-8 will be taking the Smarter Balanced assessments in the areas of reading, writing and math. All 11th grade students will be taking the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) on April 5th.

All test accommodations for students with special needs will be provided as determined by their Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan. SBAC tests will be untimed. These assessments are computer adaptive and will adjust to the learning level of the student, so some students may take less time on the test than originally scheduled. Please refer to your school's testing schedule to note the dates and times of the testing.

Students will receive scores for the testing. This is the third year of reported scores. As students and teachers gain more classroom experience with the new expectations of active questioning, engagement and the development of critical thinking skills, we anticipate that our scores will improve steadily in the future. With the Smarter Balanced Assessment, there is not a way to "teach to the test". The assessment is evaluating reading comprehension and mathematical problem solving based on real world situations. This is the goal of the revised curriculum and the alignment of the Smarter Balanced Assessments.

To find more information regarding the Smarter Balanced Assessments, including practice tests, please go to <http://www.smarterbalanced.org>. Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Denise L. Clemons,
Superintendent

355 MIGEON AVENUE
TORRINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06790
www.torrington.org • (860) 489-2327 • fax (860) 489-0726

The Torrington Board of Education does not discriminate in any of its programs, activities or employment practices on the basis of any protected class status.