

May 15, 2014

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Our school is one of many in the country participating in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Field Test this spring. Schools in 22 states will administer the online assessment in mathematics and/or English throughout the Spring of 2014.

The Smarter Balanced assessments are a key part of implementing our new academic standards and preparing all students for success in college and careers. When the assessments become operational in the 2014-15 school year, they will provide an academic checkup by measuring real-world skills like critical thinking and problem solving. In addition, they will provide information to give teachers and parents a snapshot of where students are succeeding and where they need help. This practice run of the assessments will be used to evaluate the testing software, ensure the quality of assessment questions, and evaluate the effectiveness of the assessment administration and training materials. It also provides students at our school an opportunity to preview the types of questions that will be part of the Smarter Balanced assessments and to practice test administration procedures.

For our school, students in grade 5 have been selected to take the Field Test in English Language Arts and mathematics. The assessment will take place between May 19 and June 6 and will be administered over multiple days. Participation is confidential and students do not receive a score from the Field Test.

If you would like more information about Smarter Balanced, please visit the Smarter Balanced website at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/>. If you have any questions regarding your child's participation, please contact me at 503-554-4650 or by email at fishert@newberg.k12.or.us

Sincerely,

Troy Fisher, Principal
Antonia Crater Elementary