



McAlister Intermediate School

260 MOUNTAIN ROAD
SUFFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06078
Phone (860) 668-3830

Karen Carpenter-Snow, Principal

Jack Ferraro, Assistant Principal

March 6, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are writing to you today to inform you of McAlister's upcoming *Smarter Balanced* assessments (SBAC), which will be administered to all students in grades 3-5, beginning with English Language Arts assessments on March 27-28, 2018, and continuing with Mathematics assessments on May 1-3, 2018. These assessments target the areas of reading and math, and provide us with additional and useful information about your child's academic performance. These assessments are aligned to the Connecticut State Standards and are designed to encompass a wide variety of question formats, including multiple choice, short answer, and open-ended questions, as well as a real-world inspired performance task requiring students to apply their understanding of math skills and concepts.

Grade 5 students will also participate in the *Next Generation Science Standards* (NGSS) Field Test on May 23, 2018. This test aligns with the new, state science standards adopted in 2015 and replaces the old Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) for science. Although no results from the *NGSS Field Test* will be reported back to schools, the data and feedback gathered will be critical to the creation of the NGSS assessments scheduled to be administered in the Spring of 2019.

McAlister's *Smarter Balanced* and *NGSS Field Test* assessments will occur according to the schedule below. Please be sure your child arrives promptly to school each day, as students who are tardy will not be able to join their class once testing has begun and will need to participate in makeup testing at another scheduled time. Please note that other than each grade's hour of testing, students will participate in their regular daily schedule of classroom learning and activities.

Finally, for the duration of the test administration, all students will need a set of headphones or earbuds. If your child would like to bring in his/her own, **please send your child's headphones or earbuds to school on Monday, March 19.** Know that the district will provide headphones for students if they do not bring them in.

As always, please be sure to contact either one of us if you have any questions relative to our *Smarter Balanced* and *NGSS Field Test* administration.

Sincerely,

Karen Carpenter-Snow

Jack Ferraro

Karen Carpenter-Snow
Principal

Jack Ferraro
Assistant Principal

Smarter Balanced English Language Arts	Smarter Balanced Mathematics	Grade 5 NGSS Science Field Test
<u>March 27-28</u> 9:00-10:00 (Grade 3) 9:15-10:15 (Grade 5) 10:45-11:45 (Grade 4)	<u>May 1-3</u> 9:00-10:00 (Grade 3) 9:15-10:15 (Grade 5) 10:45-11:45 (Grade 4)	<u>May 23</u> 9:00-10:15 (Grade 5 only)