



# RILEY CREEK K-8 SCHOOL

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2/22/17

Dear Parent/Guardian

With the 2016-17 school year more than halfway complete, I wanted to take a moment to provide some important information about this year's state tests.

Last spring, students in Central Curry School District, and around Oregon, took new state tests in English Language Arts and Math, called Smarter Balanced. The tests move away from previous fill-in-the bubble exams that focused on rote memorization, to a format which asks students to explain their reasoning and write out their answers. These new tests measure more complex, real-world skills such as critical-thinking, writing, and problem solving so that your child can successfully transition from grade to grade and be prepared for his or her next steps after high school.

Riley Creek School will give Smarter Balanced tests beginning on April 11<sup>th</sup>. The tests are not timed so your child can take as long as he or she needs to fully demonstrate what he or she knows and can do.

We know that an end-of-the-year test cannot possibly tell us *everything* about your child's academic progress. However, the results do act as a snapshot of your child's strengths and areas for improvement and can be used as a way to ensure he or she is getting the supports he or she needs. Additionally, the tests help Central Curry School District's efforts to equitably distribute resources and support student learning. When fewer students take the test, we are left with an incomplete and inaccurate picture of how our students are performing, and this limits our ability to address issues, better serve students, and continue to improve our educational system.

Included with this letter is a form that allows you to opt your child out of testing for the 2016-17 school year. The form is also posted online on our website here: [www.ccsd.k12.or.us](http://www.ccsd.k12.or.us). Should you wish to opt your child out, please submit the form to Riley Creek School's Main Office. You can read more about your rights to opt-out here: <http://tinyurl.com/OR-HB2655>.

In Central Curry School District, we are deeply committed to ensuring each and every student in our schools has the supports he or she needs to achieve at high levels and graduate prepared for his or her next steps. Our ultimate goal is to make sure that all students are set up to be successful from grade to grade and that will remain the focus of our district throughout the rest of the school year.

If you have general questions or want more information about the end-of-year tests, please see the attached factsheet or visit our website at [www.ccsd.k12.or.us](http://www.ccsd.k12.or.us). I encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher(s) with any questions you may have about your student's progress.

Sincerely,

Tom Denning- Riley Creek Principal



# GOLD BEACH HIGH SCHOOL

29516 Ellensburg Ave.  
Gold Beach, OR 97444

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Dear Parent/Guardian;

With the 2016-17 school year more than halfway complete, I wanted to take a moment to provide some important information about this year's state tests.

Last spring, students in Central Curry School District, and around Oregon, took new state tests in English Language Arts and Math, called Smarter Balanced. The tests move away from previous fill-in-the bubble exams that focused on rote memorization, to a format which asks students to explain their reasoning and write out their answers. These new tests measure more complex, real-world skills such as critical-thinking, writing, and problem solving so that your child can successfully transition from grade to grade and be prepared for his or her next steps after high school.

Gold Beach High School will give Smarter Balanced tests beginning on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Testing will be administered to the eleventh grade students. The tests are not timed so your child can take as long as he or she needs to fully demonstrate what he or she knows and can do. The test results also fill the state requirement of demonstrating competence in Math and English Language Arts. Students who do not meet the eleventh grade standard must demonstrate competence using an alternative assessment in order to graduate from GBHS.

We know that an end-of-the-year test cannot possibly tell us *everything* about your child's academic progress. However, the results do act as a snapshot of your child's strengths and areas for improvement and can be used as a way to ensure he or she is getting the supports he or she needs. Additionally, the tests help Central Curry School District's efforts to equitably distribute resources and support student learning. When fewer students take the test, we are left with an incomplete and inaccurate picture of how our students are performing, and this limits our ability to address issues, better serve students, and continue to improve our educational system.

Included with this letter is a form that allows you to opt your child out of testing for the 2016-17 school year. The form is also posted online on our website here: [www.ccsd.k12.or.us](http://www.ccsd.k12.or.us). Should you wish to opt your child out, please submit the form to Gold Beach High School's Main Office. You can read more about your rights to opt-out here: <http://tinyurl.com/OR-HB2655>.

In Central Curry School District, we are deeply committed to ensuring each and every student in our school has the supports he or she needs to achieve at high levels and graduate prepared for his or her next steps. Our ultimate goal is to make sure that all students are set up to be successful from grade to grade and that will remain the focus of our district throughout the rest of the school year.

If you have general questions or want more information about the end-of-year tests, please see the attached factsheet or visit our website at [www.ccsd.k12.or.us](http://www.ccsd.k12.or.us). I encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher(s) with any questions you may have about your student's progress.

Sincerely,

Tim Wilson,  
Principal



## ALL STUDENTS GRADUATE PREPARED

In 2010, Oregon adopted higher K-12 standards in English Language Arts and Math to ensure all students move from grade to grade with the academic knowledge and skills necessary for success beyond high school. Because we raised the bar for what we expect students to know and be able to do, we have also changed the way we measure student progress through our state tests, known as Smarter Balanced.

### How much time do the tests take?

The tests are not timed, so your child can take as long as he or she needs to fully demonstrate what he or she knows and can do. With our current exams, your child only tests once each year, unlike our previous exams which many students took multiple times. Learn more about the estimated time your child may take to complete the tests on page 35 of Oregon's Test Administration Manual: <http://tinyurl.com/TestAdminManual>.

### What do the results mean and where do I get my child's results?

Test results identify your child's strengths and areas for improvement in English Language Arts and Math. Each subject will be broken into categories and will show how well your child performed in each area. The tests measure student learning on a continuous scale. The state has set four achievement levels along this scale that generally describe where students are. Your school will share your child's scores with you at the beginning of the next school year to help support your child's success as he or she moves from grade to grade.

### Why does participation matter?

While no single test can give a complete picture of your child's progress, having your child take the statewide tests provides educators and administrators with information about what educational approaches are working and where additional resources are needed. Your child's participation is important to ensure schools and districts receive the targeted resources they need to help all students succeed.

### When will my child take the test?

Your child will be tested once after he or she has completed at least two-thirds of the school year. Your child's school will determine the specific dates your child takes the tests within the statewide testing window above.

## OREGON'S STATE TESTS:

- **Challenge your child to think critically** and apply his or her knowledge to real-world problems
- **Go beyond multiple choice** and ask your child to explain his or her answers
- **Act as a snapshot of your child's progress** and may be considered along with other pieces of information to determine your child's academic success
- **Help identify schools and districts** that need additional supports to ensure more students are meeting higher standards

## STATEWIDE TESTING WINDOWS

Smarter Balanced English Language Arts & Math Tests  
February 7 – June 9, 2017

Oregon Extended Assessments for English Language Arts & Math  
February 16 – April 27, 2017

## STAY INFORMED

**Talk to your child's teacher or school principal if you have questions or want to learn more.**

### Resources

To learn more about what your child should know and be able to do in English Language Arts & Math: <http://tinyurl.com/ELARoadmap> & <http://tinyurl.com/MathRoadmap>

To view sample test questions: <http://tinyurl.com/ORPracticeTests>

To read more about your child's test results: <http://tinyurl.com/ORTestResults>



DESCRIPTION OF RIGHTS

House Bill 2655 permits parents and adult students\* to annually opt-out of Oregon’s statewide summative tests in English Language Arts and Math by submitting this form to the school the student attends. The school shall provide any student who is exempted from a state test with supervised study time while other students are testing. Visit this link to learn more about House Bill 2655: http://tinyurl.com/OR-HB2655.

To opt-out of state tests, this section must be completed by the parent/guardian or adult student:

Student’s Legal Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Legal First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Enrolled Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Student’s School \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the state test(s) you are opting out of for the 2016-17 school year:

Table with 2 rows: English Language Arts, Mathematics

To best support school district planning, you are encouraged to submit this form to your child’s school by February 1, 2017. For students who enroll after the statewide testing window begins on February 7, 2017, you are encouraged to submit the form within 2 weeks of enrollment. This form is only valid for the 2016-17 school year. Parents and adult students are required to submit an opt-out form annually should they wish to be exempted from statewide summative tests.

I understand that by signing this form I am opting my child out of testing.

Parent/Guardian\* \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

Parent/Guardian\* \_\_\_\_\_ (printed name)

\*Adult students (age 18 and older) may sign on their own behalf and do not require a signature by a parent or guardian.