



Principal: Meaghan McGowan Assistant Principal: Shelby Jones

Ulis Newton Community,

March 2022

We are excited about our students taking the SBAC this year and building a vibrant testing community. As we change the paradigm of testing, we want to encourage and support our students to do their very best on the test. Students have worked hard in their virtual classrooms all year long, and this is the perfect time for our students to show off their skills. Our students get a chance to focus on demonstrating our success with each and every question. Also, we want students to do well not only for themselves but also for our school community. Our staff will aid all students at Newton rallying with each other through chants, effort tickets, and a perfect attendance movie party.

On March 24th - April 8th, our students will be taking the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC). Third and Fourth grade students will be taking the SBAC in Reading and Math, and Fifth grade will be taking the SBAC in Reading and Math, and the Criterion Reference Test (CRT) in Science on the computer. Third grade will test a portion of the school day on March 28th - April 8th, fourth grade will test a portion of the school day on March 28th - April 8th, and fifth grade will test a portion of the school day on March 24th - April 8th.

These tests are the most important assessments students take during the entire school year. The examinations give us a strong profile of your child's level of success in mastering the essential skills in the core subjects of Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and for 5th graders, Science. The Smarter Balanced assessments are a key part of preparing all Nevada students for success in college and careers readiness. The "computer adaptive format" and on-line administration replaces the pencil-and-paper test and can adjust the difficulty of questions based on student responses. A student who answers correctly will receive a more challenging item, while an incorrect answer generates an easier question. This method provides students with a more engaging test experience, especially for low- or high-achieving students, and produces more accurate results than traditional methods. The adaptive computer format will provide more meaningful feedback that teachers and parents can use to help students succeed.

How can you help? First of all, by making sure your child is here on the days of testing. Secondly, you can help by emphasizing the importance of these examinations to your child and by encouraging them to do their very best. It is important that their effort on the test represents the best work they can do. Our students are excited to show off all that they have learned; help us keep this enthusiasm alive by eating a healthy breakfast and getting them to school on time. We will take care of the rest!

Caring for your child's education,

Meaghan McGowan, Principal

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