



HANSON SCHOOL DISTRICT 30-1

Home of the Beavers

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*“Empowering and preparing
students for success in an ever-
changing world”*

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March 27, 2024

Dear Parent or Guardian of students in 3-8 & 11:

Testing Season will begin soon. The SD ELA, Math and Science Assessment testing window is March 25th to May 3rd and is for all students in grades 3-8 and 11. SD Science Assessment is intended for grades 5, 8, and 11. The purpose of this letter is to give you an understanding of the tests and when testing may occur for your student(s). It will also give you a few ideas for helping your student do her/his best on the test.

The South Dakota assessments measure student achievement in relation to our state standards in the areas of English language arts and mathematics, while the SD Science Assessment measures science standards. In addition to providing overall scores in these subjects, score reports will provide information on student performance in early summer to fall.

The assessments are unique in the way they adapt to be appropriate for your child's level of learning. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude towards testing. These tests are not timed, but we estimate it will take a similar amount of time as did past assessments. We estimate the ELA assessment will take 3.5 hours, the math assessment will take 2.5 hours and science about 3 hours. While your child's grades will not be impacted by their performance on this assessment, this assessment serves as a way for the school to see how well we are helping students meet rigorous learning standards. With the addition of more computers in the elementary, 3-5 will be taking in their classrooms at the teacher's discretion. The middle school (6-8) and 11th graders will take each assessment with their teacher who instructs that subject. For example, your student's math teacher will administer the math portion of the assessment during a particular week in their math class period. It is our hope, students will feel more comfortable in this environment and will try harder with that teacher in their presence during the assessment. With this being said, it is imperative students are present during the testing window. Making up a missed test means time out of class and losing important learning time that cannot be made up.

There is no need to study in preparation for the assessments. We do, however ask you to encourage your children to **do their best** and **get plenty of rest the night before the assessment**. Parents can access complete Practice Tests in English and math for grades 3-8 and 11 at <https://sd.portal.cambiumast.com/families.html>

This testing is very important for your child and Hanson School District. Tips of how to prepare are on the next page. Thank you for supporting your child and our school during the test. Please call if you have any questions. We know Hanson's students will help us show what our students know and can do. If you have any questions regarding your child's participation, please contact Yolanda Price at 239-4387 and/or at yolanda.price@k12.sd.us.

Sincerely,

Yolanda Marie Price

Yolanda Marie Price
Hanson School District Test Coordinator

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR STUDENT TO TAKE A TEST

Here are some things <u>your student</u> can do:	Here are some things <u>you</u> can do:
<p>REST</p> <p>Get a good night of sleep before the test.</p>	<p>DISCUSS</p> <p>Help your child understand the <i>Smarter Balanced Assessment & SD Science Assessment</i> gives him or her the chance to show what he or she knows about a subject.</p>
<p>EAT</p> <p>Eat a good breakfast. Nutrition for the body energizes the brain to work.</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p> <p>Ask your child to maintain regular study habits. Do not ask your child to give extra study time for the <i>Smarter Balanced Assessment or SD Science Assessment</i>. The test covers more schoolwork than your child can learn in a few extra hours.</p>
<p>LISTEN</p> <p>Listen carefully to the directions given for the test and follow them exactly. If the directions are not clear, ask the teacher to repeat them or to explain them.</p>	<p>RELAX</p> <p>Students who are calm and sure of themselves do better on tests. If you are relaxed and confident your student will do well, they will be too.</p>
<p>TRY</p> <p>Do your best and do not give up.</p>	<p>ENCOURAGE</p> <p>Encourage your student to do their best and not give up.</p>

For 6th through 8th and 11th, there assessments will be given in the subject area's regular classroom. Below are the weeks and subject areas we plan to test:

Week of April 2nd
 Week of April 8th
 Week of April 15th
 Week of April 22nd

11th grade Science
 8th grade Science
 6th, 7th, 8th & 11th Math
 6th, 7th, 8th & 11th ELA

****Third through 5th grade teachers as well as colony teachers will communicate separately what days & times they are planning to test your students**