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Dear Parent or Guardian:

We strive to ensure that your child—and all Canterbury students—receive an education that prepares them to thrive in a global economy and in civic life. That’s why Connecticut has adopted challenging academic standards, including the [Connecticut Core Standards](#) in mathematics and language arts, as well as the [Next Generation Science Standards](#) (NGSS). We expect that all our students will attain a firm grounding in mathematics, language arts, and science by the time they graduate from high school, preparing them to succeed in the future. Our teachers and administrators are committed to working together to support students with excellent instruction and resources to meet these new expectations.

With these statewide learning goals, Connecticut needs ways to measure student progress. This can be achieved through summative assessments. Assessments are like academic checkups; they help teachers and parents see where students are, compared with where they need to be. The results can reveal subject areas where a student is excelling and subject areas where a student needs extra help. The state requires assessments in the subject areas of English language arts and mathematics using the Smarter Balanced Assessments at the elementary and middle school levels, and in Grade 11 using the SAT, which can also be used as a college entrance exam. The state also requires assessments in science in Grades 5, 8, and 11, using the NGSS Assessments.

The NGSS Assessments for Grade 5 and 8 will take place at BMS on March 29 and 30. The Smarter Balanced Assessments will take place at CES, beginning on March 29 and at BMS beginning on April 5.

The Smarter Balanced and NGSS Assessments are both administered on computers. These assessments are designed to measure skills in reading comprehension, writing, mathematics, and real-world science using questions that require students to demonstrate that they truly understand the content. In all these statewide assessments, additional supports are available for students with special needs, as determined by an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan.

To find resources specifically for parents and guardians, including ways to help your child with the standards at home, please visit <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/CT-Core-Standards> or <https://www.nextgenscience.org>. For more information about the statewide testing in Canterbury, please visit www.canterburypublicschools.org

Sincerely,

Steven Rioux