



Administrative Office
411 Sycamore Avenue
Mill Valley, California 94941
tel (415) 389-7700
fax (415) 389-7773

August 2019,

Dear Mill Valley Family,

Greetings! This past spring your child took the Smarter Balanced Assessments for English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA) and mathematics, which are part of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) program. These online tests are based on the Common Core State Standards, which are California's academic standards that require students to think critically, write clearly, and solve complex problems. These standards set a high bar for the education we provide, and these learning targets help ensure our students are well prepared to succeed in their educational careers and professional pursuits.

In Mill Valley, one of our core beliefs is to focus on the whole child, and state tests are only one measure of student academic growth in school. CAASPP tests provide one snapshot of our students' knowledge and skills. We also refer to progress report grades, student work, tests and quizzes, contributions in the classroom, performances, along with other important tools to gauge student progress. We encourage you to keep state test scores in perspective of these overall goals for our students' development.

The student score report enclosed with this letter shows your child's achievement for ELA and mathematics. Please take a few moments to review it. You'll notice that along with an overall score for each subject, there is also information about how your child performed in different skill areas associated with ELA and mathematics. If your child took CAASPP tests in previous years, you'll also notice that the score report presents multiple years of data, which allows you to see your child's progress over time. 5th and 8th grade students also took the CA Science Test last spring. Student score reports with science test results will be available in January 2020 and will be sent home at that time.

To help you better interpret the information on your child's score report, we have posted some resources on the CAASPP page of the [district website](#). One resource that may be particularly helpful is the CAASPP Test Score Guide webpage, <http://testscoreguide.org/ca>. This site provides information to understand Smarter Balanced Assessment scores and corresponding achievement levels, as well as a student's strengths and challenges in each area tested. I hope these resources provide answers to questions you may have about your child's test scores. If you have any additional questions about CAASPP testing or your child's scores, please contact your child's principal when school reopens in the fall.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Berman
Superintendent
Mill Valley School District