

Wagner Community School District No. 11-4

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October 4th, 2016

Dear Parent or Guardian:

You should have received a summary of your child's results on the Smarter Balanced assessments in the subject areas of English, Language Arts and Math. If your child was in Grades 5, 8, or 11 last year, the science test results were also included in the results.

One of the important features of the Smarter Balanced assessment is they can help us determine whether your student is on track for college and career readiness. It may seem unusual to be thinking about college and careers if your student is still in primary school. However, because so much of a child's education builds upon previously learned concepts, it is important to engage in this annual check-up. The results of these assessments allow you, and your student's teachers, to identify any potential issues that may need to be addressed. Knowing that these are new exams and reports, we all have a big learning curve. We are here to help you interpret the scores and what they mean for you and your child. Please let us know if you would like assistance with this.

Here's what you need to know about the Smarter Balanced reports:

- There are two separate reports: One that includes your student's score in English-Language Arts, and one that includes your student's score in math.
- Each report contains your student's scale score, as well as an average score for the school and district for the particular test and grade. This gives you some sense of how your student in relation to peers.
- Each report contains a breakdown of how your student performed in specific areas, called "claims," within the larger topic. With each claim, you will see a symbol indicating whether performance was at, below, or above the standard for that grade and subject. This breakdown helps your student's teachers, and you, to determine areas of strength, as well as areas of need.
 - English language arts: 1) Reading, 2) Speaking/Listening, 3) Writing, 4) Research
 - Mathematics: 1) Concepts & Procedures, 2) Problem Solving and Modeling & Data Analysis, 3) Communicating Reasoning

Scores from our students are compared to the rest of the state to determine school and district statuses in regards to school improvement. School/District results of the Smarter Balanced tests have earned each of our schools the status of PROGRESSING SCHOOLS. This is something we are very proud of our students for achieving! They have put forth great effort on the test and it shows in the results. Please take the time to acknowledge your child's efforts on the test.

The full report card can be accessed at: <http://doe.sd.gov/reportcard/listnew/>

If you would like a hard copy, please contact Lori Bouza, 605.384.4354, and one will be printed for you. They are also on display in each school office, several businesses, and medical facilities in town.

The annual state assessment is just one piece of the puzzle we look at in helping to prepare students for a successful academic experience and whatever lies beyond for them. Thank you for sharing your child with us and please contact us if you have any questions about this report.

Sincerely,



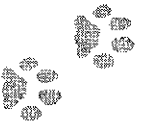
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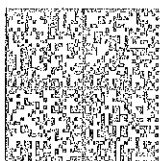
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Elementary Principal
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LORI BOUZA
Early Learning Center Principal/
Federal Programs Coordinator
Telephone (605) 384-4354
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