

LAKESIDE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) student score report

It's a New Test

Teachers at the Lakeside Union School District are helping students learn and presenting course information in new ways. We are using challenging tasks that require students to provide reasoning, support arguments with evidence, and persevere in solving problems. These are the skills that colleges and employers say our students need to succeed.

Last spring we measured our progress by participating in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). These new statewide tests for students in grades 3-8 are an academic check-up in English language arts/literacy and mathematics. These tests have replaced our former tests to provide better information to help improve teaching practices and target learning. The test is different from past testing in many ways. Some highlights include:

- **Computer Based:** Some questions are interactive, and a greater variety of supporting tools can be provided to eligible students, such as magnification of text, and text-to-speech read-aloud of questions.
- **Computer Adaptive:** Students receive test questions that help pinpoint what they know and can do. A correct answer is followed by a more difficult question, and an incorrect answer is followed by an easier question. This provides a more precise estimate of student understanding.
- **Realistic Context for Tasks:** Knowledge is assessed in context—for example, students are asked to select a word of the same

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meaning to replace a word in a paragraph, rather than to choose a synonym for a word standing alone. In addition, students will need to provide open-ended answers for some questions, rather than selecting from multiple options, and will be asked to write short essays that will need to be scored by hand.

- No Time Limits: Students can take the time they need to do their best.

When the Scores Come In

Soon, you will receive your child's results on the annual statewide test. Given that the test is new, you should consider these results a baseline for marking future growth. All school districts in the state are in a transition period—we have identified new skills that students should master, we have been teaching those skills in new and novel ways, and now we are assessing progress with a new test. The scores on this test will not be comparable

to the previous year's annual test scores, as the old test assessed a different set of skills. Additionally, we have raised expectations for what students should be able to do, so this year's results may show that most students will need to make substantial progress to master the desired skills. This is OK because we are headed in the right direction. As students spend more time with the new curriculum, their skills will improve.

When you receive these test results, please support your child in areas that seem to be more challenging, and take time to celebrate all of the different ways in which your child has grown.