

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

It's that time of year when we prepare to administer the Smarter Balance Assessment for students in grades 3, 4, 5 and 6. It is the second year of this test and as with any assessment, it causes both students and adults to experience a certain level of anxiety. But let's keep these tests in perspective: they are just another tool to measure learning that our teachers can use to plan improvements in their instruction.

The test is taken on-line and for those students deemed necessary, there are accommodations. Each grade has their own window of day and time and therefore please do not think that your student is taking a test all day long.

Our testing window for the fifth and sixth grade begins Monday, March 21 and ends Monday April 4, 2016. Third and fourth grade schedule begins Wednesday, March 30 and ends Wednesday, April 13, 2016. As we approach the start of our test taking cycle, it is important to ask that families help support our youngsters in two ways. First, remind children that life is full of tests (like a driver's license) and that they should not be stressed out about it. Second, please make sure that they get enough sleep before the morning of their scheduled test days. A healthy lifestyle always prepares us for the challenges of life.

Please note that Vermont's test delivery system uses state of the art security features that will protect our students' privacy, and will adhere to all federal and state confidentiality regulations, including but not limited to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Should you have any questions do not hesitate to contact the school. Join me in supporting our great Eden Central School as we work on what really matters; teaching the whole child in order for them to become caring individuals, ready to meet the civic, cultural and career challenges that await them.

To learn more about Smarter Balance, information for parents as well as practice tests, log on to: <http://vt.portal.airast.org/>

Sincerely,

Joe Ciccolo, Principal
Eden Central School