



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
J. B. CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL
45-386 KANEOHE BAY DRIVE
KANEOHE, HAWAII 96744

March 5, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

During the 2023-2024 school year, all students in grades 3-8 and 11 will take the Smarter Balanced English Language Arts (ELA)/Literacy and Mathematics Assessments and all students in grades 5 and 8 will take the Hawaii State Science (NGSS) Assessments. Summative assessments will begin on April 1, 2024 and will be taken during English and math classes.

The purpose of the assessments is to provide you and your child's teacher(s) with information about the extent to which your child has met identified content standards in ELA/literacy and mathematics, for grade 11. A *Parent Information Booklet* with information about the assessments, and what you can do to help your child prepare has been posted online at <https://smarterbalanced.alohahsap.org/en/resources/resources>. Before the assessments, please visit the <https://alohahsap.org/> portal.

The *Elementary and Secondary Education Act*, as reauthorized by the *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA)*, requires states to establish challenging standards, develop aligned assessments, and build accountability systems based upon educational results. All students are included in a state's system of standards, assessments, and accountability.

The Department of Education strongly encourages all parents to have their children participate in the Smarter Balanced ELA/Literacy and Mathematics Assessments so that we can better identify their academic strengths and needs. ***In addition, passing scores are currently being used to place students into entry-level college courses in all 10 University of Hawaii Campuses as well as over 250 colleges and universities in other selected states.*** For more information, visit the Hawaii Statewide Assessment Program website linked above.

If you have any questions, please contact RTI/Testing Coordinator, Dale Detton at dettond@knights.k12.hi.us or at (808) 305-0780.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bernadette Tyrell".

Bernadette Tyrell
Principal

Knight Pride
demonstrating
Character ♥ Competence ♥ Commitment