Dear Parent or Guardian,

This spring, students in grades three through eight and grade eleven will take part in the first statewide administration of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). These computer-based tests will replace the former paper-based, multiple-choice assessments in English language arts/literacy (ELA) and math. The science tests will still be paper-based. The tests provide information that can be used to monitor student progress and ensure that all students leave high school ready for college and career.

Students in MDUSD will take the test in grades three through eight, and eleven, from April 27-May 29. To learn about the types of questions on the computer-based test, you and your child can view the practice test online at the California Department of Education (CDE) Smarter Balanced Practice Test website at: http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/practicetest.asp

Following the spring 2015 testing, students will receive individual score reports. Student score reports will be sent home to parents and will include an overall score, a description of the student’s achievement, level for English-language arts and mathematics, and other information. It is important to note that these scores cannot be compared to scores that your child previously received on the STAR Program tests because this test is based on the new Common Core State Standards, involves different types of questions, and will not be reported using the STAR Program reporting categories. No student, parent or teacher should be discouraged by scores, which will not be used to determine whether a student moves on to the next grade. Rather, the results will provide an opportunity to focus on the needs of students and support teachers and schools.

If you would like more information, please visit the Parent/Student tab on the CDE CAASPP website at http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/. If you have any questions regarding your child’s participation, please contact the principal at your child’s school.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nellie Meyer, Superintendent