

Dear Parent or Guardian:

From April 15 to April 25, students in grade 11 will take the Smarter Balanced Assessment in (a) English Language Arts & Literacy and (b) Mathematics. The purpose of this letter is to help in your understanding of the assessment, as well as providing a few ideas for improving your child's preparedness.

The Smarter Balanced assessments measure student achievement in relation to our state standards in the areas of English Language Arts & Literacy and in Mathematics. In addition, score reports will provide information on student performance in the following areas:

- English: Reading, writing, listening, & research
- Math: Concepts and procedures; problem solving and modeling/data analysis; & communicating reasoning

The assessments are given through an online computer application and are unique in the way they adapt to a student's question responses. This is important as it provides questions that are appropriate for your child's level of learning. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude towards testing. These assessments are not timed; however, we provide the following times as estimates of assessment duration: (a) English – 4 hours and (b) Math – 3.5 hours.

Student grades will not be impacted by their performance on this assessment, however the assessment does serve as a way for the school to analyze how well we are helping students meet the standards. For 11<sup>th</sup> grade students, the results are also used for two purposes: (a) to qualify students in the fall of their senior year to alert them that they have already met criteria for guaranteed general acceptance to into the state's six public universities and four technical institutes (Proactive Admissions), and (b) to determine a student's eligibility to further prepare for postsecondary coursework (College Readiness Courses). More information regarding Proactive Admissions and College Readiness Coursework can be found on [SDMyLife](#).

There is no need for students to study in preparation for the assessments. We do, however, ask that students try their best and get plenty of rest the night before testing. It is important for students to come to school on test days. Assessments are required, therefore making up a missed assessment leads to less instructional time and a loss of important learning opportunities.

#### Online Resources

- Students and parents can use complete Practice Tests in English and Math for grades 3 through 8 and 11 at the [student and family assessment portal](#).
- Students and parents can use sample assessment items for all assessment content at the [Smarter Balanced sample item webpage](#).

This testing is very important for your child and the Waubay School District. Thank you for supporting your child and our school during this assessment period. Please contact us if you have any questions. We know that Waubay's students will help us to understand the great strides our students have taken in meeting our school and state standards in learning!

Sincerely,

Dean of Students