



**Thomaston Public Schools  
Thomaston Center School  
1 Thomas Avenue  
Thomaston, CT 06787-0166  
(860) 283-3036 Ext. 12302  
(860) 283-3048-Fax**

**Alisha DiCorpo  
Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment  
Thomaston Public Schools**

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

In our continuing efforts to ensure that your child – and all children/students – in Thomaston Public Schools are prepared for success, our teachers have implemented the **Connecticut Core Standards** that provide consistent guidelines in English language arts/literacy and mathematics at each grade level. These standards provide clear expectations of the knowledge, skills, and abilities students need to be successful beyond high school. The Smarter Balanced Assessment is aligned to the Connecticut Core Standards and is designed to assess student progress toward college and career readiness in mathematics, reading, and writing. Administered online, these assessments will adapt to each student's ability, giving teachers and parents/guardians information to help students succeed.

The Smarter Balanced Assessment will be administered to students in Grades 3 – 8. Our schedule for testing is as follows:

- Smarter Balanced Assessment Black Rock School, Grade 3, May 3, 2016-May 10, 2016 and May 9-13, 2016
- Smarter Balanced Assessment Thomaston Center School, Grades 4-6, May 9-12, 2016 and May 17 May 18, 2016
- Smarter Balanced Assessment Thomaston High School, Grades 7-8 only, April 28-May 5, 2016

As required by Connecticut General Statute 10-14n, all students are required to take a mastery examination in Grades 3 – 8 for mathematics, reading, and writing.

#### **Key Features of the Smarter Balanced Assessment**

- ✓ Measures critical thinking with questions that ask students to demonstrate their research, writing, and problem solving skills
- ✓ All testing is administered using a secure online assessment system that includes a variety of tools and technology enhanced test questions that will improve the assessment experience for our students
- ✓ Accessibility tools for all students and accommodations – such as text-to-speech, key word translation glossaries, American Sign Language translation, and Braille – for those who need them
- ✓ Assessments are untimed and students can take breaks so that they can do their best

To learn more about the assessments, explore the Smarter Balanced Practice Tests (<http://ct.portal.airast.org/training-tests>) with your child. For more information about the Smarter Balanced Assessments in our district, please visit. Visit the Connecticut Smarter Balanced website ([www.ct.gov/sde/SmarterBalanced](http://www.ct.gov/sde/SmarterBalanced)) to find additional information for parents.

As educators, we are committed to working together to support all students and families with resources and information on the Smarter Balanced Assessment, in the hopes that each student will achieve his or her personal best.

Sincerely,

Alisha DiCorpo