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# CALIENTE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**March 19, 2014**

**Dear Parent/Guardian:**

**This is an exciting time for everyone at Piute Mountain School.**

**As you may already know, we, along with thousands of schools across California, are participating in a field test of a modern assessment system designed to help shape teaching and learning in the classroom. Know as the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress – CAASPP – these computer-based tests replace the STAR program.**

**These tests are aligned to the Common Core State Standards for English and math, which California adopted in 2010 to describe what knowledge and skills students need to be well prepared for college and careers, no matter where they come from or where they live.**

**Part of the goal of the field test this year is to determine how well individual questions allow students to demonstrate what they know and still need to learn. We are also taking this opportunity to see how well our technical capabilities meet the demands of computer-based assessments and to see what resources our teachers and school may yet need.**

**Finally and importantly, this year also gives your student an opportunity to try out the new system without consequences. All of this combined means that we will not be capturing scores this year. Instead, we will use what we learn from this field test to help ensure a successful full launch of the system in the 2014-2015 school year.**

**Our next step in that transition is to administer the field test to students in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades from April through May 16, 2014. If you want to see what types of questions students will be asked or how the test will be presented, there is a practice test available online at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/practicetest.asp>.**

**If you would like more information, please visit the California Department of Education Smarter Balanced Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/smarterfieldtest.asp>. If you have any questions regarding your child's participation, please contact Piute Mountain School, Kathleen S. Hansen at 661-867-2301 and/or [khansen@calienteschooldistrict.org](mailto:khansen@calienteschooldistrict.org).**

Sincerely,

Kathleen S. Hansen  
Superintendent/Principal