

GRANADA HILLS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL



Brian Bauer
Executive Director

March 31, 2016

Dear Granada Hills Charter Parents, Guardians, and Students:

From Tuesday, April 12 through Friday, April 15 students in grades 9, 10, and 11 will participate in annual state testing and school-selected assessments. On these days, Granada Hills Charter High School (“GHCHS”) will follow a modified bell schedule. Please refer to the modified bell schedule below this message and on the [GHCHS website](#).

The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, or CAASPP, is the state’s academic testing program that includes computer adaptive tests in English Language Arts (“ELA”) and Mathematics as well as a paper-based test for science. Students in grade 10 will take the California Standards Test for Life Science and students in grade 11 will take the Smarter Balanced Assessments in ELA and Mathematics.

At the start of the 2013-2014 academic year, California eliminated most state testing for students in grades 9 and 10. In this absence of state mandated testing in these grades, Granada Hills Charter High School has selected and developed several assessments that are administered to all students in grades 9 and 10 several times throughout the year.

The state’s testing program (“CAASPP”) and GHCHS-selected assessments have significant benefits for the school community. The school uses the results of these assessments to make adjustments to the instructional program to ensure that students are adequately prepared for success in college and career. Students, parents/guardians, and teachers receive valuable feedback that helps them identify areas of strengths and weaknesses in critical thinking, mathematics, reading, and writing. Additionally, students who attend a California State University (“CSU”) or a California Community College are able to use their scores from the CAASPP tests free of charge in lieu of placement exams administered by those schools the summer before matriculation.

The selection and development of the GHCHS assessments is a local decision made by the GHCHS instructional departments and through various school committees consisting of faculty, students, and parents/guardians. Careful consideration is given to the purpose of these

assessments, the usefulness of the results, and the instructional time necessary for the administration of the tests.

GHCHS has administered the Northwest Evaluation Association Measure of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP) to students in grades 9 and 10 several times each year since 2013. The NWEA MAP consists of computer adaptive assessments in ELA and Mathematics. Immediately following the completion of the assessment, students can view their overall score.

GHCHS uses the results of these tests to ensure proper placement in Mathematics and ELA classes and to support and augment daily instructional activities. More than ten million students participate in NWEA MAP testing every year in the United States.

For the 2015-2016 academic year, less than 2% of instructional time will be dedicated to the administration of both the CAASPP and GHCHS-selected assessments. Further, other than one homeroom period to ensure that students and teachers are familiar with the technology and format of the tests, GHCHS does not dedicate instructional time to test-prep activities.

Per California Educational Code 60615, parents and guardians have the right to exempt their child from participating in the CAASPP testing program. California Educational Code 60615 reads as follows: *Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a parent's or guardian's written request to school officials to excuse his or her child from any or all parts of the assessments administered pursuant to this chapter shall be granted.* This applies only to state-mandated assessments in the CAASPP testing program. For 2015-16, this includes the grade 11 Smarter Balanced Assessments in ELA and Mathematics, and the grade 10 Life Science test. Students not participating in the CAASPP testing program are expected to be in attendance at school during the testing periods each day, and will be required to participate in alternative school activities during these periods.

There are no grades associated with any assessment in the CAASPP testing program. However, GHCHS- developed or selected assessments are often graded, and students who do not participate in GHCHS-selected or developed assessments may receive a grade indicating lack of participation and may lose opportunities to participate in optional school activities.

For more information about California's state testing program, please visit the *Students and Parents* tab at [CAASPP Resources](#). For more information about the NWEA assessments, please visit the [NWEA Parent Resources](#). To view Section 60615 of the California Education code, please visit [Ed Code Section 60615](#).

If you have any questions regarding the assessment program, please contact administrative director of instruction David Bensinger at dbensinger@ghchs.com.

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SPRING TESTING 2016 — SPECIAL BELL SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 7	Tuesday, April 12	Wednesday, April 13	Thursday, April 14	Friday, April 15
All Grades <small>47 Minute Class Periods</small>	Grade 9	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 10
Period 0 7:25 AM - 8:12 AM	Grade 11	Grade 11	Grade 10	Grade 11
Test Prep Homerooms 8:27 AM - 9:12 AM	Grade 12	Grade 11	Grade 10	Grade 11
Period 1 9:19 AM - 10:06 AM	Testing Session 1 (95 minutes) 8:27 AM - 10:02 AM	Testing Session 1 (75 minutes) 8:27 AM - 9:42 AM	Testing Session 1 (95 minutes) 8:27 AM - 10:02 AM	Testing Session 1 (75 minutes) 8:27 AM - 9:42 AM
Nutrition 10:06 AM - 10:18 AM	Nutrition 10:02 AM - 10:24 AM	Nutrition 9:42 AM - 9:54 AM	Nutrition 10:02 AM - 10:24 AM	Nutrition 8:42 AM - 9:54 AM
Period 2 10:25 AM - 11:12 AM	Testing Session 2 (95 minutes) 10:21 AM - 11:56 AM	Testing Session 2 (65 minutes) 10:01 AM - 11:06 AM	Testing Session 2 (95 minutes) 10:21 AM - 11:56 AM	Testing Session 2 (95 minutes) 10:01 AM - 11:06 AM
Period 3 11:19 AM - 12:06 PM	All Grades <small>45 Minute Class Periods</small>	All Grades <small>45 Minute Class Periods</small>	All Grades <small>45 Minute Class Periods</small>	All Grades <small>45 Minute Class Periods</small>
Period 4 12:13 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch (30 minutes) 11:56 AM - 12:38 PM	Lunch (30 minutes) 11:56 AM - 12:38 PM	Lunch (45 minutes) 11:56 AM - 12:38 PM	Lunch (30 minutes) 11:56 AM - 12:38 PM
Lunch (30 minutes) 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Period 1 12:45 PM - 1:31 PM	Period 0 11:10 AM - 12:02 PM	Period 1 12:45 PM - 1:31 PM	Period 0 11:10 AM - 12:02 PM
Period 5 1:39 PM - 2:26 PM	Period 3 1:38 PM - 2:24 PM	Lunch (30 minutes) 12:02 PM - 12:38 PM	Period 3 1:38 PM - 2:24 PM	Lunch (30 minutes) 12:02 PM - 12:38 PM
Period 6 2:33 PM - 3:20 PM	Passing 2:24 PM - 2:36 PM	Period 2 12:45 PM - 1:31 PM	Passing 2:24 PM - 2:36 PM	Period 2 12:45 PM - 1:31 PM
Period 7 3:25 PM - 4:22 PM	Period 5 2:34 PM - 3:20 PM	Period 4 1:38 PM - 2:24 PM	Period 5 2:34 PM - 3:20 PM	Period 4 1:38 PM - 2:24 PM
During Test Prep Homerooms	Passing 3:20 PM - 3:35 PM	Passing 2:24 PM - 2:36 PM	Passing 3:20 PM - 3:35 PM	Passing 2:24 PM - 2:36 PM
Grade 9 "Connected but Alone"	Period 7 3:35 PM - 4:21 PM	Period 6 2:34 PM - 3:20 PM	Period 7 3:35 PM - 4:21 PM	Period 6 2:34 PM - 3:20 PM
Grade 10 Life Science Test Prep	During Testing Session 1 and 2	During Testing Session 1 and 2	During Testing Session 1 and 2	During Testing Session 1 and 2
Grade 11 1) Log in to SBAC Testing Program 2) Practice Tests	Grade 9 TS1 - NWEA Reading TS2 - NWEA Language	Grade 9 TS1 - NWEA Math TS2 - UCLA MCTP Readiness Test	Grade 9 Late Arrival, no later than 12:38 PM	Grade 9 Late Arrival, no later than 11:06 AM for students with period 0
Grade 12 Senior Honors/Peterson (8:27 AM)	Grade 10 Late Arrival, no later than 12:38 PM	Grade 10 Late Arrival, no later than 11:06 AM for students with period 0	Grade 10 TS1 - Life Science/GASAP TS2 - NWEA Reading	Grade 10 TS1 - NWEA Math TS2 - UCLA MCTP Readiness Test
	Grade 11 TS1 - SBAC ELA Multiple Choice TS2 - SBAC ELA Multiple Choice & ELA Constructive Activity	Grade 11 TS1/TS2 - SBAC ELA Performance Task	Grade 11 TS1 - SBAC Math Multiple Choice TS2 - SBAC Math Multiple Choice & Math Contextual Activity	Grade 11 TS1/TS2 - SBAC Math Performance Task
	Grade 12 Sober Grad (8:27 AM)	Grade 12 Late Arrival, no later than 11:06 AM for students with period 0	Grade 12 Late Arrival, no later than 12:38 PM	Grade 12 Late Arrival, no later than 11:06 AM for students with period 0

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