



MISSION

Powell Butte Community Charter School will develop the ability to think critically, communicate effectively, and excel academically. Through place-based learning our students will become stewards of their environment and community.

January 5, 2017

Happy New Year, PBCCS Families! Wishing you joy and happiness in 2017!

With the school year well under way, I wanted to take a moment to provide some important information about this year's state testing.

Last spring, students in grades 3-8 at PBCCS and around Oregon took state tests in English Language Arts and Math, called Smarter Balanced. These tests move away from previous fill-in-the bubble exams that focused on rote memorization, to a format, which asks students to explain their reasoning and write out their answers. These tests measure complex, real-world skills such as critical-thinking, writing, and problem solving.

PBCCS will begin administering Smarter Balanced tests beginning in the spring. The tests are not timed so your child can take as long as he or she needs to fully demonstrate what he or she knows and can do.

We know that an end-of-the-year test cannot possibly tell us *everything* about your child's academic progress. The results act as a snapshot of your child's strengths and areas for improvement and can be used as a way to ensure he or she is getting the supports he or she needs. Additionally, the tests help PBCCS's efforts to equitably distribute resources and support student learning.

Included with this letter is a form that allows you to opt your child out of testing for the 2016-17 school year. The form is also posted online on our website: www.powellbuttecharterschool.org. Should you wish to opt your child out, please submit the form to Mrs. Townsend in the school's Main Office. You can read more about your rights to opt-out here: <http://tinyurl.com/OR-HB2655>.

At PBCCS we are deeply committed to ensuring each and every student in our school has the support he or she needs to achieve at high levels. Our ultimate goal is to make sure that all students are set up to be successful from grade to grade and that will remain the focus of our school through the rest of the school year. As testing dates approach, you will be receiving more information from your child's classroom teacher.

If you have general questions or want more information about the end-of-year tests, please see the Smarter Balanced factsheet on our website at: www.powellbuttecharterschool.org. I encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher(s) with any questions you may have about your student's progress.

Sincerely,
Mrs. O'Shea