



Powell Butte Community Charter School January 9, 2019

Happy New Year, Hawks! Wishing you joy and happiness in 2019! With the school year well under way, I wanted to take a moment to provide some important information about state testing.

In the spring, students in grades 3-8 around Oregon will take 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 March. The tests are not timed so your child can take as long as they need to fully demonstrate what they know 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 they are getting the supports they need. Additionally, the tests help PBCCS' efforts to equitably distribute resources and support student learning.

Included with this letter is information from the Oregon Department of Education, including the "Annual Notice" and "Opt-Out Form." If you have general questions or want more information about statewide assessments, please visit the [Oregon Department of Education](#).

At PBCCS we are deeply committed to ensuring each and every student in our school has the support they need 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.

Sincerely,

Mrs. O'Shea