

HAMLET M. HERNANDEZ
Superintendent of Schools

RACHEL M. SEXTON
Assistant Superintendent of Schools

DONALD A. NEEL
Chief Operating Officer



BRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1111 Main Street, Branford, CT 06405-3717

203.488.7276 • Fax 203. 315.3505

www.branfordschools.org

February 12, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This spring, the Branford Public Schools (BPS) will administer a number of state-mandated assessments that are necessary for the State of Connecticut to meet federal requirements.

Eligible students may choose to test for the Seal of Biliteracy in March and all students in grade 11 will be taking the SAT that month. During the month of May, grade 11 students will take the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) assessment and those who have registered will take AP exams. Also in May, students in grades 3 through 8 will take the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA), and those in grades 5 and 8 will also take the NGSS assessment. The SBA and NGSS assessments are conducted online and may include computer adaptive multiple-choice questions and/or require students to demonstrate learning through performance tasks.

These assessments provide a snapshot of a student's current level of performance in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Science, and other subjects, and are used to inform instructional and programming decisions made on behalf of your child. As a district, we are committed to developing a comprehensive student profile that reflects the whole child; therefore, we consider the results of these assessments to be only one part of your child's current performance, and not the totality of their achievement.

The BPS staff will work to ensure this annual requirement is met in a timely manner. It is our intention to meet all the SDE requirements with minimal disruption to the academic day and to provide testing conditions that will allow all Branford students to perform their best.

In the weeks ahead, your child's school principal will provide additional details regarding this year's testing. Should you have any questions regarding these assessments, please contact your child's school. You may also consult the Connecticut State Department of Education's website for more information regarding the state-mandated assessments here:

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Student-Assessment/Main-Assessment/Parent-Resources/Documents>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hamlet M. Hernandez", is written over the "Sincerely," and extends down over the printed name.

Hamlet M. Hernandez
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Building Principals
Rachel Sexton, Assistant Superintendent