

State Testing Updates, for students in grades 9-12:

- ❖ Smarter Balanced ELA and Math tests
- ❖ Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science
- ❖ Updated graduation requirements related to testing



Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians:

March 2019

As you may know, every year the state requires that we assess students in core subject areas, starting in grade 3. The table below shows the tests required at high school:

- **Smarter Balanced (SBA) ELA** (English Language Arts) – all 10th graders will test, plus 11th-12th graders who have not yet met the ELA test standard for graduation.
- **Smarter Balanced Math** – all 10th graders should test (except if in a math course below Algebra 2); plus 11th graders are required to test if math test standard has not been met; 12th graders as needed for graduation.
- **Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science (WCAS)** – all 11th graders will test.

Spring 2019 state-required tests for graduation:

2017-18 Grade Level	ELA Test	Math Test	Science Test
Gr 9 (Class of 2022)	SBA (taken as sophomores)	SBA (taken as sophomores)	WCAS (taken as juniors)
Gr 10 (Class of 2021)	SBA Wednesday and Thursday, May 22 and 23 @ 8:00am	SBA Wednesday and Thursday, May 29 and 30 @ 8:00am	WCAS (taken as juniors)
Gr 11 (Class of 2020)	SBA, if not previously passed Wednesday and Thursday, May 22 and 23 @ 8:00am	SBA, if not previously passed Wednesday and Thursday, May 29 and 30 @ 8:00am	WCAS Tuesday, May 21 @ 8:00am
Gr 12 (Class of 2019)	SBA, if not previously passed Wednesday and Thursday, May 22 and 23 @ 8:00am	SBA, if not previously passed Wednesday and Thursday, May 29 and 30 @ 8:00am	N/A

*****There will also be additional testing days for students to either complete an unfinished test, or make-up a test they were absent for. These dates are Friday, May 24 and Friday, May 31.**

State testing highlights for 2018-2019:

- Smarter Balanced tests are adaptive, which means the difficulty of the test items will adjust somewhat, depending on each student’s performance during the test.
- Smarter Balanced tests are untimed and designed to be taken over multiple sessions (days). Students have multiple opportunities to take and retake graduation-required exams.
- Testing schedules will be set by each school, according to state guidelines – **Sammamish High is testing in late May.** You will receive a more specific notification if your child needs to take a test that does not fall into one of these categories.
- Federal accountability for high school is at grade 11. This means that 11th graders who have not yet met the “College and Career Ready” standard (Level 3) on the SBA ELA and/or Math tests are required to retest.
- All 10th graders will take the Smarter Balanced ELA and Math tests (except students who are in a math course below Algebra 2 may wait until next year to take the math test).
- Students receiving special education services in Reading, Writing or Math, are eligible to take off-level tests, but only after having previously attempted the High School level tests.

Smarter Balanced Practice Tests: We encourage parents and students to check out the practice and training tests, plus assorted resources that are available to the public. <http://wa.portal.airast.org/training-tests/>
Students will also have designated practice sessions during the school day before actual testing begins.

High School Diploma Requirements related to Testing: Besides passing state tests to meet requirements, various state-approved options such as ACT/SAT scores are available. Students with IEPs have further options such as off-level tests. Speak to your high school counselor for more information. Please feel free to contact your student's school counselor or special education case manager if you have questions about state testing, approved options, special education options, or test-related graduation requirements.

Additional benefits of taking the SBA tests: Due to the confidence that colleges have in the ability of the Smarter Balanced Assessments to assess college readiness skills, many colleges and universities in Washington, Oregon, California, and a number of other states have agreed to honor scores from this assessment for students to enroll in entry-level, credit-bearing courses and skip remedial classes.

Best regards,
Sammamish High School Administration

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More info on Smarter Balanced: <http://www.k12.wa.us/smarter/default.aspx>
Common Core State Standards: <http://www.corestandards.org/>