



# San Elijo Elementary School

*SEE us SOAR*

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## CAASPP System Assessments 2016–17 Pilot California Science Test

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Dear Parent or Guardian,

The State of California is implementing new science standards that describe the things we want students to know and be able to do. These new standards help students to think and work like scientists and engineers—asking questions and learning using hands-on investigation and discovery. Working with science teachers, California is developing the California Science Test (CAST) that emphasizes scientific thinking and reasoning. These new tests will be given in grades five, eight and high school. As partners in your child's education, we invite you to take a look at some sample test questions available in the new CAST Training Test at <http://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html>.

It's important to remember that statewide tests cannot take the place of hands-on learning that is taking place in our school. Experiments, in-class assignments, and tests designed by your child's teacher all play a part in gauging what students know.

Statewide tests like the CAST are valuable because they represent a common yardstick—a way to measure the progress of all students at the same time in the same way.

We are excited about the new science standards and the role CAST will play in helping our students reach their potential and prepare for the future. If you have any questions about how we are implementing these new standards, please contact Jimmy Miringoff, Assistant Principal of San Elijo Elementary School...[jimmy.miringoff@smusd.org](mailto:jimmy.miringoff@smusd.org) or 760-290-2604.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Kalicki- Principal

Jimmy Miringoff- Assistant Principal