



SUNRISE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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SUNRISE SPARTAN SHIELD – Spring Edition

All Things Year-round

After our successful and smooth shift from a traditional calendar, it is time to begin the process of our first transition from one school year to the next. There are several aspects of this process: Intent to Return forms, Track Change Requests, Notification of Class Assignments, and Planning of Family Vacations.

Intent to Return Forms – These forms were sent home with ABC students on Wednesday, February 18th. D Track will receive theirs on Wednesday, March 11th. These forms are an essential tool in planning for the new year. Responses on these forms enable us to plan for the correct number of teachers and classes at each grade level. Based on this information, we can also determine if we are able to honor requests for track changes.

Due Dates: Tracks ABC - March 5th

Track D - March 25th

Track Change Requests – Track Change Request forms will be available for all tracks beginning Wednesday, March 18th at 7:30AM in the school office. Track change requests will be honored based on spaces available and date & time of filing the Track Change Request form. Track Change Request forms will remain active until December 18, 2015. NOTE: If you submitted a Track Change Request for the 14-15 school year that we were unable to honor or you declined, you will need to submit a new Track Change Request form for the 15-16 school year. Please be aware that our ability to honor requests for change of track may be very limited. In most cases classes and tracks are filled to capacity. Movement will be dependent on any spaces created by students who move from our attendance area.

Notification of Class Assignments for 15-16 - It is our goal to send home 15-16 class assignments with students on their final day of school along with their report card. This applies to all currently enrolled students TK-5th grade. (It does not apply to incoming TK and K students for 15-16.) Please be sure to keep track of your child's assignment. We are moving away from posting class lists on the windows of the office.

2015-16 Student Attendance – Travel Plans – During this first year of year-round as families have adjusted their work and family schedules to the new school schedule, we have been lenient with absences due to family vacations and travel. For the 15-16 school year, the track calendar has now been available on the district website for an entire year. Track assignments are known, and vacation and travel plans can now be made that do not interfere with the educational process. Regular attendance is a critical component of quality learning. Please plan vacations and travel during off track months. EGUSD policy states that after ten (10) days of unexcused absences a student may be dropped from enrollment.

Sunrise Celebrates Student Talent – Sunrise's Student Leadership group sponsored by Mr. K. Harding and supported by Mr. T. Harding and Mrs. Caston, hosted the eighth annual Spartan Talent Show on Wednesday, February 28th. Twenty student acts showcased a wide variety of talent from singing, dance, comedy, to piano. The Sunrise staff also contributed to the event! Parents may find it helpful to know that the Student Leadership group is active in the audition process. Part of the process involves a review of song lyrics and costumes. EGUSD has established a G rating criteria for entertainment (videos, etc.) shown to students at the elementary school level during the school day.

GATE – Gifted and Talented Education – A recent letter sent to all parents in the EGUSD, addressed the topic of Gifted and Talented Education with a focus on AP and Honors classes at the middle and high school and the under-representation of certain groups in these programs. GATE identification will be based on students exhibiting exceptional ability in one of the following domains: Creative Ability, Leadership Ability, Visual and Performing Arts Ability, Academic Ability, and Cognitive Ability.

At the elementary level, all third grade students will be given the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT) this spring. Performance on the Naglieri will serve as a piece of the qualifying criteria for GATE in the cognitive domain. Additionally, each elementary school in EGUSD will be creating a GATE Qualification Committee that will review students' qualifications for GATE. Criteria for GATE designation in each of the five domains is still under development by EGUSD.

Sunrise currently has 23 GATE qualified students in grades 4-6. We are currently developing an extended day offering for these students that will be offered this school year. Qualified students will bring home a letter with more specific details. The program will be taught by Ms. Montgomery and Ms. Degner.

Sunrise Students to Take CAASPP (California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress)

Beginning in late April, Sunrise will begin testing all 3rd-6th graders in the first full test administration of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) test. The CAASPP is the new standardized test designed to measure student mastery of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in Language Arts and Mathematics. Fifth graders will also take the CST in Science.

The CAASPP test is significantly different than its predecessor the CST test. While both tests evaluate student knowledge in the areas of Language Arts and Mathematics, the rigor of CAASPP reflects the increased rigor of the Common Core State Standards. The attached article provided by the Sacramento County Office of Education provides an excellent summary of the CAASPP test.

Each subject area, English Language Arts and Mathematics, is assessed by two different types of assessments, a selected response assessment and a performance task. Test items on the selected response assessments include the following features: one correct response, multiple correct responses, two-part questions, yes/no and true/false questions. Students may be asked to fill in tables, select or order text or graphics, create a graph, write an equation or numeric responses, and provide short answers. The selected response portion of the test is not fixed but will increase or decrease in rigor based on the correct or incorrect responses of the student. In the performance tasks, students will write a complete essay in response to a particular prompt and in mathematics communicate their math reasoning as they solve the assigned problem.

A skill that we have been working to develop in our students since last year's pilot test is how to take a test of this scope on the computer and take advantage of the electronic features built into the test.

Given the scope and complexity of the testing, it is extremely important that students be in attendance on test days.

A schedule of testing dates will be sent home with students in the next couple of weeks.

Parents will receive a report of their child's performance on the CAASPP. A number of factors will play into this first measure of student performance:

1. New content standards
2. New test and test format
3. Taking a test on a computer
4. Two years without a test experience

All of this "newness" will give us test results that will be helpful as baseline information and a place from which to set goals for program improvements. It would not be surprising given all of these factors, for student and school scores to decline from prior years. Sunrise has historically been a school with very good student performance and a track record of improved student performance from year to year. We will continue to be this kind of school. Parents are encouraged to track their child's performance on CAASPP over time and to use this test as one measure of their child's progress. Daily performances in class as well as report card information continue to be valuable and accurate tools in looking at your child's academic development.