



Our students will lead and shape the future

News release

Feb. 8, 2016

What do you know about annual state tests?

Information and “hands on” sample test, Feb. 22, 6 – 7 p.m. at the [Community Resource Center](#), 3900 Broadway, Everett

This spring, students in grades three through eight and 10 and 11 will take the annual state assessments, known as [Smarter Balanced Assessments](#).

Students will take the tests online, using Chrome Book laptops again this year. Students have been using Chrome Books since fall of 2014 when 3,400 of the white laptops rolled into classrooms in especially equipped power carts, thanks to the technology levy voters approved in 2010.



Eisenhower Middle School students using Chrome Books in last year's [Hour of Code](#) activities. Regular use of the machines before spring tests builds familiarity before test day.

“The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) sets different targets for students. Teachers have been learning about the new, more rigorous standards over the last four years so they can help students learn to those higher standards,” explained Associate Superintendent Joyce Stewart. Teachers have been adjusting instructional practices and incorporating the Chrome Book computers in classrooms this year. That way, students are familiar with the machines they will use for testing.”

“Parents have always helped prepare students for testing,” said Director of Curriculum and Assessment Catherine Matthews. “The February 22 information session is one way of helping parents understand the tests so they can help students be more confident on test days.”

“All district Chrome Books are in schools and constantly used by students and teachers. So we will use laptops for the February 22 demonstration,” explained Matthews. “I’ll show those who attend how they can use their home computers for more practice tests.”

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Matthews will lead the February 22 session. “We also have a [parent guide in video](#) format on our website,” Matthews pointed out. “The video is available now in English and in Spanish.”

This event is limited to the first 60 who [register online](#).

“We have that many Chrome Books for each session,” explained Matthews. “Depending upon the interest for this event, we will plan others so more will have a chance to experience the same texts and online testing experience.

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The Feb. 22 parent night is one of many events the district hosts to help parents become familiar with educational technology. Above, a North Middle School student and dad are learning about computer coding during December's Hour of Code held at the Community Resource Center.

**For more
information:**

[Mary Waggoner](#),

Director of Communications, 425-385-4040

[Catherine Matthews](#), Director of Curriculum and Assessment, 425-385-4058