



Mustang Message Assessing Students

In April and May Meadowbrook students participate in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) statewide testing program. This is a series of two Language Arts tests and two Math tests, with our 8th graders also completing the California Standards Test in Science. In both Language Arts and Math students complete a Computer Adapted Test (CAT) comprised of multiple choice and short answer questions. The second test in both areas is a Performance Task (PT) which has more in-depth questions with answers requiring more detailed written explanations.

Students and parents can use the results of these tests as one of many indicators of a student's progress and achievement. Our staff also uses the test results to analyze school strengths and weaknesses, and check on our students' overall performance with regard to state standards.

The tests that make up the CAASPP program are only one measure of student progress and achievement used here at Meadowbrook. There are many ways for students to show learned knowledge including quizzes, tests, projects, essays, group work, group or class discussions, presentations and reports. Many of these assessments are designed to check on critical thinking skills and depth of knowledge. Our staff regularly includes both formative and summative assessments as part of their planning.

Formative assessments help monitor student learning and are used to gather feedback to guide and improve ongoing teaching and learning. These continual assessments help students see their strengths and weaknesses to enable them to target areas that need more work. They also allow staff to quickly recognize where students are struggling and address problem areas before they become overwhelming. Self-reflection and goal setting are natural outcomes of formative assessments.

Summative assessments are designed to evaluate student learning or proficiency at the end of an instructional unit by comparing it to some type of standard or benchmark. Final exams, unit tests, and the tests in the CAASPP program are summative tests. However, information from them is also used formatively to guide our efforts and planning for the future.

As our students learn and explore, we are excited to see their on-going progress as measured by different assessments. We continually use assessment results to strengthen our programs and help each student reach for and beyond proficiency.