

The News That Counts

February 2014



SBAC stands for Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

Who? All students

What? SBAC testing The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium is a state-led consortium working to develop next-generation assessments that accurately measure student progress toward college- and career-readiness. Smarter Balanced is one of two multistate consortia awarded funding from the U.S. Department of Education in 2010 to develop an assessment system aligned to the [Common Core State Standards \(CCSS\)](#) by the 2014-15 school year.

When? Beginning in March and continuing through May

Where? Students will take the test in the classrooms using laptops or computer labs, as the test is taken on a computer.

WHY? Part of the adoption of the common core curriculum* is testing students' math and language competency.

* The **Common Core State Standards Initiative** is an education initiative in the United States that details what K-12 students should know in English and math at the end of each grade. The initiative seeks to establish consistent education standards across the states as well as ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared to enter two or four year college programs or enter the workforce

What is Carrigan doing to prepare for SBAC testing?

...Since 2009

Administrators:

- attend workshops and meet with state educators to learn about the common core curriculum
- provide school staff with information, materials and time to develop curriculum
- supervise and observe school wide implementation
- inform parents

Coach/Guidance/support staff

- attend workshops
- collaborate with, advise and support teachers and students with implementation of curriculum
- write curriculum
- provide class/test materials and scheduling
- monitor student progress
- communicate with students and parents

Teachers:

- attend workshops
- collaborate with administration and support staff
- write and implement common core curriculum
- adjust and vary teaching strategies
- provide students with practice SBAC test items
- assess student progress
- communicate with students and parents

Strategy of the Month

*Noticing patterns helps people solve problems at home, at work, and especially in math class! Math has been called "the study of patterns," so it makes sense to look for a pattern when you are trying to solve a problem. Recognizing patterns helps you to see how things are organized and to make predictions. If you think you see a pattern, try several examples to see if using the pattern will fit the problem situation. Looking for patterns is helpful to use along with other strategies such as make a list or guess and check. How can **finding a pattern***

Use the numbers 4 through 12 to fill in the circles. The numbers on each straight line must add up to 21.

