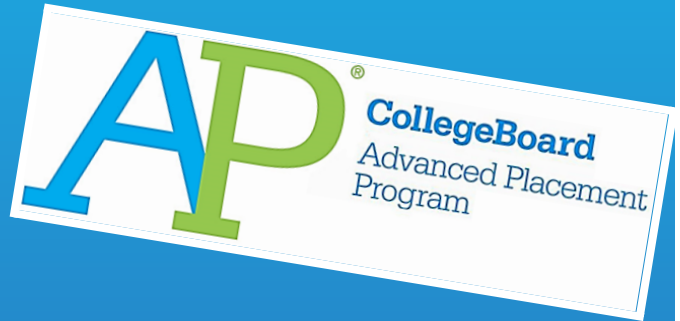


# PCHS SPRING ASSESSMENTS



## TESTING, TESTING, 1-2-3!

With the 2022-23 school year well under way, here is some important information about the school's spring assessment season. PCHS students will take up to four different types of assessments to measure student and school achievement.

### 1. California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)

Students at Palisades Charter High School take the CAASPP state tests that assess interdisciplinary state-standard achievement in English Language Arts, Math, and other core subjects. These standardized tests have moved away from previous fill-in-the bubble exams that focused on rote memorization to a format that requires students to explain their reasoning and write out their answers.

These new tests measure more complex, real-world skills such as critical-thinking, writing, and problem solving so that every student can successfully transition from grade to grade and be prepared for his or her next steps after high school. Palisades Charter High School will give the various CAASPP tests during the spring semester. The tests

## PCHS State Test and Assessment Policy

As a California public charter school, PCHS administers all California state-mandated assessments in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). In addition to California state-mandated assessments in the CAASPP, PCHS has selected and developed other assessments designed to provide students, parents/guardians, and the school with feedback on student performance. The school uses the results of these assessments to make adjustments to the instructional program to ensure that students are adequately prepared for success in college and careers. These assessments may include department-created writing prompts, department-created multiple-choice assessments, computer-based assessments, and third-party standardized assessments. The selection and development of the PCHS assessments is a local decision made by the PCHS instructional departments. Careful consideration is given to the purpose of these assessments, the usefulness of the results, and the instructional time necessary for the administration of the tests. The administration and testing personnel determine the assessment dates and bell schedule.

are not timed, so students may take as long as they need to fully demonstrate what they know and can do.

We know that an end-of-the-year test cannot possibly tell us *everything* about your child's academic progress. However, the results do act as a snapshot of your child's strengths and areas for improvement, and they can be used as a way to ensure he or she is getting the support he or she needs. Additionally, the tests help Palisades Charter High School's efforts to equitably distribute resources and support student learning. The CAASPP battery of tests are listed below:

- The **Interim Assessment Blocks (IAB)** are administered in grades 9-11. These are formative state tests given in the classroom. The student results are reported to teachers in a short amount of time and are used to determine how students are progressing toward meeting state standards.
- The **California Science Test (CAST)** is administered in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Any junior or senior who has not taken the assessment will be tested in March.
- **The California Alternative Assessment (CAA)** replaces the CAPA test and is administered to students whose Individualized Education Plan (IEP) requires an alternative assessment.
- The **Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments (SBAC)** is given to juniors. The scores that students earn will help to determine placement in their senior classes. Additionally, colleges and universities use these results to determine college readiness. Our students' collective SBAC scores produce a part of the PCHS school performance state score. The SBAC tests in English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics will be administered in social studies and English classes during March, April, and May.
- The **California Science Test (CST)** is given the Native Speakers Spanish II class and is used, in part, to determine eligibility for the seal of biliteracy.

There are no grades associated with any assessment in the CAASPP program. However, PCHS-developed or selected assessments are often graded, and students who do not participate in PCHS-selected or developed assessments may receive a grade indicating lack of participation and may lose opportunities to participate in optional school activities or academic honor federations and societies.

All students must fully participate in PCHS assessments in their 9th-, 10th- and 11th-grade years to be eligible to participate in optional activities such as senior activities, school extracurricular activities, school athletics, and academic honor federations and societies. Students who clearly disregard an assessment as determined by the testing coordinator or test proctor will be regarded as having refused to comply with the testing requirement and may be subject to loss of senior activities, school extracurricular activities, school athletics, and academic honor federations and societies. For example: If the student does not complete the English writing assessment in the 9th grade, he/she/they may be ineligible for student activities during his/her/their 10th-grade year. Eligibility will be reinstated for the 11th-grade year if the student sits for all assessments in his/her/their 10th-grade year. For information about this policy, contact the Director of Academic Achievement.

Per California Education Code 60615, parents and guardians have the right to exempt their child from participating in the CAASPP program. California Education Code 60615 reads as follows: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a parent's or guardian's written request to school officials to excuse his or her child from any or all parts of the assessments administered pursuant to this chapter shall be granted."

California Education Code 60615 applies only to state-mandated assessments in the CAASPP program. The CAASPP program includes the grade 11 Smarter Balanced Assessments in ELA and Mathematics, CAASPP interim assessments, and the California Science Test. Students not participating in the CAASPP program are expected to be in attendance at school during the testing periods each day, and they will be required to complete an alternative school assessment during these periods.

## 2. Advanced Placement Tests

After spring break, PCHS will hit the ground running in preparation for AP course finals and AP College Board testing. In May 2022, PCHS administered 1,179 AP exams with an overall pass rate of 87%.

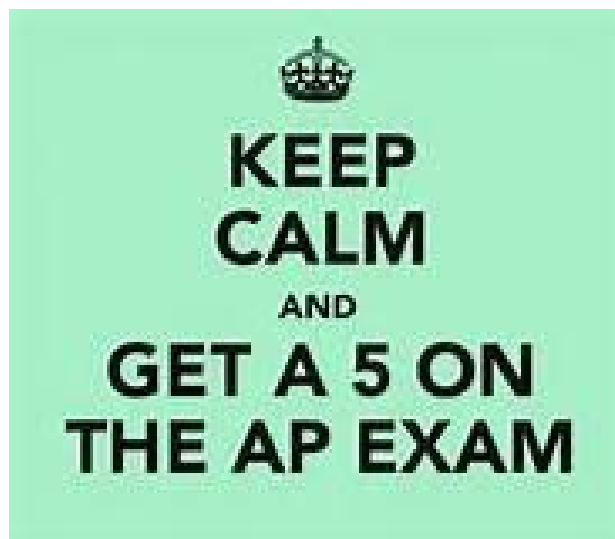
The AP College Board exams are given in May to students who are currently enrolled in AP classes. The College Center proctors all the AP tests given at PCHS. Each June, AP teachers and college faculty gather for the AP Reading, where they score the free-response sections of the AP Exams.

## 3. NWEA Testing

Students learn better — and more quickly — when teachers have a clear picture of what students know and how they are growing academically. That's why a group of educators and researchers founded NWEA®, a not-for-profit organization that has created some of the most trusted and reliable assessment solutions available. MAP Growth uses a RIT scale to accurately measure what students know, regardless of their grade level. It also measures growth over time, allowing you to track your child's progress throughout the school year and across multiple years. Once your child completes a MAP Growth test, they receive a RIT score. The RIT scale precisely measures student performance, regardless of whether they're performing at, above, or below grade level. The Norm Grade Level Mean (RIT) is **the average among students in the same grade, subject, and testing term from the Norms study.** You can use this data to compare students to others in the United States.

## 4. Physical Fitness Test

The Physical Fitness Test (PFT) for ninth-grade students in California schools is the FITNESSGRAM®. The test has six parts that determine a level of fitness. The test results can be used by students, teachers, and parents to encourage students to build life-long habits of regular physical activity. This exam is administered in PE classes between Feb. 1 and March 17, 2023.



## AP Testing Calendar

Week 1	8 a.m.	noon
Monday, May 1	U.S. Government and Politics	Chemistry
Tuesday, May 2	Environmental Science	Psychology
Wednesday, May 3	English Literature & Composition	Computer Science A
Thursday, May 4	Macroeconomics	Statistics
Friday, May 5	European History U.S. History	Art History
Week 2	8 a.m.	noon
Monday, May 8	Calculus AB Calculus BC	Computer Science Principles Italian Language & Culture
Tuesday, May 9	English Language & Composition	Physics C: Mechanics (noon start) Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism (2 p.m. start)
Wednesday, May 10	Spanish Language & Culture	Biology
Thursday, May 11	French Language & Culture World History: Modern	
Friday, May 12	Music Theory	
Week 3	8 a.m.	noon
Thursday, May 18	Human Geography	



