

Whisconier Middle School

prepares for the

Smarter **B**alanced Assessment **C**onsortium

What is the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)?

SBAC is a comprehensive set of tests that in the future will be replacing the CMT's. *

What does the SBAC measure?

The SBAC measures student learning across all content areas.

How is the SBAC different from the CMT?

The SBAC is online vs. the paper and pencil testing of the CMT. The SBAC has Performance Tasks that the CMT did not. The SBAC is a more rigorous test and adapts to each student. For example, if a student answers a question correctly then the next question will be more challenging while an incorrect answer generates an easier question. The SBAC has Performance Tasks that the CMT did not.

*The Science CMT in grades 5 and 8 will continue to be administered for the next two years.

SBAC FACT SHEET

Measures student
achievement and growth in
Revised 2/2015

English language arts/literacy and mathematics in grades 3-8 and high school.

Includes accommodations for students with disabilities and English language learners so that all students can demonstrate what they know.

Administered online with questions and performance tasks that measure critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Expectations of student performance aligned to international benchmarks.

Sources:

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Smarter-Balanced-Parents-Factsheet.pdf>

<http://tv.ccsd.net/watch?v=GtPLYgkUINcJ>

Can You Prepare for SBAC?

Yes! Go to the following site for access:

<http://ct.portal.airast.org/training-tests/>

SBAC Language Arts Claims

Claim #1 – READING
Students can read closely and analytically to comprehend a range of increasingly complex literary and informational texts.

Claim #2 – WRITING

Students can produce effective and well-grounded writing for a range of purposes and audiences.

Claim #3 – SPEAKING & LISTENING

Students can employ effective speaking and listening skills for a range of purposes and audiences.

Claim #4 – RESEARCH

Students can engage in research/inquiry to investigate topics, and to analyze, integrate, and present information.

SBAC Math Claims

Claim #1 – CONCEPTS & PROCEDURES

Students can explain and apply mathematical concepts and interpret and carry out mathematical procedures with precision and fluency.

Claim #2 – PROBLEM SOLVING

Students can solve a range of complex well-posed problems in pure and applied mathematics, making productive use of knowledge and problem solving strategies.

Claim #3 – COMMUNICATING REASONING

Students can clearly and precisely construct viable arguments to support their own reasoning and to critique the reasoning of others.

Claim #4 – MODELING & DATA ANALYSIS

Students can analyze complex, real-world scenarios and can construct and use mathematical models to interpret and solve problems.

Sample SBAC Practice Questions:

Math Question (Grade 5)

English/Language Arts
Question (Grade 6)

Read the text and complete the task that follows it.

Cell Phones in School—Yes or No?

Cell phones are convenient and fun to have. However, there are arguments about whether or not they belong in schools. Parents, students, and teachers all have different points of view. Some say that to forbid them completely is to ignore some of the educational advantages of having cell phones in the classroom. On the other hand, cell phones can interrupt classroom activities and some uses are definitely unacceptable. Parents, students, and teachers need to think carefully about the effects of having cell phones in school.

Some of the reasons to support cell phones in school are as follows:

Students can take pictures of class projects to e-mail or show to parents.

Students can text-message missed assignments to friends that are absent.

Many cell phones have calculators or Internet access that could be used for assignments.

If students are slow to copy notes from the board, they can take pictures of the missed notes and view them later.

During study halls, students can listen to music through cell phones.

Parents can get in touch with their children and know where

they are at all times.

Students can contact parents in case of emergencies.

Some of the reasons to forbid cell phones in school are as follows:

Students might send test answers to friends or use the Internet to cheat during an exam.

Students might record teachers or other students without their knowledge. No one wants to be recorded without giving consent.

Cell phones can interrupt classroom activities.

Cell phones can be used to text during class as a way of passing notes and wasting time.

Based on what you read in the text, do you think cell phones should be allowed in schools? Using the lists provided in the text, write a paragraph arguing why your position is more reasonable than the opposing position.

If you would like to see more **SBAC** practice questions go to the **Whisconier Middle School website and click on ‘SBAC sample questions.’**