



Mt. Whitney
Highest Summit
in the Contiguous
United States
14,497 feet

The Inyo Insight

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Fitting Together the Pieces of the New Assessment System Puzzle

If you're confused about the new assessment system, you're not alone! Although there are many moving parts, the CAASPP website is the place to start to access all assessment-related resources: caaspp.org. Below are the various choices you can make; read on for explanations to help you make sense of the puzzle pieces.

Q: Where do I go if I want my students to take an interim or summative assessment?

A: Starting at the CAASPP home page, select the Test Administrator (TA) Interface from the menu options given (See Fig. 1).

Here you can set up and assign the end-of-year summative assessment or any of the interim assessments (see below for more information).

Teachers must log in with a new TOMS (Test Operations Management System) username / password, set up by the district CAASPP coordinator. Users will receive automatically generated email with information on setting up their TOMS account.

Q: What can you tell us about the SBAC Summative Assessment?

A: This is similar to the SBAC "field test" many students took last year. Go to the TA interface to set up administration. Students can access the assessment through a secure browser after you go through a set-up process.

This year's results will be reported to schools, teachers and parents, but results will not be used for accountability purposes. ETS has contract for the test this year.

Q: What are the Interim Assessments?

A: The SBAC has developed two types of interim assessments: comprehensive assessments and assessment blocks. They share the following features:

- Meant to be used for formative

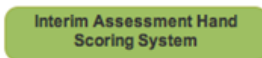
purposes (to inform instructional decisions).

- Not computer-adaptive.
- Administered the same way as summative assessments: click Test Administrator button on CAASPP site, log in with TOMS username / password. Students log in through secure browser.
- Teachers access assessment reports from the CAASPP website, but must log in with Digital Library username/ password.

Figure 1: Menu options as displayed on the CAASPP home page



- Teachers can adjust Universal Access components during test administration
- Includes some items that must be hand-scored. Access hand-scoring via CAASPP home page.

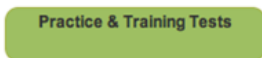


Interim Comprehensive Assessments mirror the summative assessments. They take the same amount of time, use the same blueprint, include performance tasks, and the reports use the same scale.

There are 5-17 Interim Assessment Blocks per grade and content area, some of which are still in development. These assessments focus on a smaller, interconnected cluster of standards (e.g., read informational text, conduct research, fractions) and vary in length.

Q: Can students still practice before the test? How?

A: Yes, using the same Practice and Training Tests as last year: select Practice and Training Tests button on CAASPP website.



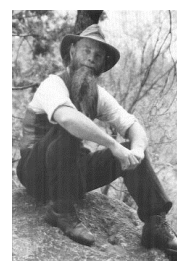
These tests are designed to give students experience with the variety of question types they'll encounter on the summative assessment, including technology-enhanced items. Since they are meant to be used for student practice rather than assessment purposes, there are no reports. Training tests are shorter, arranged by grade span, and don't include Performance Tasks. Practice tests are longer, arranged by grade level, and include Performance Tasks.

Q: What's the Digital Library?

A: The SBAC Digital Library is a searchable collection of online professional learning and instructional resources contributed and vetted by educators. The resources align with the CCSS and help teachers improve classroom instruction and assessment practices. Instructional resources model best practices in CCSS-aligned instruction and formative assessment. Professional learning resources incorporate classroom videos and animations to explain and

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Stetson Performs Locally



As part of the 7th Annual Community Reads Program, celebrating the 100th Anniversary of our National Parks, renowned actor Lee Stetson will portray famed conservationist John Muir before Inyo Middle School youth on Friday, March 13th at

the Bishop Activity Center.

Since 1983 Stetson has been performing his one man show annually at Yosemite National Park. As the late and former Sierra Club President David Brower noted of the Stetson performance, "Rich in its offering of the love Muir shared with the Earth, Stetson's performance is an elegant and inspiring portrayal of America's preeminent conservationist."

Stetson will also make a free public presentation on Thursday, March 12th from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at the Inyo Council for the Arts. For seat reservations, call the Inyo Council for the Arts at (760)873-8014.

New Assessment System

(Continued from page 1)

demonstrate exemplary formative assessment practices.

Q: How do I access the Digital Library?

A: Click the button on the CAASPP site.

Smarter Balanced
Digital Library

You must sign in with a *different* username / password than TOMS, set up by your CAASPP coordinator. You should receive an email with the log-on information. Don't confuse this with the information for TOMS.

Cholewa Featured in CalSTRS Video

A familiar face appeared in the latest edition (Winter 2014) of CalSTRS's newsletter, *Connections: Reaching Your Retirement*.

Frances Cholewa, a retired Bishop Elementary teacher, was highlighted on page 5 of the publication for her part in the CalSTRS video series, "California Educators."

Cholewa—who continues to educate others as a docent at the

Schulman Grove Visitor Center—is only the second educator to be highlighted in the series. Unsurprisingly to those who know her, Cholewa is praised by CalSTRS for her natural energy and passion for teaching.

To view the CalSTRS video about Cholewa, visit: www.calstrs.com/california-educators.

We Wish We Had . . . Inmates Open Up

For more than a dozen years, Inyo County high school students have had the opportunity to hear from a panel of inmates from the Owens Valley Conservation Camp (OVCC). The program is brought to each high school as part of the Inyo County Superintendent of Schools Civic and Personal Responsibility (CPR) Continuum.

Every year, four or five volunteer inmates come before classrooms of students to share their most personal mistakes, heartaches, bad decisions, and hopes for the future. As OVCC inmates, these men have already been rewarded for good behavior within the prison system by being allowed to transfer to the camp, experience a bit more freedom, and have the responsibilities of wildland firefighting. But for the inmates who volunteer for these presentations, that is not enough. They all express a desire to help youth not end up



OVCC inmates speak to Lone Pine Students as part of the ICSOS Civic and Personal Responsibility Continuum.

in the same or worse position.

For the inmate panel this year we have Tony, Scott, Jordan, and John. These men come from very different backgrounds and yet, their stories are so very much the same. No matter whether they grew up in an affluent family or with a single mom struggling to make ends meet; were gang bangers or just wanna-bees; used drugs or sold them; they all ended up in prison for multiple years and they all

realize they did it to themselves. None of these volunteer presenters blames their environment, their parents, or even the cops.

Jordan, 24 years old, finishing the last seven months of an 8-year sentence (since he was 18) knows that he had all the advantages in life and threw them away for quick money and flashy possessions.

Scott, 48, has been battling addiction for years and is excited to get out after having seven years of sobriety under his belt.

John, 34, spent his life treating women badly, abandoning them and his own children, and not caring who he hurt. Now, he is devoted to his God and looking to atone for his damaging behavior earlier in life.

And finally Tony, 48, a Southside Gang member, just cannot seem to find a way to stay out of prison. He has spent

no more than one out of the last 17 years out of prison. As Tony repeatedly tells the students, he knows "just how stupid [he is] to fall into the same old patterns," but has hope that this time he will do it right.

Every one of these men recognizes that they might not have listened to a presentation like this one when they were in school, but they all wish they had.

This year's inmate panel presentations started in February at Owens Valley High School and continued with three classes at Lone Pine High School. During March and April, the inmate panel will speak at Bishop High, JKBS, Big Pine, and Palisades Glacier High.

If you are interested in having this panel of inmates speak in your classroom, please call Karen at 873-3262 ext 412.

MARCH EVENTS

3rd: Community Reads: "National Parks, Our Experiments in Boundaries" slideshow and discussion with Andy Selters, 7-8:30pm at Inyo Council for the Arts (ICA)

7th: Community Reads: Eastern Sierra & Buttermilk Photography Workshop with Vern Clevenger, 1-5pm at Cerro Coso College, Bishop

12th: Speech Contest (Gr.6-8) sponsored by Coldwell Banker, 6pm at Jill Kinmont Boothe School (JKBS)

Writing Contest winners will also be announced at the Speech Contest!

12th: Community Reads: "The Spirit of John Muir" performed by Lee Stetson, 7-8:30pm at ICA.

14th: Community Reads: Crater Mountain Geology Hike, 10am-12pm, Meet at Big Pine school parking lot

18th: Community Reads: The Legacy of John Muir, 7-8:30pm at Lone Pine Film History Museum

19th: Writing Contest winners and their work highlighted in The Sierra Reader

19th: Community Reads: The Legacy of John Muir, 7-8:30pm at ICA.

21st: Community Reads: Wildlife of the Sierra Nevada presentation by Cindy Kamler, 10:30am at ICA

A great event for kids!

26th: Geography Bee (Gr.9-12), 6pm at JKBS

For more information about any of the Community Reads activities, please contact the **Inyo Council for the Arts (ICA)** at (760)873-8014.

Information about any of the student contests can be obtained by calling the **Inyo County Superintendent of Schools** office at (760)873-3262.