Dear STEM Students and Families,

This week we started our STAR testing, which will last for one week for seventh and sixth graders and two weeks for eighth graders. Students have been practicing test taking for some time and have been advised of the importance of the test to indicate their progress since last year. Just at a glance, we see that students understand the importance of the test. They are eating breakfast and bringing healthy snacks as their teachers advised. The results from the test provide valuable information to the individual student and family, to the school, and to the district. I hope you keep a file of your student’s tests that arrive each summer around July or early August. This way you can review the progress your child is making. It is impressive when parents and students call and ask questions about the results, which show us that you are involved as a family in his or her academic progress.

This year, in addition to the STAR test, the school district invested in a separate assessment program which will provide us with data on a more regular basis. These *Curriculum Associates tests* will be administered three times in the year. What is extremely helpful about this test is that it is scored immediately and students will work to improve their scores until the last week of school. I really like this system because it reinforces the importance of working hard up until the last day of school. As you know, our goal is to bring as many students to proficiency as possible. Thank you for supporting a positive test experience for your child by reassuring that he/she gets a good night’s rest and a hearty breakfast. We will be providing a snack just before testing as well.

On a very different note, you will find a letter regarding swine flu in this envelope. The SMFC school district is working closely with the San Mateo County Office of Education to take safety precautions. As further updates come, we will forward them to you. Happy spring!

Sincerely,

Jeanne Elliott

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To register for Study Island on line skills practice, go to [www.studyisland.com](http://www.studyisland.com). Your log in name is first initial and last name.stem, i.e. Robert Jones would be rjones.stem. Your password is student13.

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**STAR TESTING**

*STAR Testing:* All students need to be present for these *STATE MANDATED TESTS*. Please do not schedule student appointments or away time during this testing period.

**UPCOMING DATES**

**April**
- 27 STAR Testing through May 8*
- 29 PTSA Meeting in Staff Room 5:30 pm

**May**
- 4 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 6 ELAC Meeting 6:00 pm
- 7 School Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- 8 Quarter IV Progress Reports mailed
- 21 School Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- 25 Memorial Day Holiday
- 28 5th Grade Parent Orientation Library 5:30 pm
- Open House 6:00-7:30 pm
- Spring Concert 7:00 pm
- 29 Super Minimum Day Dismissal

**June**
- 1 School Site Council Meeting 3:00 pm
- 4 School Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- 8th Grade Swim Party 7:00-9:00 pm
- 8 8th Grade Great AmericaTrip
- 11 Graduation Ceremony 10:00 am
- Graduation Dance 12:00 pm
- 6th Grade Raging Waters Trip
- 7th Grade Six Flags Marine World Trip
- Last day of student attendance
- 12 Teacher Work Day
- 18 School Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- Quarter IV Report Cards mailed

**July**
- 28 Arena Day
- 29 First Day of School

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**Scholastic Book Fair**

**Bayside ST.E.M. Library**

**May 26 through June 2**

Please visit the Book Fair during our Open House on May 28. All proceeds go towards purchasing books for the library.