

Sinaloa Scenes

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Sinaloa Middle School
PTSA
2045 Vineyard Road
Novato, CA 94947
897-2111

PTSA President

Kim Damico

Editors

Teresa Vance
Cindy Testa

Distribution



Message of the Month

THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKS...

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be starting the STAR testing. Previous newsletters have covered information about when the tests will take place and how to optimize your child's testing time. What needs to be further explained is what we are testing. All areas that will be covered on the test are included in the list of State Standards. These standards are based on what students need to know to do well in this country and as part of the global economy.

The testing covers the standards listed for each subject area for each grade level. The district sent out summary outlines for each grade level at the beginning of the year. You can find more detailed information on the California Department of Education website. (cde.gov) In the Association of California School Administrator's journal on Closing the Gap, Achievement for all Students, the following points were outlined about why standards were created:

- To gauge performance and skill levels in a consistent way.
- To capture what students are capable of (e.g. in English class they need to be good communicators, able to synthesize information, pick key points and think analytically – not just spit back information).
- To ensure that essential themes are covered.
- To have a measure of performance that may be more objective than grades.
- To provide coherence for teachers and school systems so that all teachers are speaking the same language. This is particularly important for California because it has a mobile population.
- To promote high standards for all students

As you prepare your summer plans, please include time for summer reading for the whole family. Reading is the basis for all academic success. Our website includes our STRETCH reading list as well as links to other suggested reading. Please encourage your children to read often from a variety of sources and take the time to enjoy reading yourself. Thank you.

Kit Gabbard