



## Southgate Elementary

3121 W. 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Kennewick, WA 99337  
Office: (509) 222-5900 Fax: (509) 222-5901

Dr. Robert (Bob) Smart, Principal, bob.smart@ksd.org  
Mrs. Kris Hanson, Dean of Students, kristine.hanson@ksd.org  
Mrs. Denise Frantti, Secretary, denise.frantti@ksd.org  
Ms. June Shelp, Counselor, june.shelp@ksd.org  
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Spring 2016

Dear Parents and/or Guardians:

We will begin assessments in language arts/reading and mathematics during April 2016. We use two types of assessments. The first one is Measures of Academic Progress—often referred to as MAP—with specific on-line assessments in reading and mathematics (grades 2-5). We've used MAP assessments for many years, and find it to be both valid and reliable. It takes about 1 hour to administer and the results inform our practice in many ways. The second one is the State assessment known as the Smarter Balanced Assessment (grades 3-5). These assessments assess student learning in mathematics and in reading/language arts; for our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students there is an additional assessment in science. All of our tests are on-line, and we have several mobile computer labs (known as COWs) to support our testing.

We will begin assessments in the first week following spring break. Our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will begin their assessments at the end of the April 11, 2016. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students begin during the week of April 26, 2016; and our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will begin in the first week in May 2016. You can find our assessment schedule on-line at our school's website <http://southgate.ksd.org>. The testing window for our school is from April 11, 2016 through June 10, 2016.

For more information about the Smarter Balanced tests and to try out a practice test yourself, please visit [www.k12.wa.us/smarter](http://www.k12.wa.us/smarter). More information about the Common Core may be found at [www.k12.wa.us/corestandards](http://www.k12.wa.us/corestandards).

Thank you for continuing to work with us to make sure your child is successful. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to better support your child. We want your child to leave us with a solid foundation of skills and a future full of opportunities. If you have any questions about testing, please contact me or our counselor Ms. June Shelp.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Smart, MEd".

Dr. Robert Smart  
Principal