



**University Preparation School
at CSU Channel Islands
University Charter Middle School
at CSU Channel Islands
550 Temple Avenue
Camarillo, CA 93010
(805) 482-4608**



September 23, 2015

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Shortly before school ended for the 2014-2015 school year, your child took part in the 2015 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), the new computer-based tests for English language arts/literacy and mathematics that replaced the former paper-based tests for these subjects.

These new exams are part of California's comprehensive plan for supporting high-quality learning at every school. They are based on California's new, more challenging academic standards, which are designed to help all students graduate ready for college and to pursue a career.

These tests include a wider variety of questions than the multiple-choice tests they replaced, requiring students to explain how they solve problems, think critically, and write analytically. These skills take time and effort to master, but our students will need them to succeed in the long run.

In our charter school, we see these tests as an academic checkup. Like class assignments and report cards, they are one gauge of student progress—one way to provide you and your child's teachers with information about your child's work toward the high goals we have set for our students.

The student score report enclosed with this letter shows your child's achievement on these new tests. Please take a few moments to review it. You'll notice that along with an overall score for each subject, there is also information about how your child performed in different skill areas associated with English language arts/literacy and mathematics.

To meet federal test requirements, University Charter Schools administered the California Standards Test (CST) and the California Modified Assessment (CMA) for Science to all students in grades five and eight. If your child was administered a science test, the results appear on the back of the student score report. While new assessments based on the Next Generation Science Standards are being developed, California schools will continue to use the CST, CMA, and the CAPA for Science. Our schools are still adjusting to these new standards and the tests that go with them. We know that many if not most students will need to make significant progress to reach the challenging new goals we have set. That's why no student or parent should be discouraged by test results, which will not be used to determine whether a student moves on to the next grade.

Like the new learning goals they were designed to measure, these new tests are much too different from the old exams to make any comparisons between old scores and new. That's why this year's scores are better thought of as a starting point—a baseline for the progress we expect students to make over time.

These results are also being provided to our school. We will use them to help set learning goals for students this year. We invite you to take an active part in those discussions. If you have questions or concerns about your child's progress, please call the school office at **(805) 484-1872 or (805) 482-4608** to arrange a conference with your child's teacher. Parent conferences are currently being scheduled for October 8-16.

Sincerely,

Gayle Hughes, Director - UCMS & UCS Assessment Coordinator

*A California Charter School
"Logramos Juntos—Together We Achieve"*