

Dear SCVi Families,

Although we are disappointed to see a drop in our API score, we also realize that it isn't completely unexpected, as we tripled in size, growing from a testing group of 83 students in four grades to 325 students in eight grades. In spite of the drop, we are pleased that we continue to be above California's threshold for proficiency.

Here at SCVi, facilitators and leaders continuously reflect on our practice to improve our instructional program. This year, we began the year with professional development in August, where facilitators started planning projects which are linked to state standards and will include links to the community, authentic products, and assessment processes.

We are excited about the Common Core Standards adopted by California this summer. They are closely aligned with the mission and vision of SCVi, as they are "benchmarked to international standards to guarantee that our students are competitive in the global marketplace." Read more at www.corestandards.org.

Measuring our students against international benchmarks is important, as we live in a world without borders. It not only matters how SCVi students compare to those in surrounding districts and states; it matters how they compare to students around the world.

Facilitators will be using your learner's STAR report in addition to other diagnostic tools to chart the course for increased learning that we believe will be reflected throughout the year as well as on this year's California Standards Test. If you would like to see sample questions at each of the five performance levels (Advanced, Proficient, Basic, Below Basic, Far Below Basic), visit www.starsamplequestions.org.

Our goals this year include strengthening our math and writing programs, refining our Individualized Learning Plans, honing our student-led conference protocols, and designing engaging, interdisciplinary projects. Keep in mind that we see assessment as a photo album filled with many snapshots that create the album of what your learners know and are able to do. At SCVi, we don't teach to the test but rather to the child, the whole child.

Sincerely,

Amber Raskin
Dawn Evenson
Mary Rockwell