# **Testing At A Glance**

Star360 - Taken by all students at home 3x a year: Fall, Winter, and Spring.Online Reading and Math Assessment

PFT - Physical Fitness Test. Taken by grades 5, 7, and 9 once a year in the Winter (usually February). - suspended for the 2020-2021 school year

ELPAC - English Language Proficiency Test. Taken by English Language Learners 2x a year: Fall and late Winter

CAST - CA Science Test. Taken by grades 5, 8, and 1x in HS in the Spring during CAASPP Testing.

CAASPP - CA Assessment of Student Performance and Progress. Taken 1x a year in the Spring by students in grades 3-8 & 11.

# **Why Do We Test?**

Our family of schools respects all homeschool families and their varying homeschool methodologies. In turn, we are asking for your support in protecting our charters by participating in testing. There are several reasons why assessment data is critical to our school. Not only does it provide important feedback on student learning, but it is also a required part of our WASC accreditation and the charter renewal process.

Many of our families put great value on **WASC accreditation**. It is a wonderful accomplishment for a school to be accredited, but the work is not finished. Maintaining accreditation is an ongoing cycle of managing change and improvement through regular assessment, planning, implementing, monitoring and reassessing.

Assessment data is also an important piece in our **charter renewal process**. All charter schools are authorized by a sponsoring school district. In return, the charter school needs to demonstrate compliance with the essential terms of the charter, which include student achievement. Authorizers gauge compliance and achievement with assessment data. *Scores at the individual student level are never shared, and privacy of student names is maintained according to federal laws that protect students.*

As you can see, it is very important to the school that all students participate in school wide assessment. If you have questions or concerts about testing, it is important that you speak with your HST so we can have an open and honest dialogue with you. We do our very best to listen to the needs of the parents and students.