



District Administration Office
Mr. Sean Gallagher – Superintendent

564 Fern Ave.

Brookings, OR 97415

Office: 541 469-7443

Fax: 541 469-6599

Email: seang@brookings.k12.or.us

www.brookings.k12.or.us

Brookings-Harbor Voices - It's Testing Time

Hi, this is Sean Gallagher - Brookings-Harbor School District Superintendent. I'm here today to talk about statewide assessments. Second semester has begun in our school district and so begins the countdown for our juniors to take their annual state tests.

These standardized tests include the Smarter Balanced test which covers mathematics and english language arts and the OAKS assessment for sciences. These tests will take place at intervals from Feb. 26 to May 17. In addition, all juniors have the opportunity to take the SAT.

It is vital that our students are prepared. Our teachers lead intentional practice with our juniors to prepare them for these tests. Additionally, freshman and sophomore teachers in all subject areas incorporate lessons that focus on building literacy skills that are key to helping students read a text, draw conclusions, make inferences, identify main ideas, recognize vocabulary, and recall key facts under the pressure of a timed test.

As parents and a community, we can also help our students successfully meet their testing requirements. Here are some ways you can help:

1. Reassure your child that he or she does not have to answer all the questions correctly to pass. If your child gets stuck on a question, encourage him or her to skip and return, or

give their best attempt and move on. There is no penalty for guessing, and students can get partial credit on the open-ended items.

2. Remind your child that the test is important. It sounds simple, but many parents fail to reiterate this. Most children will put forth their best effort when they know it is important to their parents.
3. Finally, get your child to school on time the day of the test. Getting them there late will not only throw off their routine, but it could also disrupt testing for other students.

Thank you for your help to support our students in preparing for these important exams.

Together, we can ensure that Every Student Can Succeed here at Brookings-Harbor School District.