



Date: Tuesday, March 6, 2012



Make-up: Wednesday, March 7, 2012



# WRITING - GRADES 4th & 7th



Dear Academy of Personalized Learning (APL) Parents,

Each spring students in grades 4 and 7 who participate in the state-mandated California Standards Tests (CSTs) complete a writing task as part of the CST for English-Language Arts. This writing task is known as the California Writing Standards test or the CST/CMA for Writing.

This compulsory writing test for students in grades 4 and 7 is scheduled at APL for **March 6, 2012**, with make-up exams on **March 7, 2012**. The testing session will be from **9:00 am - noon**. Students will receive one prompt and write responses to that prompt. **The test is not timed**, but most students finish within two hours.

The type of writing required for the writing task is not announced in advance and so students must be prepared to respond to the following possible types of writing:

- Students in grade four may be asked to write a fictional narrative (story), a summary of a reading passage, or a response to literature.
- Students in grade seven may be asked to write a fictional narrative (story), a summary of a reading passage, a response to literature, or a persuasive letter or essay.

Rubrics are used to assess the level of writing skills shown. The writing is examined to determine whether ideas are thoroughly developed and supported with appropriate details. It is also evaluated for organization, word choice, sentence structure, grammar and mechanics (i.e., spelling, punctuation, capitalization).

Practice writing tasks are available on the web for fourth graders at:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/documents/cstgr4wrting.pdf> and for seventh graders at:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/documents/cstgr7wrting.pdf> . Please use the following link to see how families can help their students with writing: [http://www.teachervision.fen.com/writing/teaching-methods-and-management/4867.html?detoured=1&for\\_printing=1](http://www.teachervision.fen.com/writing/teaching-methods-and-management/4867.html?detoured=1&for_printing=1) .

The CST/CMA for Writing will be offered at APL at: 2195 Larkspur Lane, Suite 100, Redding, CA 96002.



Contact/Questions:



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STAR: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/resourses.asp>

