

December 1, 2009

Dear South Sutter Parents,

We hope you are having a brilliant school year so far! We have been working diligently on the next step in retaining our WASC accreditation. Please go to <http://www.acswasc.org/> for further WASC information. Also, we are excited to tell you that our South Sutter Charter has been renewed for another five years! Thank you for your continued support of our school!

Enclosed is the school's "Annual Survey." Please complete the survey and send it back in the enclosed envelope. We appreciate your honest feedback as it helps us to see where changes may need to occur and how we are better able to accommodate you.

If you have a 2-11 grade student, they will be taking the **STAR** test this spring. You will be receiving specific dates and locations prior to the holidays. We need commitment from you that your student will participate in **STAR** testing so that we can continue to provide parent choice through South Sutter Charter School. **Without your student's participation, our charter school may cease to exist.**

As a California public school, one of the requirements is that we provide the state-mandated assessments for our students each year. Effective January 1, 2005, the federal No Child Left Behind Act and Assembly Bill 1137 mandate that we must have at least 95% of our student population test each year. Last year, we did reach that 95% participation goal! In addition to maintaining our participation rate, however, we must increase our performance levels. The performance levels are: Far Below Basic, Below Basic, Basic, Proficient, and Advanced. In keeping with the state's goal of all students scoring Proficient by 2014, this year all active students that score **Proficient or Advanced in both Math and English** will earn a reward in August. We must continue to reach this goal **every year** in order to receive an acceptable school-wide report card so that our school is able to remain open.

Please note that even if your 11th grade student plans to graduate this year, he/she is still considered an 11th grader and must take the STAR. We are doing all that we can to make this experience a positive one for your student. STAR testing this year should take only 2-4 days, depending on your student's grade level. We do the Physical Fitness Test (PFT) the same time as STAR testing for all 5th, 7th, and 9th grade students.

The testing sites for this year are listed on the back of this letter. Please ask your ES which site your student is assigned to. **If changes need to be made, please let your ES know by March 1st, 2010.**

Please complete the second page of this letter and give it to your ES at your next learning record meeting. We are working ahead of time to resolve any STAR issues. Here is the link for our **student behavior policy** <http://www.ieminc.org/Assessment/2006/IEMstubehavior.pdf> and **testing tips** <http://www.ieminc.org/Assessment/2006/IEMTesttip.pdf>. Please review these with your student prior to testing. Plan some healthy snacks to send with your student on testing days. **Note: Physical Fitness Testers must wear loose clothing and tennis shoes.**

Thank you very much for your cooperation and commitment to the individualized education that we are able to offer. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact your ES.

Sincerely,

The Educational Services Director & ES Support Director

Return this page to your ES at your next Learning Record meeting.

Date _____

Yes, my student(s) will be attending STAR testing in the spring.

I have a concern about: _____

 Yes, I will help as a parent volunteer at my student's testing site. I realize that I cannot help in my child's testing room.

Physical Fitness Testing is administered in conjunction with STAR testing for grades 5, 7, and 9 ONLY. Does your student have any pre-existing medical conditions that would prohibit them from participating in any of the following physical fitness tests: one mile walk/run, shoulder stretches, body composition, curl-up, trunk lift, push- ups? Please list medical condition: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Student Name (Please print) _____

Emergency Contact # _____