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DEL MAR UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

May 2, 2012

Dear Parents:

Starting next Monday, May 7, through Friday, May 11, all students in Grades 2-6 will participate in STAR, the state's standardized testing and reporting program. Students will be administered the California Standards Tests (CSTs), which are based on the state's academic content standards. Academic areas to be tested include English Language Arts and Math at Grades 2-6, and Science at Grade 5.

It is important to understand that these standardized tests are not designed to provide parents with pass/fail assessment information. They are just *one* of many tools used to evaluate and monitor ongoing student performance and school program effectiveness. Test results are used in conjunction with daily classroom work, ongoing classroom assessments, participation in special learning projects, and teacher observation to develop an overall evaluation of student progress and achievement.

The District will be mailing the student STAR testing results to parents in August 2012.

Parents play a very important role during the spring testing period. You can help your child to perform at his/her optimal best by providing:

- **A good night's sleep prior to each day of testing to maintain mental alertness and prevent fatigue**
- **A nutritious, well-balanced breakfast each morning to help maximize concentration levels**
- **Outdoor play and/or exercise time after school to maintain good physical fitness and well-being**
- **Words of encouragement *each* morning to reduce test anxiety and promote self-confidence**

We would also appreciate your cooperation by ensuring that your child arrives at school ***on time each day during the testing window***. Late students will not be permitted to enter classrooms until testing is completed for the morning.

If you have any questions about spring testing, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or school principal. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Holly McClurg, Ph.D.
Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services