Last week, the Smarter Balanced Assessment team released practice tests for English/Language Arts and Math in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11. Directions for accessing these practice tests are below, if you are interested in taking a look at the new tests our students will be taking in 2015. The state of CT has not yet clarified what tests (if any) students will be taking in March 2014. It sounds like CMTs as we know (and love?) them will be different next year – we’re not sure how.

Directions for accessing the practice tests:

- First, open the Mozilla Firefox browser on your computer. It looks like: ![Firefox Icon]
  At this time, Internet Explorer does not support the practice test, so you will need to use Firefox or Safari as your Internet browser. Many computers in our school have Firefox on them and you might have Safari if you have a Mac or iPad at home. (If the previous sentences sound like gibberish to you, a more detailed explanation is at the bottom of this email.)
- Go to the SBAC website: [http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Practice_Test/default.html](http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Practice_Test/default.html)
- At the bottom of the website, click on **Student Interface Practice Test** in the green box.
- You are then taken to the home page for the practice test. You do not need a username or password – just click **Sign In** at the bottom to sign in as a guest.
- On the next page, select the **grade** of tests that you would like to see and click **Yes** when asked **Is this you?**
- You then have a choice of three tests to take: **Math**, **ELA**, and **ELA performance task**. (The ELA test is a combination of reading, writing, editing, and revising and the ELA performance task is the writing prompt with source material that students need to listen to/read/watch.

Directions to open the Mozilla Firefox browser:

- To open Mozilla Firefox, go to your desktop and click on this icon: ![Firefox Icon]
  It should say Mozilla Firefox or Firefox underneath it.
- When it opens, you will be asked if you want Mozilla Firefox to be your default browser. Click No.
- Then copy and paste the website address ([http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Practice_Test/default.html](http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Practice_Test/default.html)) into the address bar and click Enter.