(Insert School Letterhead here)

(Insert date here)

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Montana students took the Smarter Balanced Assessment in mathematics and reading/language arts in the Spring of 2023. This assessment is Montana’s measure of student proficiency and progress on the state content standards in grades 3-8. These standards establish goals for what all students should know and be able to do in each grade. This assessment goes beyond multiple-choice questions to include extended response and technology-enhanced items, as well as math performance tasks, and reading/language arts brief writes for students to demonstrate critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

This annual assessment provides critical information about student learning, but no single assessment should ever be the sole factor in making an educational decision. It is important to remember that assessments provide only one measure of student learning, but when combined with grades, classroom activities, unit quizzes and tests, and district-level assessments, the end-of-year assessments can help provide a complete picture of your child’s abilities over the course of the school year and path toward academic success on these content standards.

For help interpreting your child’s report, please visit the [Starting Smarter](https://mt.startingsmarter.org/) website designed for parents/families to understand the assessment results. Here are some highlights for this student report:

* Students receive a separate scale score for math and reading/language arts.
* Scale scores are reported with different ranges for math and reading/language arts.
* Claim descriptions indicate performance on groups of questions that measure similar skills.

**Student performance is reported by achievement levels, Level 1 through 4.**

**Level 4** - Student demonstrates advanced progress needed for success in future coursework.

**Level 3** - Student demonstrates progress needed for success in future coursework.

**Note:** Students who score a Level 3 or 4 are considered as performing at or above proficient on these standards.

**Level 2** - Student requires further development to meet proficiency.

**Level** 1 - Student needs substantial improvement to meet proficiency.

**Note:** Students who score a Level 1 or 2 are not considered as proficient on these standards.

To see how our school is performing over time and compared to other schools in Montana, visit the state’s longitudinal data warehouse (GEMS) at [gems.opi.mt.gov.](https://gems.opi.mt.gov/)

(Insert School Signature here)

(Insert School contact information here)