



FOOTHILL ELEMENTARY

921 North 1240 East

Orem, Utah 84097

Phone: (801) 227-2465

Fax: (801)227-2466

Spring 2014 Summative Testing Results:

Fabulous Foothill Families:

In the spring of 2014, your student(s) took one or more of the SAGE tests in grades 3-6 in English language arts, mathematics, and science. At Foothill Elementary, we recognize that a standardized test is a snapshot of each child's academic proficiency. This type of test is important and helps guide our instruction to each students' needs and strengths. However, we also recognize that these standardized assessments cannot measure all that is important in life (i.e. the kindness of a child, their musical/artistic ability, or their integrity). At Foothill Elementary, we desire and are committed to educating the whole child.

These SAGE tests were designed to measure students' knowledge and skills on the Utah Core Standards. These standards reflect the expectations for what students should know and be able to do by the end of each grade in order to be on track for college and career readiness after graduation from high school.

Along with the Utah Core Standards, Utah educators have established proficiency levels on the tests. Proficiency levels determine a "passing score" for the test. These passing scores have been set to identify the necessary level of preparation for the next grade to stay on track for college and career. Proficiency levels are divided into four categories: Highly proficient, Proficient, Approaching Proficient, and Below Proficient.

The passing score for SAGE is more challenging than in prior state tests, and it is anticipated that many students may receive lower scores than they did in the past. Initially, fewer students will be proficient. This is not a reflection of decreased student achievement or teacher effort; rather, it reflects an increase in expectations. It is important to remember that SAGE results are one of many student performance indicators.

Foothill will receive the test results for our school on October 27th. I will be presenting our school's results at our next School Community Council meeting on October 27th (11:00 am in the Media Center). All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. On or after November 3rd, we will receive individual student scores. School representatives will be available to explain the new reports and interpretive guides will be provided at that time. Individual student scores will be available on Skyward on November 10th. We appreciate the support of our parents and recognize we are a team as we partner together to teach your children. We encourage and invite you to be involved through Foothill's School Community Council and PTA as we all work to further the education of every child who attends our school.

We are dedicated to working with you in an effort to increase understanding of the new score reports and providing clarifying information. With your child's teacher, you can work together using this data to improve your child's post high school success. If your student is not yet proficient on one or more of the SAGE assessments, please talk to his or her teacher about a plan to get him/her to a level of understanding that will increase proficiency.

Sincerely,

Dr. Backman