What is the CLA?
Helpful Information for Families

What are they?
The Common Learning Assessments (CLA) are district assessments that measure student learning of the standards¹ in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Spanish.

Who takes them?
- Grades 3-10 students in English Language Arts
- Grades 3-8 students in Spanish Language Arts (Spanish pathways)
- Grades 2-Algebra 2 students in Math

When are they?
In the 2013-2014 school year, the CLA will be given 3 times a year* in elementary and middle school:
- CLA 1 – 10/6/2014 – 11/14/2014
- CLA 2 – 12/15/2014 – 1/23/2015
*High schools administer CLAs during windows 1 & 3 only.

In 2014-2015, all CLAs will include Constructed Response questions in English and Math. These questions allow students to respond to writing prompts, show their work in solving a math problem, reason with evidence in a text, or explain an answer. Mathematics CLAs will include a Performance Task, aligned to the SFUSD Core Curriculum Milestone Tasks, asking students to complete a multi-step, multi-standard problem. Scores are reported based on a rubric which describes what type of work students can do at each level. Talk to your child’s teacher for more information.

How do teachers use CLA data?
- Teachers review results of the CLA assessments to better understand what students know and can do in relation to the standards.
- If students perform well on CLA questions, teachers know what content they have mastered.
- When students don’t perform well on CLA questions, teachers have specific information to let them know what they may need to reteach.

Things you can do!
- Talk to your child about the importance of trying to do her or his best on all assessments.
- Ask your child’s teacher about your child’s progress in learning the standards. Ask about specific areas of academic strength and weakness.
- Review your child’s homework with her or him each day.

¹ Standards – A defined list of knowledge and skills that all students should know and be able to do at each grade level.