



NEWSLETTER

A Note from the Principal

Grand River Families:

Each spring, State assessments are given to student across Colorado. Below is information provided by the Colorado Department of Education regarding these assessments. I hope this information will address any questions you may have about the State's assessments.

Colorado has a series of educational standards known as the Colorado Academic Standards that outline academic objectives for students in every grade across 10 content areas. Fully implemented in the 2013- 14 school year, the standards raised the bar for Colorado students, increasing expectations so they are prepared to succeed in college or careers upon high school graduation. To measure students' mastery of more rigorous standards, Colorado administers a set of common assessments known as the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) and PSAT/SAT.

CMAS and PSAT/SAT are the only common measuring tools for Colorado students. Measuring real-world skills like problem-

solving and critical thinking, the tests are aligned to classroom work so teachers do not have to "teach to the test." Instruction based on the standards is the best preparation. While state assessments are only one measure of student learning, having all Colorado students take this set of assessments provides parents with answers to these important questions:

- Did my child meet the state standards?
- How well is my child doing compared to other students?
- Which schools and districts perform best in preparing students for academic success?
- Which districts have the best performance on the state assessments for children with special needs?

Additionally, state assessment results provide:

- Information districts can use, in combination with other district information, to evaluate programs.
- Information educators need to help improve instruction.
- Identification of districts and schools that have struggling students, so help can be provided.

- Recognition of high performing systems so others may learn from them.

Parents are sometimes concerned that participating in these tests can cause anxiety in their child or that preparing for the tests takes away time from instruction. Because these tests are aligned to the Colorado Academic Standards and classroom instruction, they should not cause any more anxiety than any other tests students take. Also, practice items are available to help familiarize parents and students with test content and structure.

Since the full set of CMAS exams were first administered in the 2014-15 school year, the legislature and the State Board of Education have made several changes to decrease the number of tests students take and to shorten the tests. • High school students no longer take CMAS ELA and math, and instead take the PSAT and SAT college entrance assessments, which are also aligned to the Colorado Academic Standards. • CMAS social studies tests are given to only a third of students in fourth, seventh and 11th grades. • The State Board of Education and CDE are committed to continuing to look for ways to provide test results to districts faster, and in 2018 individual student results were provided to districts in June.

Hopefully this provided information to answer questions you may have about State testing. You can always reach out to me with questions as well.

Warmest Regards,

Steve States.

Thank You

Thank you to Hi Fashion Sewing Machines and its Owner Jeff Vogel. Mr. Vogel donated 5 sewing machines to our Fiber Arts Club. Thank you for his kindness and generosity.

Counselor's Corner

As we are starting to enter the 2nd semester, we are already looking forward to planning for next year.

We are in the middle of WCCC tours for 10th and 11th graders (next year Juniors/Seniors) and Career Center (CC) Tours for all current 9th/10th and 11th graders. Students interested in 'hands-on' daily learning of vocational skill training need to contact Ms. Haptonstall in the Counseling office ASAP. The next CC tour is set for Feb. 15th. This tour has transportation provided with field trip permission forms in the Counseling office.

Vocational field trips:

There are 8 field trips that have been and continue to be offered to students to explore, visit, and speak directly to professionals in given careers.

Thus far we have explored careers in the Animal Science, the Courts/judicial related careers, and police/dispatch. The district continues to provide experiential learning around career fields. Keep listening and

looking for opportunities to explore and visit career fields that interest you.

Seniors:

All seniors and graduating juniors be sure to complete your FAFSA forms. FAFSA.gov will guide you through getting this completed. You will need parent tax information in order to ensure completion. Keep watching for the next Grand River FAFSA night where parents and students can come for assistance in completing successfully.

8th grade and HS Students:

Within the next couple months, your 8th grade and HS students will be revisiting their Naviance and ICAP (Individual Career and Academic Plan). Students will take surveys, discuss interests, plan programming for future years, in addition to what student programs are available to align with their personal ICAP plan.

Parents:

Seven Tips for Communicating with your Teens:

- 1.) Communicate before the Problem Starts
 - *Have important discussions, now, before there is blame/anger or punishment.
 - *Agree on a time to start talking together about the dangers they may come in contact with.
- 2.) Discuss Rules and Consequences
 - *Explain how you expect your child to act and why.
 - * Tell your teen plainly that rules help them to be safe and healthy.
 - *Discuss and communicate about consequences of broken rules ahead of time. Be sure consequences are things you are comfortable with and feel are just/safe and fair.
- 3.) Show you Care
 - *Gently touch your teen on the arm or back to show affection.

*Tell your teen you love them and want them to be healthy and safe. Explain why you need to talk together about potential dangers/situations.

4.) Pay Attention

*Even when life is hectic, take time to listen and talk to your teen

*Monitor where your teen is and what your teen is doing constantly.

5.) Share Family Activities

*Have dinner together or family activity as often as possible.

*Have family time to unplug and communicate face to face- uninterrupted.

6.) Give and Get Respect

*When your teen talks to you, listen and reply respectfully. (Nonjudgementally and calmly)

*Insist that your teen treat you with respect.

7.) Enforce Consequences Consistently

*If your teen breaks the rules, stay calm and enforce the consequences each/every time.

February Calendar

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| 11 th | River Watch |
| 15 th | Career Center Tour (see Ms. Haptonstall) |
| 18 th | Presidents' Day, no school |



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Anonymously Report Concerns 24/7

