

February 2020

# GRAND RIVER ACADEMY



## Newsletter



### A Note from the Principal

We are only months away from the administration of State assessments. These assessments provide critical information to us about how our school is performing and individual information on student performance.

#### **Why Do We Need Statewide Assessments?**

Statewide assessments provide valuable information for students, parents, districts, and taxpayers about overall academic performance. The assessments provide point-in-time snapshots of what students know and

can do in core academic areas. The tests help students, families, and educators know how students are performing compared to their peers across the state. They also help determine student academic growth over time.

In addition, the statewide assessments help provide information on how well the state's education system is meeting the goals of helping every child attain academic proficiency. (source: Colorado Department of Education)

#### **Why Are Statewide Tests Important?**

CMAS tests are the only common measuring tool for students in grades 3 through 8 in Colorado. The PSAT and SAT, along with CMAS science, are the only common statewide tests taken by high school students. Participation is important because the results help students, parents, schools, and districts understand if students have mastered the content they need to know by the end of the school year and whether they are on track for college or careers after graduation. The results also let parents know how their student is doing compared with their peers across the school, district, and state. (source: Colorado Department of Education)

#### **How Will State Tests Be Used?**

Parents should know whether their children are gaining the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in today's complex world. CMAS, PSAT, and SAT serve as Colorado's only common measurements for students, helping teachers and parents understand whether their students have mastered the content they need to know by the end

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of each school year in order to be on track for college and career success.

Schools and districts can use test results to make improvements to instruction or to develop additional supports and enrichment for students who need more help mastering the standards. Results from the 2019-20 school year will be used for school and district accreditation ratings in 2020. (source: Colorado Department of Education)

### **College Board's High School Assessments**

Colorado students in the ninth and 10th grades take PSAT tests, which are precursors to the SAT test that is taken by 11th-graders. The Khan Academy offers voluntary, optional and free practice resources for the PSAT and SAT. Additionally, students can get connections to scholarship providers, access to online college, and career planning materials and feedback about rigorous coursework. (source: Colorado Department of Education)

CMAS will take place for students in 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade, April 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. We will be communicating specifics about the testing schedule in the future.

We will administer the SAT for 11<sup>th</sup> graders on April 14<sup>th</sup>. PSAT for 10<sup>th</sup> graders will be April 15<sup>th</sup>. PSAT for 9<sup>th</sup> graders will be April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Please plan appointments around the testing schedule. There will be makeups, but we prefer to get students tested on the day they are supposed to test.

If you have any questions about State assessments, please don't hesitate to contact me.

**Thank you for sharing your student with us**  
**Warm Regards,**  
**Steve States.**

# Online Success

As the learning coach, you are vital to your student's success. Here are some things you can do to make sure your student has a successful online learning experience:

1. You must check on their progress daily.
2. Make sure your student is completing their studies, at least 30 hours a week. Once a student gets behind, it is difficult to catch up and is very frustrating and discouraging to the student when this happens.
3. Make sure they have all the materials they need, including the Internet and a computer or Chromebook.
4. Provide a quiet spot to work.
5. Make sure your student is going through the entire lesson and not just "clicking" through.
6. Have your student take notes as they are completing their lesson. This not

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only helps to solidify the concepts and information in their brain, but it also provides a reference for later use.

7. Encourage your student to ask their teacher for help when they need it.

Following these requirements will help ensure your student has a positive, productive, online learning experience.

## Year Book

This year Grand River Academy will have a yearbook put together by our fantastic students!

Order yours today!

K-12

Customizable

Hardcover - \$30

Softcover - \$20

E-book - \$10

Pre-order by Mar. 27, 2020

Order at:

[Grandriveracademy.picaboo.com](http://Grandriveracademy.picaboo.com)



## February Calendar

- 7<sup>th</sup> Middle School Student of the Month Luncheon, 12pm-1pm.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Trip to Powderhorn (see Mr. Stoner for details)
- 17<sup>th</sup> No School
- 24<sup>th</sup> Dodgeball Tournament 4pm-6pm @ GRA
- 28<sup>th</sup> Middle School Snowshoeing Trip to Mesa Lakes Lodge.

## Attendance Matters

Attendance is one predictor of student success. **Students must attend on their weekly day and attend online.** Please make sure your student is getting 30 hours of work per week, at a minimum. Each Student's day onsite is counted in their instruction. Each teacher has made accommodations in their courses to account for the on-site day. Below are the required days and times of attendance:  
 K-2<sup>nd</sup> grades- Tuesday 8:30am-2:30pm  
 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades- Wednesday 8:30am-2:30pm

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k-5<sup>th</sup> grades- Thursday 8:30am-2:30pm  
(optional day)

\*6<sup>th</sup> grade- Tuesday 8:30am-2:30pm

\*7<sup>th</sup> grade – Wednesday 8:30am-2:30pm

\*8<sup>th</sup> grade- Thursday 8:30am-2:30pm

9<sup>th</sup> grade- Tuesday 9am-2:30pm

10<sup>th</sup> grade- Wednesday 9am-2:30pm

11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> grade- Thursday 9am-2:30pm

\*6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade have “Stay & Play” from  
2:30pm-3:00pm on their scheduled day  
(optional).

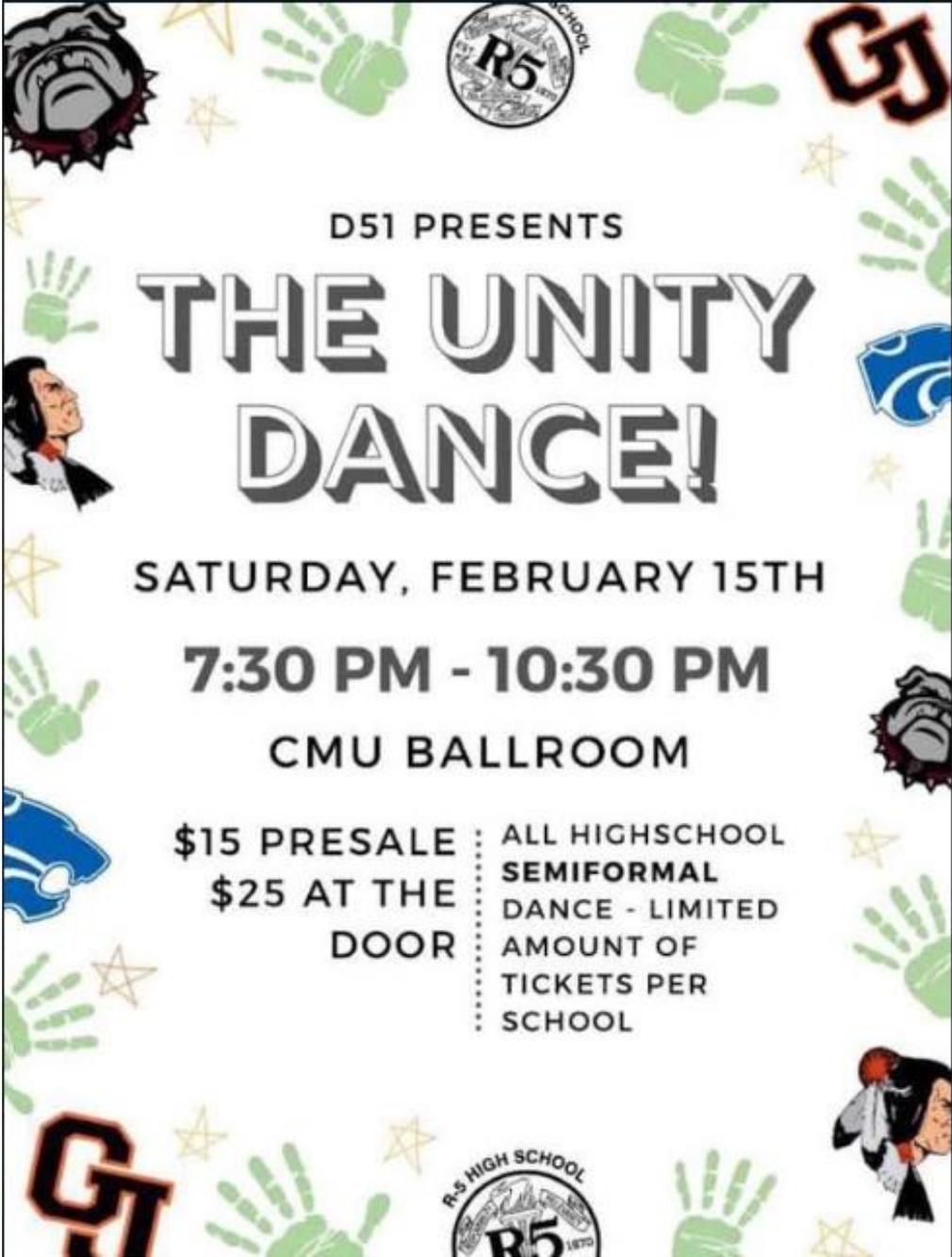
# Canned Food Drive

Our student council held a food drive this past December to help those who are less fortunate. Because of your generosity, we were able to donate 200 pounds to the community food bank. Thank you for your contribution



The image is a promotional graphic for Safe2Tell Colorado. It features a dark grey background on the left and a lighter grey background on the right. On the left, there are three circular icons: a green circle with a white eye icon, a yellow circle with a white smartphone icon, and a red circle with a white hand icon. To the right of each icon is the text "See it.", "Report it.", and "Stop it." respectively. On the right side, the "safe2tell Colorado" logo is displayed, with the number "2" in a white square above the word "tell". Below the logo, the website "WEB: safe2tellco.org" is listed, followed by "APP:" with icons for Apple and Android, and "CALL: 1-877-542-7233".

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D51 PRESENTS

# THE UNITY DANCE!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH

**7:30 PM - 10:30 PM**

CMU BALLROOM

<b>\$15 PRESALE</b>	ALL HIGHSCHOOL
<b>\$25 AT THE DOOR</b>	SEMIFORMAL
	DANCE - LIMITED
	AMOUNT OF
	TICKETS PER
	SCHOOL

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FUNDRAISING FOR A NEW SCHOOL YARD

# GRAND RIVER ACADEMY DODGE BALL TOURNAMENT

10\$ Team 3\$ Solo registration  
Prizes available for top scoring teams!

**FEBRUARY 24TH || 4-6PM**  
**GRAND RIVER ACADEMY GYM**

Register Online at:  
[tiny.cc/GRAdodgeball](https://tiny.cc/GRAdodgeball)

