

February 4, 2020

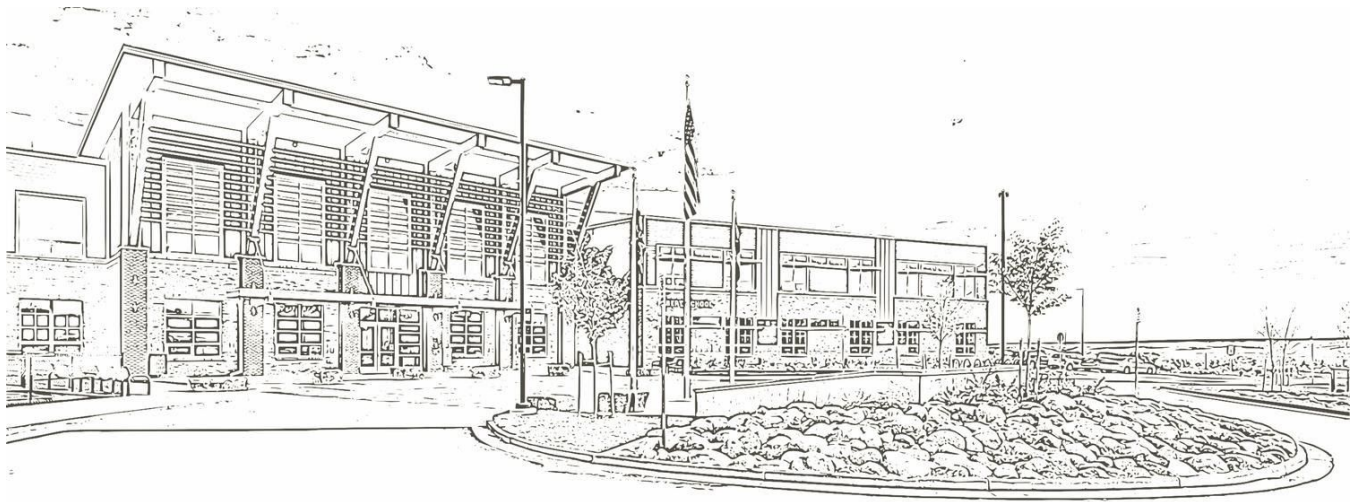
Parents,

Our third- through eleventh-graders soon will begin taking the statewide assessments that are aligned to the Colorado Academic Standards and measure real world skills like problem solving, communicating and thinking critically. These skills are critical to success in college and careers for the 21st Century. These assessments, called the Colorado Measures of Academic Success tests (CMAS), examine students' knowledge in English language arts, math, and science and will be given over a six-week window between March 17 and April 24. In addition, all students will take the district assessment, Northwest Evaluation Association Measures of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP).

Colorado freshmen and sophomores will be taking the PSAT, a test administered by the College Board. The PSAT replaces the 9th and 10th grade CMAS exams in English language arts and math. Colorado PSAT is still aligned with Colorado's standards and the results can help identify students who need help. The distinct advantage of the PSAT is in its programs to help students prepare for the SAT college entrance exam that all 11th graders will be taking. Interested students taking the PSAT can receive a free, personalized SAT study plan tailored to the student's strengths and weaknesses and using official test materials and support from the Khan Academy. The free resources include interactive questions, video lessons and reference articles; thousands of practice questions; official full-length SAT and PSAT practice tests; and a mobile app for daily practice. Students can opt in to a service that will provide them free information about admission and financial aid from colleges, universities and scholarship programs. The PSAT is not an exact duplicate of the SAT, but it can provide a good introduction to the SAT that the students will take as 11th graders. The questions and test format are similar. It is comprised of three tests: Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. There is an optional 50 minute essay.

It is important to understand that our overall goal is to ensure that all students are prepared for college or careers when they leave high school. These tests provide a snapshot of how our students are progressing toward that goal and how our teachers can better help them achieve it.

It is also important to know that these tests are just one measure of a student's progress, but they are the only common measurement across the state that helps parents understand how their children are doing compared with their peers around the state, how the school is performing and how the district is doing overall. The information from the tests also helps policymakers identify what schools or districts need help or which ones should be celebrated for their successes.



Tuesday, March 17	Wednesday, March 18	Thursday, March 19	Friday, March 20
CMAS ELA/Math (4-8)	CMAS ELA/Math (4-8)	CMAS ELA/Math (4-8)	
Tuesday, March 31	Wednesday, April 1	Thursday, April 2	Friday, April 3
	CMAS ELA/Math (3)	CMAS ELA/Math (3)	CMAS ELA/Math (3)
Tuesday, April 7	Wednesday, April 8	Thursday, April 9	Friday, April 10
CMAS Science (5, 8 &11)	CMAS Science (5, 8 &11)	CMAS Science (5, 8 &11)	
Tuesday, April 14	Wednesday, April 15	Thursday, April 16	Friday, April 17
Grade 11 SAT	Grade 10 PSAT	Grade 9 PSAT	NWEA MAP(K-12)
NWEA MAP(K-5)	NWEA MAP(K-5)	NWEA MAP(K-5)	
Tuesday, April 21	Wednesday, April 22	Thursday, April 23	Friday, April 24
NWEA MAP(6-12)	NWEA MAP(6-12)	NWEA MAP(6-12)	

This spring's tests will inform parents on what their children know, empowering families with knowledge and information to ensure their children get the best education possible. It can only happen if students take the tests.

Please note, school districts will be penalized by a lowering of their accreditation rating or school rating should their student participation rates fall below 95 percent due to parent refusals.

If, after weighing the issue and are thinking of opting out of any part of state testing, please call Mrs. Thompson at 303-648-3030 by Tuesday, March 3, 2020 to access the opt out form. This form will need to be returned to the school office by Friday, March 6, 2020 so that we have time to prepare and develop alternate instruction for your child.

Thank you for engaging in the process with us as we all work together to support our students.

Kelli Thompson
 Superintendent
 Elbert School District #200