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CMS Ram-O-Gram

April 2018



From the Principal:

Dear CMS Families,

The Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) are the state's common measurement of students' progress at the end of the school year in English language arts, math, and science. Starting next week all CMS students will be taking the ELA and mathematics computer-based assessments. The specific assessment dates are April 9, 10, and 12th. Fifth and eighth grade students will also be taking the science assessment this year (April 16, 17). If students miss an assessment during the testing window, they will need to make up the test by April 27th.

Participation in these tests are important because results help students, parents, schools and districts understand whether students have mastered the content they need to know by the end of the school year. As a school, we use the assessment results to improve our instruction and to align our curriculum to the Colorado Academic Standards. We also want the success of our students and our teachers to be accurately reflected in our school ranking and status. We do great work at Carbondale Middle School on a daily basis, and these tests are just one small, but important way for us to reflect that. Please encourage your children to participate in these tests and to give their best efforts. We ask parents to please consider not opting your

child out of these assessments, but rather work with us to make testing a valuable learning and teaching experience for all involved. Your partnership in this effort would be very much appreciated.

If you would like more information regarding RFSD's Approach to Assessment as well as information on opting out your student, please read the following link:

<http://www.rfsd.k12.co.us/departments/curriculum-instruction-assessment/rfsd-approach-to-assessment.html>

Please let us know if you have any questions,

Sincerely,
Jennifer Lamont
Carbondale Middle School, Principal

On a Daily Basis

There are a number of ways that you can maximize your child's learning capabilities throughout the school year, which can lead to confident test-taking. Some of these strategies include:

- Assisting your child with homework and ensuring that your child is completing all homework assignments
- Helping him/ her to develop good study habits, thinking skills, and a positive attitude towards education from an early age
- Ensuring that your child has good attendance at school
- Staying in communication with your child's teacher
- Encouraging your child to read as much as possible, and to increase her vocabulary - even reading magazines, newspapers, and comic books regularly will help improve her reading skills
- Looking for educational games and programs that engage your child
- Helping your child learn how to follow directions carefully (Dietel, 2008; IRA (2002); Narang, 2008).

Finally, remember that standardized tests and grading systems are not perfect; each format has its own limitations. As you help your child do his/her best on the tests they take and in all of their schoolwork, also remind them that testing is just one part of their education. With your support and involvement, they will be well on their way to their own bright future.

THIS MONTH'S TOP EVENTS

April 2: 5th grade at Colorado Mountain College
April 5: Talent Show, 12:20 PM
April 6: Teams attending CU Science Discovery STEM Workshop
April 9,10,12: CMAS Literacy and Math Testing
April 16,17: 5th and 8th grade CMAS Science Testing
April 26-27: 7th grade Trip to Denver, "Alladin" Musical

Sports:

April 14: Track Meet Coal Ridge High School
April 21: Track Meet Glenwood Springs High School
April 28: Track Meet Basalt High School

Carbondale Middle School named a top-three finalist for prestigious Colorado Succeeds Prize

There are about 498 middle schools in Colorado. Of those schools, only 3 have been recognized and honored as a 2018 Colorado Succeeds' Transformational School. If my math skills serve me well, only one percent of Colorado's public middle schools have been nominated, AND the great news is that Carbondale Middle School is one of those schools.

[The Succeeds Prize](#) is the state's most prestigious awards and recognition event honoring transformational public schools and educators. "The Succeeds Prize gives us the opportunity to celebrate Colorado educators and recognize what is working in our schools," said Steve Carter, general manager of 9NEWS/KUSA TV. "9NEWS has been proud to feature the 2017 winners on our network to share their stories with millions of Coloradans. Congratulations to the finalists for Transformational Impact; Colorado is grateful for your work."

Scott Laband, president of Colorado Succeeds, said, "The Succeeds Prize not only rewards their efforts, it also shares these effective and scalable practices so educators statewide can benefit. We have learned so much for our 2017 winners and finalists, and the business community is coming together once again to recognize and reward these unsung heroes."

Finalists for The Succeeds Prize are chosen by a Selection Committee using a [three-step, data-driven process](#). Winners will be announced at a live reveal celebration on Sept. 18, 2018 at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts.

Transformational Impact in a Middle School

Finalists:

- Murphy Creek K8 School – Adams Arapahoe 28J
- Carbondale Middle School – Roaring Fork RE1
- Denver Green School – Denver Public Schools

So what did we do that caused our small-town school to turn the heads of educational leaders in our state? It turns out that there's quite a few things we do well. Here are some highlights:

- Our teachers work really hard to ensure that every student every day has not only high quality learning experiences in the classroom, but also feels like they are a valued member of CMS.
- Our students work really hard and it shows. Our English Learners surpassed the state's growth by 13% on 2017 Math PARCC and our non- English Learners by 16%. In terms of achievement, in 2015, the average percent of students proficient and advanced on PARCC English Language Arts was 32.75%. This year, our average percent was 43%, an increase of 10.25% in 2 years. Similarly in math, our 2015 PARCC showed 22% of students were proficient and advanced and by 2017, 32.75% of students were proficient and advanced in math, an increase of 10.75% in 2 years.
- Our staff fundamentally believes that if we want to maximize our children's learning and opportunities for success in life, we need to prioritize a caring environment in order to establish a positive culture and climate for academic achievement.
- Our school has adopted a set of skills called Habits of a Scholar which focus on intentionally teaching and practicing these skills. Students at CMS hone their executive skills, perseverance, enthusiasm, compassion, and teamwork on a daily basis through lessons, modeling, discussions, experiences, and reflections.
- In our small town the entire community plays a stakeholder role. Both community partnerships and parent involvement are key to our students success.

In a nutshell, we have established a school community that deserves to be recognized for working hard and taking care of each other. It is how we operate every day. Thanks for being a part of this success.

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



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