



Wiggins School District RE-509

-- *Challenging and Empowering Young Minds*

March 23, 2017

Dear Wiggins School District Families:

Our third through ninth 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—skills that are critical to success in college and careers for the 21st Century. These assessments, called the Colorado Measures of Academic Success tests, examine students' knowledge in English language arts, math, science and social studies and will be given over a three-week window between April 11th and April 28th.

It is important to understand that our overall goal is to provide a snapshot of how our students are progressing toward that goal and how our teachers can better help them achieve it. The tests are aligned to the work already being done in the classroom and the results can help teachers improve or modify their instruction to meet the child. We'll get the results of this year's tests back much sooner so that teachers can put the information to use.

It is also important to remember 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 schools or districts that need help and which ones should be celebrated for their success.

Current assessments are designed to help reveal how students are progressing toward that goal, but the information won't be there if students don't take the assessments. In recent years, the state has worked to reduce the number and length of tests for our students in an effort to answer the call from parents who were unhappy about the overload.

Last year, we introduced the PSAT 10 for 10th graders to replace the CMAS tests for that grade and participation increased. This year, 11th graders will be the first to take the SAT as the state's college entrance exam.

Please see the attached calendar for testing dates and times. We ask parents and families to ensure their children get plenty of sleep and a healthy breakfast every day, but especially on assessment days. If there are appointments that need to be made, we hope this calendar will help you to make those appointments on non-assessment days and during non-assessment times.

We appreciate your support during this time. Assessments, including CMAS as well as those taken throughout the year, are vital tools for teachers to support student success. There are online resources and practice tests available on the district's website at www.wiggins50.k12.co.us. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Trent Kerr
Principal

Wiggins School District 2017 Assessment Schedule

Grade 3:

English Language Arts: April 11, 12, 13 8:00-10:00

Math: April 17, 18, 19, 20 8:00-9:30

Grade 4:

English Language Arts: April 11, 12, 13 10:00-12:00

Math: April 17, 18, 19, 20 10:00-11:30

Grade 5:

English Language Arts: April 11, 12 10:00-12:00 & April 13 10:00-12:00 and 1:00-3:00

Math: April 17, 18, 19, 20 10:00-11:30

Science: April 20 1:00-2:50 & April 21 10:00-11:40 and 1:00-2:40

Grade 6:

English Language Arts: April 11, 12, 13 8:00-10:00

Math: April 18, 19, 20 8:00-9:40

Grade 7:

English Language Arts: April 17, 18, 19 8:15-10:30

Math: April 17, 18, 19 1:15-2:45

Grade 8

English Language Arts: April 17, 18, 19 8:15-10:30

Math: April 17, 18, 19 1:15-2:45

Science: April 20 8:15-9:50 and 10:20-12:00; April 21 8:15-9:50

Grade 9:

English Language Arts: April 11, 12, 13 8:50-11:10

Math: April 11, 12, 13 1:30-3:20

Grade 10:

PSAT: April 12 8:00-12:00

Grade 11:

SAT: April 11 8:00-12:00—11th grade students will be dismissed from school after completion of SAT testing

Science: April 13 8:00-12:00—11th grade students will be dismissed from school after completion of testing.

*Make-up testing will take place the week of April 24-28 for students that miss a testing session. Please make every effort to ensure your student is in school during the times they will be taking assessments. Makeup sessions are difficult to schedule and take students out of classes during valuable instructional times.