



404 Chapman Street
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www.wiggins50.k12.co.us

March 22, 2019

Dear Wiggins School District Families:

Students in grades 3-8 will soon 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 (CMAS) tests, examine students' knowledge in English language arts, math, science and social studies and will be given over a three-week window between April 08th and April 26th.

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 needs of each student.

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.

At the high school level, the CMAS assessments include PSAT 8/9 for 9th graders, PSAT 10 for 10th graders and the SAT for 11th graders as well as the CMAS grade 11 science test. Testing time for the PSAT 8/9, PSAT10 and SAT requires just one morning test block and the same for the CMAS grade 11 science test.

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
Superintendent

Wiggins School District 2019 Assessment Schedule

***Dates and times are subject to change with short notice.**

Grade 3:

English Language Arts: April 9, 10, 11 8:30-10:30am

Math: April 12, 15, 16 8:30 – 10:30am

Grade 4:

English Language Arts: April 9, 10, 11 8:30-10:30am

Social Studies: April 10, 11, 12 1:00-3:00pm

Math: April 12, 15, 16 8:30 – 10:30am

Grade 5:

English Language Arts: April 9, 10, 11 8:30-10:30am

Science: April 10, 11, 12 1:00-3:00pm

Math: April 12, 15, 16 8:30 – 10:30am

Grade 6:

English Language Arts: April 11, 12, 15 8:30-10:45am

Math: April: April 11, 12, 15 12:45-2:15pm

Grade 7:

English Language Arts: April 11, 12, 15 8:30-10:45am

Math: April: April 11, 12, 15 12:45-2:15pm

Grade 8

English Language Arts: April 11, 12, 15 8:30-10:45am

Math: April: April 11, 12, 15 12:45-2:15pm

Science: April 17 8:30 – 10:00 & 10:30 – 12:00 Aril 18 8:30 – 10:00

Grade 9:

PSAT 8/9 – April 9 8:00 – approx. 11:30am. Early dismissal upon completion

Grade 10:

PSAT 10 – April 9 8:00-approx. 11:30am Early dismissal upon completion

Grade 11:

CMAS Science: April 8 8:00am – 12:00pm Early dismissal upon completion

SAT: April 9 8:00am-12:00pm—Early dismissal upon completion.

*Make-up testing will take place the week of April 23-27 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 time.