



Bear Valley International

A School By the Community, For the Community

Dear Bear Valley families:

In April Colorado students will take end-of-year assessments called **CMAS** or **Colorado Measures of Academic Success**. Students in grades 3-8 will take English language arts and math tests. Students in grades 5, 8 and 11 will take science tests. A Spanish language arts test (CSLA) is available for qualifying multilingual learners in grades 3-4.

CMAS tests measure student progress on the **Colorado Academic Standards**, which outline what students should understand, know and be able to do at each grade level and in each content area. CMAS data helps determine if educational goals are being met and if students are on track to graduate prepared for college and career. Although state tests are not perfect and are only one measurement of student progress, when all Colorado students take CMAS, schools can improve instruction for all students and parents can gain important insights.

- Results provide information that shows what your child has been learning and practicing in their classroom, and how well they are connecting with classroom instruction.
- Results for the whole school lets you know how well your school is teaching all students.
- Results provide you and other families in your community with information about how local schools are meeting the needs of all students.

6th and 7th grade will be testing April 9, 10 and 11; 8th grade will be testing April 8 thru April 12th. Makeup testing and missed instruction can be avoided by scheduling appointments and vacations for non-testing days, and by ensuring that your student arrives at school on-time. Students may not have electronic devices during testing and will be asked to turn them off and give them to the teacher before testing begins. This provides standardized testing environments and ensures the validity of tests for Colorado students.

Your support is appreciated; however if you do plan to **excuse** your student from testing, you may do so in the Parent Portal through February (which gives the school time to plan and schedule accordingly). Scroll to the bottom of [this](#) page for opt out instructions.

Student **practice resources** can be found here: <https://coassessments.com/practice-resources/>. More information about assessments can be found here: <https://assessments.dpsk12.org> and here: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/resourcesforparents>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me. Thank you, and go Yetis!

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