**TESTING CHANGES FOR 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR**

During the 2014-2015 school year, students throughout the state of Colorado will begin taking different standardized tests. Instead of the TCAP test, students will now take the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) test and Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) test. With these new state standards comes the hope that these assessments will help prepare our students for college and careers in the 21st century.

The CMAS and PARCC assessments will be administered entirely online moving us from the standard paper and pencil tests and will measure the student’s knowledge and mastery of the new standards and expectations. Below is a breakdown of the two assessments.

* CMAS
  + This assessment measures the areas of Science and Social Studies.
  + Students in the 5th, 8th, and 12th grade are tested in Science.
  + Students in the 4th, 7th, and 12th grade are tested on Social Studies.
  + Seniors are tested in the fall and the 4th, 5th, 7th, and 8th grade students are tested in the spring.
  + These assessments will have a variety of questions ranging from multiple choice, short answer, simulations, and performance events.
* PARCC
  + This assessment measures the areas of English, Language Arts, and Math
  + Students in grades 3-11 will be assessed in these areas; however, with regards to math -- high school students will only be tested through Algebra 2
  + These tests will occur in 2 parts:
    - Performance Based Assessment (PBA)
      * Designed to measure real-world skills such as research, synthesis, and writing.
      * Questions are typically short essays/answers
      * This test is given 75% of the way through the school year (March/April)
    - End of Year (EOY)
      * Designed to measure the student’s demonstration of acquired skills and knowledge
      * Questions are primarily multiple choice with some short answer
      * This is given 90% of the way through the school year (late April/May)
  + The scores from the PBA and EOY assessments will be combined to produce the student’s total assessment score

If you would like more specific information regarding these assessments, please visit CDE’s website at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/newassess-sum> for CMAS information and <http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/newassess-parcc> for PARCC information. If you would like to view the new standards, please visit CDE’s website at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/>.