

From the Desk of Mr. Todd Beck, High School Principal



Key Messages

The Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS), pronounced "en-skass," is a balanced statewide assessment system that embodies Nebraska's holistic view of students and helps them prepare for success in postsecondary education, career, and civic life.

NSCAS Summative-English Language Arts (ELA)

In 2017, the NSCAS Summative-ELA assessment replaced the Nebraska School Accountability (NeSA) tests in reading and writing for grades 3 – 8.

- The combined NSCAS-ELA means fewer exams for students at each grade level
- The NSCAS-ELA is aligned to the Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards for English Language Arts, leading to better outcomes for students, schools, and communities

The NSCAS-ELA brings increased rigor, relevance, and expectations for all students.

- Revised ELA standards better prepare students for the next level of learning
- New item types on NSCAS-ELA assess students' higher-order thinking abilities
- Raising the bar on assessments requires substantial movement to align efforts to meet expectations for the future
- Due to the increased rigor, and changes to the assessment system, scores in year two may vary
- At the state level, scores remained the same or improved slightly
- As state standards are raised to meet college and career readiness standards, and instruction reflects those standards, scores are expected to improve and growth is anticipated as the assessment system stabilizes in 2019

NSCAS-ACT

NSCAS-ACT replaced NeSA-Reading, Math, Science, and Writing for all high school juniors in 2017.

- The FREE exam is administered to all juniors
- Taking the comprehensive ACT, including the writing component, means fewer exams for students in the 11th grade
- The Nebraska ACT is aligned to the national ACT standards and meeting expectations on the exam indicates college readiness in our students

NSCAS-ACT brings increased rigor, relevance, and expectations for all students.

- All juniors take the ACT, giving a more comprehensive view of ALL Nebraska students*
- ACT scores remained steady in the initial year of testing even with a larger number of students tested and increased rigor of the exam
- NSCAS-ACT math and science scores were identical to the previous year while NSCAS-ACT ELA dropped slightly
- As state standards are raised to meet national ACT standards, and instruction reflects those standards, scores are expected to improve

*An alternate exam was available for those students who qualified for having significant cognitive disabilities.

NSCAS-ACT provides more post-secondary opportunities for students in Nebraska.

- The ACT presents equal testing opportunities for all students at the junior level
- All juniors may choose to send their scores to the colleges of their choice at no cost to the students
- The ACT paves the way for more college scholarship application opportunities

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Inserts included in the hard copy newsletter are the menus and activity calendars. Menus and calendars may also be found on the CV Home page (www.centralvps.org) Please be sure to check the calendars online as changes may occur!



REMINDER!!!!

- **Tuesday, January 7—** School resumes for students with an early dismissal
- **Friday, January 31—** CV Wrestling Invite @ Greeley 11:00am

Teacher Inservice

No school for students





NSCAS Summative-Mathematics

Key Messages

The Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS), pronounced "en-skass," is a balanced, statewide assessment system that embodies Nebraska's holistic view of students and helps them prepare for success in postsecondary education, career, and civic life. The NSCAS Summative-Mathematics is a new, computer-adaptive statewide assessment within the NSCAS system.

The NSCAS Summative-Mathematics assessment replaced the Nebraska School Accountability (NeSA) test in math for grades 3 – 8.

- The NSCAS Summative-Mathematics measures student performance against Nebraska's College and Career Ready Standards for Mathematics, showing whether students have learned what they were expected to learn

The NSCAS Summative-Mathematics assessment better prepares students for the next level of learning.

- NSCAS Summative-Mathematics brings increased rigor, relevance, and high expectations for all students
- Scores on the NSCAS Summative-Mathematics may seem lower than expected in the initial year of testing due to the increased rigor of the standards as assessed by the test
- There is no comparison to previous summative assessment scores in mathematics as NeSA-Math assessed student performance against a different set of standards
- As district curriculum is adopted to meet Nebraska's College and Career Ready Standards for Mathematics, and instruction reflects those standards, scores are expected to improve

The NSCAS Summative-Mathematics assessment is adaptive and provides in-depth information about what students know in less time.

- The NSCAS Summative-Mathematics assessment adapts dynamically based on each student's ability
- Innovative, interactive question formats engage students and enable them to demonstrate higher order thinking
- The assessment provides deeper information about student knowledge
- In 2019, results will be available shortly after the close of the testing window, enabling educators and parents to address roadblocks to student progress in a timely fashion, ahead of the next school year

At the high school level, the NSCAS Summative-ACT, provided for free to all juniors, will continue to serve as the summative assessment in mathematics.

- The NSCAS Summative-ACT is aligned to the national ACT standards and meeting expectations on the exam indicates college readiness in Nebraska students
- The assessment provides more postsecondary opportunities for students in Nebraska

A note on NSCAS Summative-Science

- The Nebraska State Board of Education approved Nebraska's College and Career Ready Standards for Science in 2017
- The NSCAS Summative-Science assessment will assess the college and career ready standards in the spring of 2021
- Districts have one year to adopt the Nebraska standards or standards deemed equal to or more rigorous, during which time assessments will continue to reflect legacy standards
- Scores may vary during this transition process as instruction shifts to reflect these standards

**2019 Statewide NSCAS ACT
Performance**

	Developing	On Track	ACT Benchmark	Meets Expectations (On Track + ACT Benchmark)
ELA	55%	15%	30%	45%
Math	55%	25%	20%	45%
Science	60%	30%	10%	40%

**2019 Statewide NSCAS (General & Alternate)
Performance**

	Developing	On Track	CCR Benchmark	Percent Proficient (On Track + CCR Benchmark)
ELA	54%	35%	11%	46%
Math	43%	50%	7%	57%
Science	41%	56%	3%	59%

Principal's Desk
Central Valley Elementary
Mrs. Connie Shafer

Happy New Year! I hope the holidays gave you much needed family time, joy and maybe some rest. I wish you much peace, joy, and health in 2020. I am looking forward to an exciting second half of learning and growing at Central Valley Elementary!

Kindness Counts is our theme this year so students are reflecting and acting on kindness daily throughout the year. We also have started **'Mission Monday.'** Each Monday a new mission is stated and throughout the week we focus on fulfilling that 'Mission.' For example, one week the adults and students' mission was to 'Follow Directions the First Time.' All week students and adults focused on following directions the first time and in a positive manner. To be successful in school, athletics, work, family life

and friendships, you need to know how to follow instructions correctly. Knowing how to follow instructions has many benefits:

- ◆ When you do what you're told to do right away, parents and teachers will be more likely to praise you or be happy about your effort.
- ◆ You can finish assignments or jobs sooner, allowing you more time for other activities.
- ◆ You can learn the necessary skills more quickly, giving you more opportunities or promotions at work or in school.
- ◆ Teachers, employers and even your parents won't ask you to redo your work as often, and you will develop a reputation for being mature, responsible and competent.
- ◆ You will make a positive contribution to your

Continued from Mrs. Connie Shafer, CV Elementary

school, family, job and community, which can boost your confidence and sense of self.

So, ask your child/children what their 'mission' is each week and join in at home with your family!

PE, Music, Art and Spanish

Our PE, and Music programs offer a lot of opportunities for students to hone their natural talents. Every grade level is offered a musical performance opportunity during the school year. Mr. Nuss teaches many skills in PE that build on each other to help students become physically fit and learn many ways to extend their energy while having fun!

Ms. Rakness teaches Art to the 4th - 6th graders on a rotating basis each quarter. PreK-2nd grade teachers teach their own art and students have some beautiful work hanging up in the school for all to enjoy! Students' art is given an opportunity to be showcased at the Greeley Co. Fair and Popcorn Days. Mrs. Alexander teaches Spanish to the 4th-6th graders on a rotating schedule. Offering these enrichment activities to our students extends their academic experiences and creates a well-rounded student.

Please ask your child what they did in PE, Music, Art, or Spanish. This is a great opportunity for some insight into their day.

Be a Family of Readers

When families share a love of reading, children develop stronger literacy skills and are more motivated to pick up a book. Following are some examples of how to make reading a family affair.

After-Dinner Novel

Pick a novel all ages can enjoy. Parents can take turns reading a chapter a night. The kids will look forward to it, especially if you stopped at a cliff-hanger the day before. After each chapter, share your opinions of the book and say

what you think will happen tomorrow.

Reading adventures

If you visit the library, look for books related to someplace you've been or are going soon. Before a visit to the zoo or going to a rodeo, look for nonfiction books about animals you might see at the zoo or look up famous rodeo clowns or famous cowboys that competed at a rodeo.

Treasure hunts.

Students that are just learning to read, could search for free reading 'treasure.' Collect maps from parks and malls, brochures from the vet's office, and even fortunes from cookies. Soon the whole family will be adding to the 'treasure chest. For example: You can learn a lot, like how dogs communicate or what fun things there are to do at your favorite park.

Winter MAP testing will be held January 14-17 and January 21-24.

Parents please talk to your children about the Winter MAP tests they will soon be taking. Have them get a good night's sleep and a good breakfast. These tests are taken at the beginning, middle, and end of the year. Watch for reminders in your students take home folders. Teachers will send reminders in their weekly letters, Class Dojo or SeeSaw.

Reminder:

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on February 7. A note will be sent home with a time to conference. These conferences will be held in Greeley this year.

Instilling Pride! Inspiring Others!





**Michelle Wood,
School Nurse**

COLD & FLU

The common cold is a viral infection of the upper respiratory tract. Over 200 viruses are known to cause a cold. Symptoms may begin less than 2 days of exposure and can last up to 3 weeks.

Influenza is caused by the influenza virus. There are 3 types of influenza virus. Type A, Type B and Type C. The symptoms range from mild to severe. They begin 2 days after exposure and last about one to two weeks. Flu complications can lead to serious health problems or even death.

The Flu and Common Cold are both respiratory infections that are contagious. They can be spread through the air by sneezing and coughing. They also can be spread by touching contaminated surfaces and then touching your mouth and eyes.

Common cold symptoms include sore throat, sneezing, coughing and nasal congestion. Sometimes it may include chills, fatigue and body aches. It is rare to have a fever or headache.

Influenza symptoms include body aches, fever, cough, headache, fatigue and chills. Sometimes it may include sneezing, sore throat and nasal congestion.

There are several things to help prevent the spread of respiratory infections. Good hand washing, covering your mouth with a tissue or your elbow with sneezing or coughing, the disposal of used tissue properly and avoiding close contact with others.

Self care includes:

- *Good fluid intake
- *Rest
- *Using a humidifier to moisten the air
- *Salt water gargles or warm water with lemon or honey for sore throats



- *Avoid alcohol
- *Avoid tobacco
- *Over the counter medications may be used with caution. Read the labels and follow the directions

If influenza symptoms are diagnosed within 24 to 48 hours prescription medications may be ordered by the physician. Follow up with your physician if you are suffering from a condition that puts you a risk for getting the flu or from complications of the flu.



For the 2nd year in a row, the Central Valley 11th graders won the fourth Annual Christmas Tree Decorating Contest. Judges this year were from the towns of Stuart, Battle Creek and Fullerton.

First row, l-r ~ Emma Crome, Olivia Nelson, Becca Houtby, Taryn Barr, Cayton Butcher, Larista Barner

Second row, l-r ~ Meghan Gydesen, McKenzie Johnson, Dani Wadsworth, Ashlyn Wright, Lexi Schaffert, Gabby Martinez

Third row, l-r ~ Demi Daniels, Gabriel Davis, Jackson Peterson, Ty Nekoliczak, Gale Treat

Fourth row l-r: Reilly Cadek, Thomas Bonge, Trevor Cargill, Morgan Behnk, Kyle Nekoliczak, Jackson McIntyre

Not pictured: Audrey Wood

Congratulations CV FFA! Ag Demonstration team of Tristan Klein, Kilee Ackles, Demi Daniels and Carly Johnson qualified for State Contest! Receiving blues were Christina Lauria in Senior Public Speaking, Chance Ackles in Creed Speaking and Ag Demonstration #2 of Larista Barner and Madison Young. Receiving reds were Joe Bykerk and Zandar Wolf in Junior Public Speaking, Kean Benson and Cohen Grossart in Employment Skills and the Conduct of Chapter Meetings team of Tamryn Klein, Logan Studley, Tanner Landers, Bo Pokorny, Kean Benson, Cohen Grossart and Zandar Wolf. The junior high quiz bowl teams put in a great effort and placed in the top half of teams competing!



Front row l-r: Chance Ackles, Demi Daniels, Carly Johnson, Kilee Ackles, Tristan Klein, Darci Buck

Middle row l-r: Bo Pokorny, Morgan Johnson, Callie Wadas, Kendra Cargill, Piper Shepard, Tamryn Klein, Cordel Wagner, Christina Lauria, Dani Buck

Back row l-r: Larista Barner, Logan Studley, Joe Bykerk, Zandar Wolf, Cohen Grossart, Kean Benson, Tanner Landers, Madison Young

The Central Valley 8th Grade Class is putting on a soup supper.



Come eat some delicious Chili or Chicken Noodle Soup at the Central Valley vs Burwell basketball game on Thursday, January 10 and support the class of 2024!

Cost is \$5.00 for a bowl of soup, a dessert bar and a drink.

We will start serving soup at 5:00pm

The new year is a new chance to achieve goals

If your child set some goals in September, but didn't really follow through, January is the perfect time to start again. To make this the year your child learns how to achieve his goals, encourage him to:

1. **State** his goal. Have your child write it down and post it where he will see it.
2. **Plan** how to meet the goal. What specific steps will he take?
3. **Talk** about the goal with others. This builds commitment. Have your child tell the teacher his goal.
4. **Carry out** his plan, one step at a time. If problems arise, your child can discuss possible solutions with you.

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY

To ask questions
about your baby's
development



CALL TOLL FREE
1.888.806.6287

All children develop at different rates.
Listed below are some guides to see
how your child is developing.

0-1 YEARS

- ✓ Holds head up by four months
- ✓ Picks up objects by six months
- ✓ Responds to sounds by six months
- ✓ Makes some of the sounds made by others by nine months
- ✓ Uses furniture to pull self to standing position by 12 months

1-2 YEARS

- ✓ Holds out arms and legs while being dressed by 18 months
- ✓ Points to objects he/she wants by 18 months
- ✓ Walks without help by 18 months
- ✓ Says two words by 18 months
- ✓ Drinks from a cup by two years
- ✓ Shows one body part (eyes, nose) when asked by two years

2-3 YEARS

- ✓ Speaks in 2-3 word sentences by three years
- ✓ Walks up and down stairs without help by three years
- ✓ Plays with an adult by three years
- ✓ Undresses self by three years
- ✓ Asks some questions by three years
- ✓ Speaks so non-family members understand most words by three years

For your questions or concerns contact your
doctor, your local school district or call

NEBRASKA CHILDFIND
1.888.806.6287