



February 2015

Aurora Frontier P-8

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Dear Frontier families,

This spring our students will join students throughout Colorado in taking a new set of state tests called the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS). These are not additional tests – the CMAS replaces the TCAP, using next generation technology that will provide more meaningful feedback to help teachers and parents ensure students master the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in today's world. CMAS will be given to students in grades 3-11 in both math and English language Arts, students in grades 4 and 7 in SS, and grades 5 and 8 in science.

The new tests are aligned with the Colorado Academic Standards, which replaced 20-year-old standards. The new standards, in use at our school since the 2013-14 school year, update our community's expectations for what students must know to be ready for college level courses or a career after they graduate from high school.

As with any change, there will be a period of adjustment as teachers and students get used to the new standards and new tests. The new tests will, indeed, be different. We live in an increasingly complex world, and the knowledge and skills students need to succeed is challenging. By using more advanced questions, the CMAS tests will allow students to demonstrate their critical thinking, analytical writing and problem-solving skills.

Parents should know if their children are on the right path, and these new assessments will provide an "academic checkup" to help us know if our students are ready for what comes next. Please make sure your child gets a good night's sleep, eats breakfast, and arrives to school on time.

I welcome the opportunity to visit with you further about our school's process of testing and how we use the results to benefit your child and the rest of our student body.

Sincerely,

Cari Roberts
Principal