

Message from the Principal

Students and Staff at OMMS are starting to prepare for our state testing. CMAS stands for: Colorado Measures of Academic Success while PARCC stands for: Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers. These exams are designed to help teachers, schools, students, and parents determine whether students are on track in their learning for success after high school, and to assess mastery of updated Colorado Academic Success. All public schools in the state of Colorado are required to administer PARCC tests for Literacy and Math and the CMAS test for Science and Social Studies.

This is not a test that is passed with rote memorization and last minute drills. It calls for critical thinking, problem-solving, and the ability to synthesize information from various sources and provide evidence and reasoning when making an argument or solving a math equation. Rather than just asking students to select the correct answer and fill in the bubble of a multiple-choice test, it pushes students to apply their knowledge, thus better preparing them for higher education and a career.

With that being said, we encourage all students to participate in these assessments and perform to their fullest potential so we may gather useful data and place students in appropriate courses and better meet their individual needs. These tests also allow students, parents, and staff to have an accurate picture of each students' growth over time.

This year, we expect all students to attend school during the testing period. Students whose parents submit refusal forms will be asked to take some regular, school-based tests so we are better able to evaluate every student's academic strengths and weaknesses and use this information to provide the best educational opportunities.

If you are considering the possibility of excusing your student from taking this state assessment, refusal forms can be found on the district website and must be submitted to our office prior to the first day of testing. Before you decide to opt your child out of these tests, I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss this important decision with you. Please feel free to call my office at any time.

Finally, we continue to appreciate all you do to support your son/daughter and the staff at OMMS. **Once again we need all students present during testing days** and ask that no appointments be scheduled during those days as well. We will not be able to interrupt classes during a testing session unless it is an emergency. To assist you in arranging for appointments, the testing schedule has been included. If you should have questions concerning the upcoming assessment, please do not hesitate to contact me at 254-6333. Cheri Vana, Principal

Testing Schedule 2016-2017

Tuesday and Wednesday, March 28th and 29th	8th Grade Literacy and Math
Thursday and Tuesday, March 30th and April 4th	7th Grade Literacy and Math
Wednesday and Thursday, April 5th and 6th	6th Grade Literacy and Math
Monday, April 10th	7th Grade Social Studies
Tuesday, April 11th	8th Grade Science

Conference Schedule

On Wednesday and Thursday, February 15th and 16th, from 3:00-7:00 P.M. we will be hosting our final round of parent teacher conferences. Please mark your calendars now, and join us to discuss your student's successes and next steps. We are also excited to be hosting a chili dinner and STEAM Activities on the same nights. See the details below!

(STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math)

Wednesday, February 15th

Conferences from 3:00-7:00

(In teacher's classrooms)

Free Chili Dinner from 4:00-6:30

(Cafeteria)

Thursday, February 16th

Conferences from 3:00-7:00

(In teacher's classrooms)

STEAM Activities from 3:00-7:00

(Cafeteria)

Attendance Office Reminders

ALL absences **MUST** be called in **on the day** the absence occurs.

If you have to leave a message, make sure you relate the **reason** your child is absent.

Any appointments that occur during school hours must have a doctors/dentist/therapist note to excuse the absence - no exceptions. Any medical related absence must have a doctor's note to excuse the absence.

Feb 1: Parent meeting for Wrestling 5:30 P.M. in Band Room
Feb 2: 7th grade Vision and Hearing
Feb 2,3,4: Boys' Basketball Tournament
Feb 6: Wrestling Practice Begins
Feb 10 & 11: Band Solo/Ensemble at GMMS
Feb 10 & 11: Western Colorado Regional Science Fair/CMU Ballroom
Feb 15: GUTS Recital in Cafeteria p.m.
Feb 15 & 16: Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:00 P.M.to 7:00 P.M.
Feb 16: Wrestling Match 3:45 P.M.
Feb 17: No School Teacher In Service
Feb 20: No School

Feb 23: Wrestling Match 3:45 P.M.
Feb 24 & 25: Vocal & Orchestra Solo/Ensemble at GMMS
Feb 25: Heart & Sole Registration Opens
Feb 27: CBA Concert Band Festival at Palisade HS all day

Heart & Sole (for 6th -8th grade) Girls on the Run (for 3rd- 5th graders) Register Online: www.gotrwesterncolorado.org Orchard Mesa will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays by the cafeteria at 2:50 p.m. For more information call Coach Jennifer Redmond at 970-985-1115.

Congratulations to these Choir students for making District 51 Middle School Honor Choir. The event took place on January 19 at Fruita Middle School. Students auditioned and were chosen to participate based upon their audition.

Laurie Little, Alex Canela, Jenna Cox, Isabell Eldridge, Hailey Tenney, Katelyn Peterson, Hannah Bair, Ian Prichard, Raine Pratt

What's Happening in 8th Grade Literacy?

Mrs. Nicholson and Mrs. Bussey are exploring/ implementing a new curriculum mandated by the District. Presently their blocks are focusing on "Citizenship" by reading the play, Twelve Angry Men. It entails trial by jury, hung juries, innocent vs. not guilty, capital punishment, and reasonable doubt. When an 8th grader is out and about, ask him/her if the 19-year-old is guilty of the stabbing crime and his/her reasoning.

8th Grade Alpine Student of the Month January 2017

Hope Kelchner & Isaac Brandenburg

These students were recognized by their teachers for their excellence in academics and their demonstration of OMMS' core values of safety, ethics, and respect. Each student will be honored at a luncheon with a plaque and a \$500 scholarship, renewable yearly, to Colorado Mesa University or Western Community College.

January Student of the Month Recipients

Morgan Herd, Christian Joslin-Beghan,
Vanessa Kime, Dylan Cullen, Marissa Zeigler,
Alicia Black, Alexandria Canela,
Amelia Lopez

What's Happening in 7th Grade ...Read Below

In Mrs. Funk's **Social Studies** class, students are learning about Egypt! Students will be working on a large Egyptian Pharaoh Project at the end of the unit.

Science is about to enter what makes up all living things, cells. It will be quite the adventure using microscopes, plays/theater and the making and eating of an edible cell to learn the 11 major structures inside the cell and their function. Students will then dive into the processes of photosynthesis and cellular respiration. They will be part of two exciting labs that will demonstrate the products of both processes right before their eyes.

As OMMS middle school 7th graders, students are beginning a new year and starting a new theme for our third quarter. **English Language Arts** learners will be investigating the theme: Experiencing Discomfort. Learners will be discussing what the theme might mean to them, to their classwork, to their community and to the world around them (ELA students have been taught to use Costa's Levels of Questioning) as they read and analyze different fiction and nonfiction texts. This quarter, learners will be "reading" a variety of texts including print and non-print materials and analyzing the effects they have on them and others. Learners will be exploring the media utilizing videos, print ads, journalistic articles, and a classroom novel to find common connections to our theme and how they can push through academically challenging tasks. ELA students are utilizing PBL components (Performance Based Learning) where they have voice and choice in how they want to discuss or present their learning and standards accomplished. Recently, students showcased their language arts standards by participating in a Philosophical Chairs discussion where they read, annotated, collected evidence, organized their thoughts, delivered a well-constructed opinion and listened with respect to other's perspectives on a topic that was grounded to their class novel, Wednesday Wars. All classes did an amazing job! In their evaluations after the activity, most students were excited about being able to bring their perspective into a conversation. Way to go 7th graders! Let's keep that Growth Mindset going!

In **Math** are working on linear functions (basic algebra) in an attempt to establish the understanding that many things in the world around us are centered on **relationships** between two variables which can be modeled by constant rate equations. This allows us to predict outcomes beyond the immediate, observable scenario.

Congratulations Raine Pratt!

She has been selected to be published in the prestigious annual student anthology, Award-Winning Young Writers of America - 2016-2017. The panel of educators reviewed thousands of submissions entered, whereby less than 20% of total entries were selected.

She did her Literacy instructor, Mrs. Bussey, proud!

Join D51F on Saturday, February 4 from 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. at the CMU Ballroom for our 5th Annual White Iced Celebration.