



April 3, 2019

To: Parents of all 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th grade students

RE: Upcoming Scheduled Testing Sessions

Good afternoon all,

TEST. The dreaded 4 letter word to most students.

For the next three weeks, GCS students will be engaged in taking the Colorado Measures of Academic Success, referred to as CMAS. The subjects assessed for all students are Mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy. Science is scheduled for 5th grade, and Social Studies assessment for 4th grade only. To learn more about the CMAS, visit the Colorado Department of Education website, at <https://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/cmas>

The tests provide a yardstick for educators to evaluate the performance of students and schools, measuring it against state and national standards. These tests can provide you and your child's teacher with insight into his progress, helping you identify areas for improvement. Standardized assessments also help schools and districts decide where they need to focus more attention.

As a parent, the most important way you can help your child do well on tests is to read with your child regularly, talk with them about their experiences, and provide a quiet work space at home. When well-meaning parents focus too much on test results, they put undue pressure on young children. For kids who struggle with attention or memorization tasks, testing can be extremely stressful because it requires students to draw entirely on these skills.

Here are a few ways to help your child on those days:

Make sure your child gets a good night's sleeps and eats a healthy breakfast.

Many teacher report that students who do not do well on tests haven't gotten enough sleep, and haven't eaten breakfast on the morning of the test. Doing both of these things will help your child to work at full capacity.

Remain positive and supportive.

The best test-takers are confident, committed, and at ease. Staying calm will help your child stay calm and confident. If there is anxiety over the test, practice relaxation techniques they can use in class.

Finally, remember that standardized tests and grading systems are not perfect; each format has its own limitations. As you help your child do their best, also remind them that testing is just part of education. Please call if you have any questions or concerns as we approach testing days.

With your support and involvement, they will be on their way to a bright future.

Tina Ozee

Interim Director, Georgetown Community School