

March 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians of Elementary Students:

Our teachers design their curriculum and lesson plans to meet the learning expectations outlined in the *Colorado Academic Standards (CAS)* which are the expectations for what students need to learn and be able to demonstrate at the end of each grade. These standards reflect the critical-thinking, problem-solving, effective communication skills, as well as critical content students need to be truly prepared for success after high school in the 21st century.

Good instruction based on standards and assessments of student learning cannot occur in isolation of one another; together they guide measurable student learning and achievement. Using quality next-generation assessments allows us to measure students' knowledge of these expectations, monitor their growth towards learning goals, and ensure they are on-track to be college & career ready by the time students graduate.

Beginning on April 1st, students across Colorado will take the *Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS)*. In grades 3-5, students will take the English Language Arts and Mathematics assessments which measure student knowledge of these content standards. In grade five, students will also be assessed in the science *Colorado Academic Standards*. In addition, once every three years grade four students will take an assessment that measures the *Colorado Academic Standards* in Social Studies.

These statewide assessments are considered an assessment of all students and are a part of our school accreditation and federal requirements. Make-up tests will be needed for those absent; therefore, we request that you please try to avoid medical/dental and other appointments during testing times. For specific dates and times, please refer to the Lenski newsletter or our school website at <https://littletonpublicschools.net/schools/lenski/>.

Please be aware that cell phones, smart watches, tablets and ebook readers are not allowed in the classroom during CMAS testing. If your student brings any of these items to school during testing, test administrators will collect the prohibited item(s) prior to testing and return them to students at the end of the day.

If a student uses a cell phone or other device to monitor a documented medical condition, the student may have the device in the testing environment.

Details about the CMAS assessment are available from the Colorado Department of Education website at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment>. Please feel free to contact me with your questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara DeSpain

