

April 2025



Dolores School District

Newsletter

Superintendent Alesa Reed

Dolores School District RE-4A



Welcome to Spring, Everyone,

This month, I am filled with immense pride as I observe our students' extraordinary resilience, creativity, and potential. Last month, our first-grade students held presentations on the events that led to the Revolutionary War. The Middle School showcase was equally exciting, featuring a variety of projects, experiments, and presentations. We have an art exhibit at the Cortez Rec Center; check it out. Additional learning is prevalent on our campus. We always have room to improve, yet we are proud of the education we are providing for your students.

Dolores School District Important Dates

- April 2:** Board member presenting building update to the Dolores Rotary
- April 8-26:** **CMAS, PSAT and SAT testing**
- April 14:** School Board Meeting 6:00 PM, District Office
- April 22:** Community update on building project. 6:00 pm High School Library

Academic Spotlight

State Testing Preparation

Our schools are preparing for the upcoming standardized assessment period this April. Teachers are working diligently to ensure students are comfortable with testing formats while maintaining a balanced approach to curriculum. Parents can help by:

- Ensuring students get adequate sleep and nutrition
- Maintaining regular attendance
- Encouraging a positive attitude toward testing
- Contacting your child's teacher with specific questions

Building principals also receive tips and information about the importance of state testing in their communications. Thank you for participating in these assessments and supporting public education.

Superintendent (continued)

Department Updates

Curriculum & Instruction

Our ELA curriculum review has been completed. The following program will be used in grades 6-12. "Into Literature" by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. This will support ELA alignment for our secondary students.

Facilities

Spring maintenance projects have begun, focusing on roof repair, stanchion upkeep, and district office safety components.

Core drilling samples are continuing on campus this next couple of weeks.

Reach Out

Phone: (970) 882-7255

Website: doloresschools.org

Social Media: [Dolores District RE-4A](#)

Staff Spotlight

Mike Nielson - High School Social Studies: Mike does not live at the school, but there is a better chance that if you were looking for him, that is where you would find him. He is a historian, a fact seen by continuing his education and recently earning his Master's degree. He engages students and makes history relevant by connecting those themes through time as well as helping students understand the cultural and historical climate to frame past events. His dedication to building relationships with students really stands out. What an asset he is!

- ▶ **Elaine Medina** - Preschool Teacher Elaine Medina's dedication to her students and passion for teaching are genuinely inspiring. We are incredibly grateful for her hard work and positive impact on students, parents, and staff. She always goes above and beyond for her students, school programs, and initiatives, even on her own time. Elaine is a true mentor and role model for our staff and community.

Reggy Haase - Elementary Paraprofessional Reggy Haase is a long-time paraprofessional at Dolores Elementary. She is highly dependable and hard-working. We rely on her to implement intense instruction for students daily. She consistently goes above and beyond in everything she does. Reggy is flexible and always willing to take on any task asked of her!

Director Valiena Rosenkrance

Teddy Bear Preschool



Teddy Bear Preschool is gearing up for our preschool to kindergarten transition over the next couple of months. Transition to kindergarten plans allow children to visit and participate in their future kindergarten classrooms before the fall school year starts so that they become familiar with the environment prior to attending. As always, we strongly encourage families to join us on these days.

Transitions can lead to better short-term school adjustments, improved social and emotional development, and enhanced academic outcome for children throughout the kindergarten year. Transitions also build those relationships between families, teachers and children thus creating a supportive and positive learning environment. The preschool teachers and kindergarten teachers feel this ensures a smooth handover of information and practices.

We work to achieve successful transitions so that children and families are more likely to experience better long-term school success.

Teddy Bear Preschool Important Dates

Pre-kinder Events:

- **April 8 and 9:** Music at the Elementary 8:50 a.m.
- **April 15th:** P.E. at the Elementary 9:00 a.m.
- **April 22 and 23:** Lunch at the Cafeteria 10:40 a.m.
- **May 12 and 13:** Kindergarten Classroom Visitation 8:30 a.m.

Teddy Bear encourages the use of books and stories in the classroom and at home. We try to find activities to ignite the students' love for reading and books. Two of our popular activities are our Dr. Seuss activity and now Book Blast!



Galaxie with her Book Blast grand prize!

Teddy Bear Preschool (continued)

During the month of March our theme is Dr. Seuss. Children are given Dr. Seuss reading logs to track reading activity. When the log is filled and brought back, students are able to choose a prize. The children are then given a strip of paper that builds Dr. Seuss's hat, they write their name on the paper and then it is placed to build Dr. Seuss's hat. The hat runs from the front door of our building to the end of the hallway. The children enjoy this activity immensely. The classrooms are all given a pizza party at the end of the week to celebrate their success.

The Book Blast program partners with schools and communities to bring popular books directly to students' homes to foster literacy, imagination, and a lifelong passion for learning. Students and their families embark on an adventure while earning prizes and books, and helping their friends to do the same. The children are really enjoying this program and the books they earn are wonderful quality books.

Principal Amanda Hill

Dolores Elementary School



Greetings Families!

Dolores Elementary is in full swing of spring events and testing. We are excited to see the growth of our students on their tests as well as enjoy all of the fun events to close out the year.

Please see the CMAS Schedule below. It is a very busy time for our 3-5 grade students. **Attendance is very important so they do not get behind in testing sessions. Also testing with their peers instead of by themselves during a make-up session helps them to stay on track and do their best.** Please do everything in your power to have them present on all testing days.

CMAS Schedule

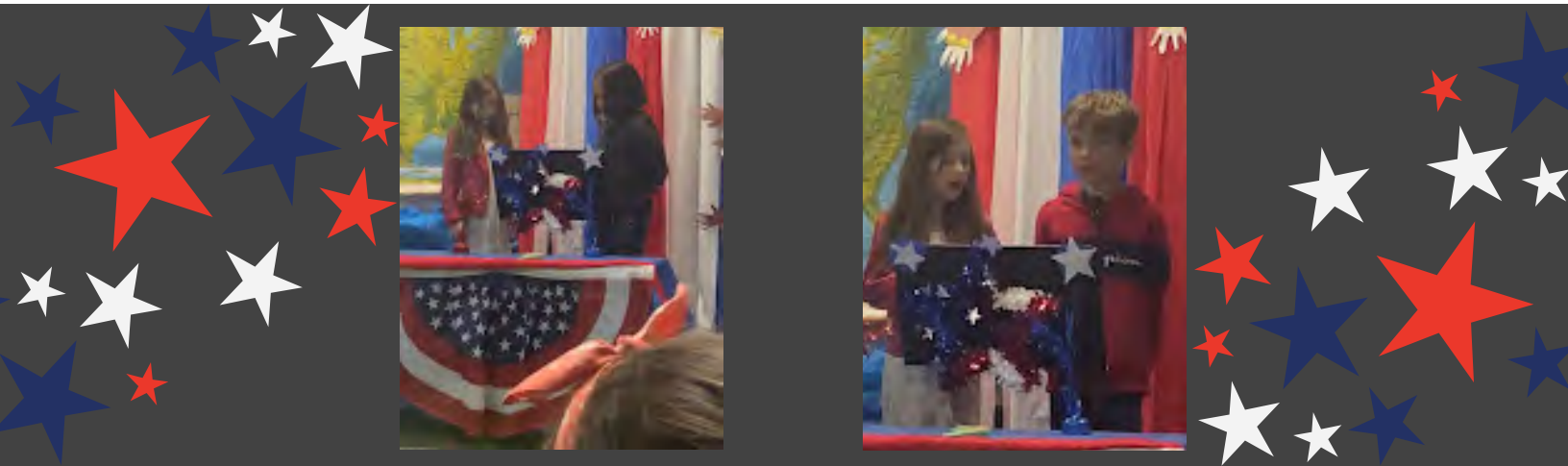
Monday April 7	Tuesday April 8	Wednesday April 9	Thursday April 10
8:15-10:00- Science 5th- Sess 1 (80min)	8:15-10:00- Science 5th- Sess 2 (80min)	8:15-10:00- Science 5th- Sess 3 (80min)	8:15-10:00- Make Up Session
	S.S.- 4th- Sess 1 (65min)		
Monday April 14	Tuesday April 15	Wednesday April 16	Thursday April 17
8:15-10:00- ELA Session 1 (90min)	8:15-10:00- ELA Session 2 (90min)	8:15-10:00- ELA Session 3 (90min)	8:15-10:00- Make Up Session
1:00-2:30- Math Session 1 (65min)	1:00-2:30- Math Session 2 (65min)	1:00-2:30- Math Session 3 (65min)	1:00-2:30- Make Up Session

Dolores Elementary School (continued)

We understand that assessment periods can be a time of anxiety for both students and families. To help our students perform their best, we encourage you to support them by ensuring they get plenty of rest the night before their assessments. A good night's sleep can make a significant difference! Additionally, please encourage your child to arrive at school on time, as this helps them settle in and prepare mentally for the day ahead. Maintaining a positive attitude and giving their best effort during these assessments is essential, and your encouragement at home plays a crucial role in helping them succeed.

We are very excited to invite in our students who will be in Kindergarten next year! We have kindergarten registration scheduled for April 24th from 12:00-6:00 here at the Elementary school. Please pass the word along if you know of any 5 year olds ready to go to Kindergarten in the 2025-2026 school year.

Mrs. White's and Mrs. Tourjee's classes put on performances about the events that led up to the American Revolution. They did an AMAZING, OUTSTANDING, and FANTASTIC job! I was so proud of how much knowledge they had! Way to go first graders!



2nd grade is beginning their research for the Wax Museum. This is coming up on April 10th. I am very excited for them to perform and show us all of their learned knowledge. Be on the lookout for more information. Enjoy the beautiful spring weather! If you have any questions, please reach out to me!

Partners in Learning!

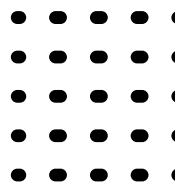
Mrs. Hill- Elementary Principal

Principal Mary Weiss

Dolores Middle School



As we begin the 4th Quarter I want to thank you and your child for helping the Dolores Middle School faculty in creating a more healthy and academic climate at school. I ask each of you to join forces again with the DMS faculty as we prove to the State of Colorado our middle school is better than ever and that our students are making enormous academic growth.



CMAS Test Attendance

As a school, our goal is to achieve a 95% attendance rate. Your student will earn PBIS points for tests taken on each test day, and even more for their best testing effort. Ask your student what these individual points equate to at the PBIS store and how we use them for grade level competitions. Please look at the information on the next page to understand more about the CMAS assessments.

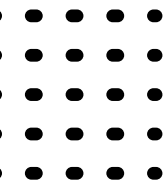
Dolores Middle School Important Dates

April 8 - 10: CMAS Testing

April 15-17: CMAS Testing

7th Grade Poetry

A huge thank you to our amazing 7th graders for being the spotlight of the night, sharing their heartfelt poetry. Your words inspired and moved us all!



Dolores Middle School (continued)



The Role of State Assessments in Increasing Academic Achievement



COLORADO
Department of Education

Colorado has a series of educational standards known as the Colorado Academic Standards that outline academic objectives for students in every grade across 10 content areas. The standards were recently revised and will be fully implemented in the 2020-21 school year. The rigorous standards raise the bar for Colorado students, increasing expectations so they are prepared to succeed in college or careers upon high school graduation. To measure students' mastery of the state's academic standards, Colorado administers a set of common assessments known as the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) and PSAT/SAT.

PURPOSE AND VALUE OF STATE ASSESSMENTS

CMAS and PSAT/SAT are the only common measuring tools for Colorado students. Measuring real-world skills like problem-solving and critical thinking, the tests are aligned to classroom work so teachers do not have to "teach to the test." Instruction based on the standards is the best preparation.

"I want my son to graduate high school on time ready for college or a career, and one way to ensure I know that he is on this path is by taking the state exam."

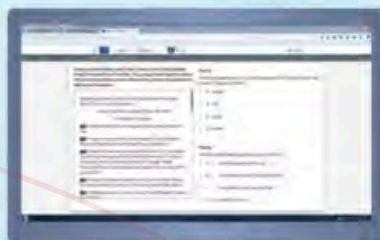
Maribel Banuelos

While state assessments are only one measure of student learning, having all Colorado students take this set of assessments provides parents with answers to these important questions:

- Did my child meet the state standards?
- How well is my child doing compared to other students?
- Which schools and districts perform best in preparing students for academic success?
- What schools and districts have the best performance on the state standards for children with special needs?

Additionally, state assessment results provide:

- Information districts can use, in combination with other district information, to evaluate programs.
- Information educators need to help improve instruction.
- Identification of districts and schools that have struggling students, so help can be provided.
- Recognition of high performing systems so others may learn from them.



Practice Tests Help Students Be Ready

Parents are sometimes concerned that participating in these tests can cause anxiety in their child or that preparing for the tests takes away time from instruction. Because these tests are aligned to the Colorado Academic Standards and classroom instruction, they should not cause any more anxiety than any other tests students take. Also, practice items are available to help familiarize parents and students with test content and structure.

Dolores Middle School (continued)

Middle School Showcase

It's great to acknowledge the efforts of everyone who attended the middle school showcase. It's an event that highlights students' hard work and talent, and the participation of families, teachers, and the community makes it even more special. I'm sure the students appreciated the support!

**Ancient Greece and Rome
Newspaper Article**
6th Grade Social Studies - Ms. Harris
Ancient Greece and Rome Unit

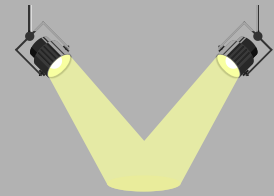
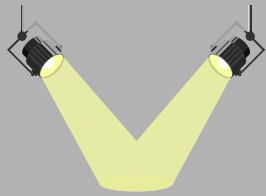
Essential Question: How have the ancient Greek and Roman civilizations shaped today's society as we know it?

★The learning objective was to provide key information that the students learned throughout this unit and compare it to the modern day.

State Standard
Sixth Grade, Standard 3. Writing and Composition 4.
Plan, draft, edit, and revise as needed to craft clear and coherent writing that demonstrates a grasp of standard conventions for grammar, usage, and mechanics as well as a style appropriate for purpose and audience.



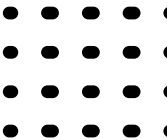
Dolores Middle School (continued)



Congratulations to our March Middle School Students Spotlights

Criteria to be selected for Student of the Month:

Academic excellence, positive attitude, active participation, responsibility, supportive to peers, personal growth, attendance, and punctuality



The 6th grade team is pleased to award the student of the month to **Vann Robinson**. Vann is an exceptional student who truly cares about his grades. Vann always gets his work in on time, discusses with the class, and expands on his learning to ensure he is getting the most out of his learning. In addition to his classwork, Vann is a remarkable person. He is caring, inclusive, and engaging with everyone in the 6th grade. Congratulations Vann!



Alexis Simmons is our 7th grade student of the month!

Astonishing
talented
Extraordinary
excellent
Incredible
Sensational



Jordyn Witsken, our 8th Grade Student of the Month, is a shining example of intelligence, kindness, and dedication. She takes her schoolwork seriously, always striving for excellence, and serves as a positive role model for her peers. Though quiet, Jordyn is friendly and approachable, creating a warm and welcoming presence. Her compassion extends beyond the classroom, as she deeply cares for all living organisms. With her positive attitude and strong character, Jordyn truly embodies what it means to be an outstanding student.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **Academic Achievement** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Congratulations to the following students for their 3rd Quarter academic achievements. The middle school staff is honored to recognize these students.

Principal's Honor Roll - Students that have received all A's

8th Grade

Zane Brown, Arthur Lein, True Loomis, Isaac Samulski

7th Grade

Gabriella Hollen, Randon Hooper, Isaac Marty, Hayes Robinson,
Sean Tarpey, Callista Vaughn

6th Grade

Abigail Hurst, Alanna Lindsay, Amelia Daniel, Cambri Hooper,
Hannah Huston, Kinlea Wright, Kyndal Winter, MacKenzie Stowe,
Marissa Hill, Nyah Gorsuch, Ophelia Pietruszka, Paisly Andrews,
Parker Pribble, Vann Robinson, Zoey Kennedy

A and B Honor Roll

8th Grade

Cooper Detloff, Trenton Gofforth, Adam Hicks, Gui Jeter, Fiona McGuire,
Annabelle Paine, Tristan Rime, Joshua Robson, Bryson Schmitt,
Nevada Schoonover, Keylie Stevens, Kooper Thomas, Tommy Tunnell,
Dorian Westover, Marshal Wickstrom, Jordyn Witsken

7th Grade

Brody Conrad, Kennedy Erautt, Aleiah Grove, Keara Keene,
Ripley Lamkins, Ryatt Loomis, Tatum Otteson, Jack Stanley

6th Grade

Amelia Paul, Avery Shoopman, Aylan Warren, Blake Schmitt,
Brian Boniface, Jensen Bronson, Elahn Delarey, Jax Rantz,
Jaxx Robson, MaKayla Beaudoin, Micah Unrein, Rowan Smith,
Temperance Pyle, Tessa Schamp

Principal Matt Walker

Dolores High School



Spring is here and minus a few instances of essential rain we are being treated to the sunshine of SW Colorado. Please help us ensure our young men and women are complying with dress code. The most common dress code violations: Shorts and Pants with holes must be at or below the fingertips with arms extended. No items brought into the school should display alcohol, drugs, gang affiliation, and/or illegal or sexual activity. Students enrolled in shop classes, especially welding, should have appropriate leg and foot covering, failure to prepare may negatively impact grades as students will not be able to participate.

April starts testing season, Mrs. Weiss's article is a quick read for the ways the information can be used for the benefit of students, teachers, parents and the district. Students that want to participate in advanced courses like concurrent enrollment courses; will need to demonstrate required skills and test scores have been a reliable tool.

Course registration is coming up and there are some notable differences from years past. We are transitioning to an online registration platform through Alma. Our Academic Advisor during our April 9th Advisory, will walk students through accessing the course catalog, explaining how pre-requisites work so students can get signed up for the most appropriate course that fits on their graduation pathway. This portion will be done as a hard copy and would be a great time to review with your student their choice of courses. In the afternoon of April 16th, after the PSAT and SAT times students will then go into Alma and make their selections based on the hard copy created.

[Scheduling Tab on Academic Advising Site](#)



Student journalism is alive and well at Dolores High School! The Journalism class is an elective offered to all students. The purpose of the Journalism class is to allow students to have a voice on issues of students' interests in and outside of school. [Click here](#) to view High School Journalism articles.

THIRD QUARTER STUDENT ACADEMIC AWARDS

ALGEBRA 1 - NATHAN SCHRAGE
ALGEBRA 2 - LEVI PORTER
ART 1 - IAN BEGAY
BAND - ENTIRE HS JAZZ BAND
BIOLOGY 01 - EASTON GOFFORTH
BIOLOGY 01 - HOLLY SCHAMP
COMPUTER GRAPHIC DESIGN - KACEY SCHMITTEL
COMPUTER MEDIA/LITERACY - HOLLEY SCHAMP
ENGLISH 1 - EMMA NIELSON
ENGLISH 2 - EVIE PORTER
ENGLISH 3 - KACEY SCHMITTEL
ENGLISH 4 - DAVIEN PAWLICKI
ESS - WILL NIELSON
FORENSICS - TAYLOR ERAUTT
GEOLOGY & ASTRONOMY - SHANTY CAMPOS
GEOMETRY - MATTHEW VEGA
HEALTH - DECLAN WARREN
HIS 1220 - ELERI BROWN
INTEGRATED SCIENCE - MASSIAH RODRIGUEZ
JEWELRY - ZAIDEN SUHR
MACROECONOMICS - MIKAYLA EATON
P.E. - DRAVEN TSOSIE
PCC BIOLOGY 105 - BEN CARPENTER
PHYSICS - NICHOLAS ABATE
PRE-ALGEBRA - CHLOE HANSON
PSYCHOLOGY - SAMANTHA ABATE
SCULPTURE - EFLIN OZDIL
SPANISH 1 - RANGER LAROSE
SPANISH 1 - AKAIA EDWARDS
SPANISH 2 - EVIE PORTER
SPANISH 2 - ADELINE DETTLOFF
STRENGTH & CONDITIONING - DAMEON MUFF
TRIG PRECALC - NEVAEH SETTLES
US GOVERNMENT - MORGAN CHAFFEE
US HISTORY - JUSTICE EUBANKS
WORLD HISTORY - GRACIE COKER
YEARBOOK - MADDISON THORNBRUGH

District Nurse Brandy Dunn

Health and Wellness



April showers bring May flowers, and April is a month of growth and renewal! As we embrace the warmer weather and increased outdoor activities, it's a perfect time to focus on health and wellness across our district.

- Allergy Awareness: April often marks the peak of seasonal allergies. Please remind your students about allergy management strategies, including handwashing, avoiding triggers, and taking prescribed medications. [Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America](#)
- Sun Safety: With increased sunshine, it's crucial to emphasize sun safety. Remind students to wear sunscreen, hats, and protective clothing when outdoors.
- Hydration: Encourage students to drink plenty of water throughout the day, especially during outdoor activities. [Choose Water for Healthy Hydration](#)
- Healthy Eating: Promote healthy snacking with fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. [Healthy Eating](#)
- Physical Activity: Encourage outdoor play and exercise to promote physical and mental well-being.
- Sleep Hygiene: Maintain consistent sleep schedules to ensure students are well-rested and ready to learn.
- Mental Wellness: April can be a stressful time with testing and end of year activities. Encourage students to talk about their feelings and provide support.

Wishing everyone a healthy and happy April!

Academic Advisor Cheri Walker
Dolores High School



Please take a moment to review the PSAT/SAT information located on pages 15 and 16.

Contact the Dolores School District

Dolores School District RE-4A
100 N. 6th Street / PO Box 727
Dolores, CO 81323
Phone: (970) 882-7255
Fax: (970) 882-7685

Dolores School District Calendars

[Events Calendar](#)

[2024-2025 Yearly Calendar](#)

Download the Dolores SD App

Download the updated Dolores SD App, available for free on both Android and iOS platforms. Allow push notifications!



Safe2Tell Colorado Initiative

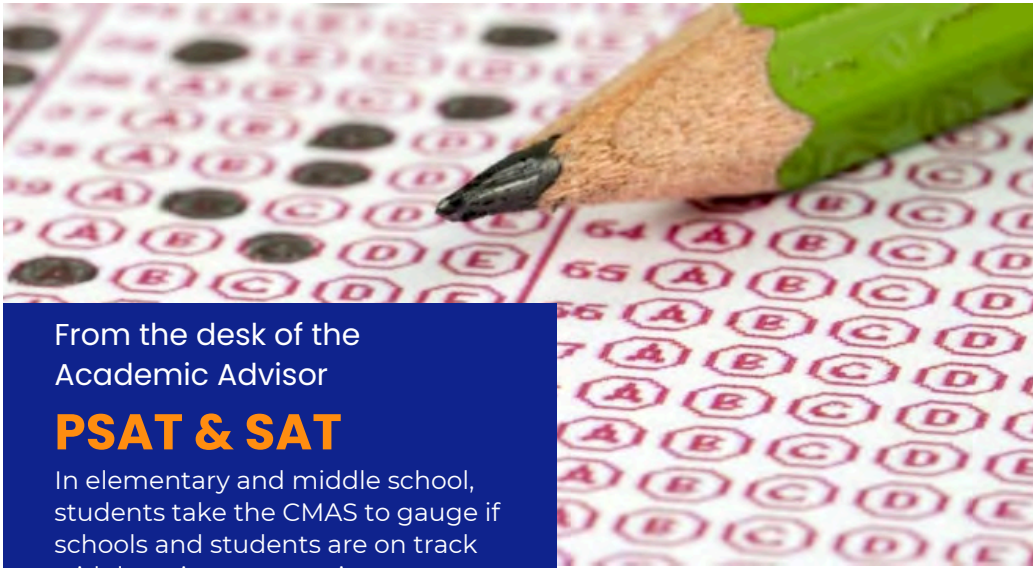
The Safe2Tell logo, which consists of a red speech bubble containing a white number '2', followed by the words "safe tell" in a red, lowercase, serif font.

Make a Call. Make a Difference.

1-877-542-SAFE

DOLORES HS

PSAT/SAT INFOFLYER



From the desk of the
Academic Advisor

PSAT & SAT

In elementary and middle school, students take the CMAS to gauge if schools and students are on track with learning expectations.

In high school, juniors will still take CMAS for science, but the state of Colorado has identified the PSAT and SAT assessments as the measures for reading and math.

This newsletter is designed to provide you with information and resources to understand the importance of these tests, how to prepare for them, and what to do once you receive your scores.

During advisory, students will complete a readiness check to prepare for what to expect on test day, complete exam set up, and to ensure devices are updated with the necessary programs. Students will bring home "testing tickets" that contain login information that they can use to complete the practice test in Bluebook.

*Digital Readiness Check -
April 2*

● Advising Site - SAT Page

Please visit this page for links, resources, and detailed information on all topics. What is covered on this page:

- General SAT suite information
- Student Guides for each test
- Practice options
- BigFutures & Connections information -
- connect to colleges, recruiters, scholarships and more!
- Accessing & Interpreting Scores



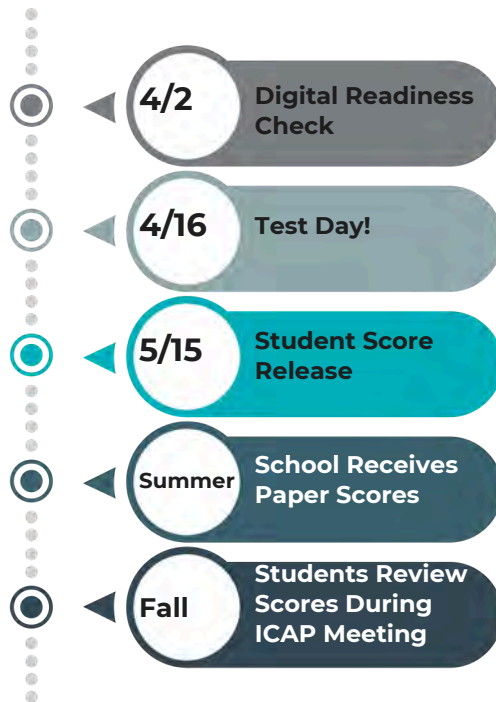
Google Classroom "Class of..."

Student Resources

All students are enrolled in a "Class of..." Google Classroom. In addition to many other resources and communications, there is a "Testing" section under the Classwork tab that houses resources and information including:

- Advising Site link
- Student Information slides presented to advisory classes in January
- Multiple handouts for Big Future & Connections
- Practice options information

Parents, if you'd like to have a Google Classroom guardian account, please let us know!



Prepare!

Practice Options

After each administration, students will receive a score report which will break down areas of strength and weakness. Using this report, and information found in individual student College Board accounts, students are able to intentionally address areas of need, and be more efficient with their time.

[Learn more on the testing site!](#)



Want more information?

- [Why take the SAT?](#)
- [SAT Home Page](#)
- [PSAT NMSQT Home Page](#)
- [PSAT 10 Home Page](#)
- [PSAT 8/9 Home Page](#)
- [SAT for Students & Parents](#)