

Air Academy High School

6910 Carlton Drive USAF Academy, CO 80840-1799

An Academy School District Twenty High School



<http://www.asd20.org/aahs>

Mr. Dan Olson, *Principal* (719) 234-2400

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This year freshmen, sophomores and juniors will be participating in state testing. Our commitment is to continue to minimize the impact testing has on the learning environment while still striving to collect the most helpful student achievement and growth data possible. To this end, most all of the testing will be done on-line and completed in one day for each subject. Our teachers will make sure that students missing the testing dates listed below will not miss content specific material nor have to make up work from that absence.

- **Freshmen** will participate in PARCC testing. The PARCC will assess ninth grade students in the areas of Math on **March 14th** and English Language Arts (ELA) on **March 15th**. Both days will run on a regular school day schedule.
- **Sophomores** will be taking the PSAT-10 on **April 11th** (*modified schedule is forthcoming*)
- **Juniors** will participate in the SAT on **April 11th** (*modified schedule is forthcoming*) and CMAS for Science on **April 18th** (*regular school schedule*)

(If a snow day or 2 hour delay occurs, we will move the test dates to the very next day)

The CMAS (Colorado Measures of Academic Success) and PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) exams are based on the Colorado-developed English/Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science Colorado Academic Standards (CAS). CMAS and PARCC measure students' mastery of skills and knowledge necessary for success in higher education and their chosen careers.

- The CMAS and PARCC will be utilized by the school to help in the process of developing and evaluating the English/Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science curriculum. The data gathered will be beneficial to English, Mathematics, and Science teachers. In addition, it will provide the school baseline data for future measures of growth and achievement.
- The CMAS and PARCC will give our students valuable information regarding their acquired knowledge and skills in English/Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science as they continue to prepare for their post-secondary options.
- CMAS and PARCC will ask students to answer a variety of questions, show their work, and explain their reasoning. The tests will assess critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.
- The CMAS and PARCC will be used by the state to evaluate Air Academy High School's performance on the School Performance Framework (SPF) compared to other schools in the state.

- The PARCC Math test has three units each about 90 minutes long. PARCC for ELA will also be three units varying from 90-110 minutes each. CMAS science test has three units 60 minutes each.

SAT (or the Scholastic Aptitude Test) is a 4 hour national College Board admissions examination that will assess eleventh grade students in the areas of English, Mathematics, and Reading. We believe that this experience is beneficial to students and that SAT scores typically improve with practice. Our school district has provided an opportunity for all high schools to start school late for freshmen and seniors in order to provide the best possible testing conditions for our juniors.

PSAT-10 is a 3 hour practice SAT examination specifically designed for sophomore students in the areas of Mathematics, Reading, and Writing. We believe that this experience is beneficial to students and that SAT scores typically improve with practice. Our school district has provided an opportunity for all high schools to start school late for freshmen and seniors in order to provide the best possible testing conditions for our sophomores.

Finally, many parents ask how they can help their child perform at their best. You can help prepare your student for the standardized assessments by encouraging them to do the following:

- Bring a book but no technology – including a phone, e-Watch, FitBit, etc
- Get a good night’s sleep
- Eat a good breakfast
- Stay relaxed and confident
- Do their best
- Take their time and work their hardest
- Calculators and pencils will be needed for the SAT/PSAT tests

We appreciate your help during this testing time and look forward to using the results to match instruction to students’ needs. If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact me or Toni Schone, Dean of Students. Our contact information is below. It is preferred that you contact us by email, but you are certainly welcome to also call us at the numbers below.

Sincerely,

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Toni Schone
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