School Year 24-25

Dear Rocky Mountain Classical Academy Families,

Every year in the state of Colorado, schools across the state evaluate student progress with the goal to measure academic progress and growth. Beginning April 8th 2025, grades 3-8 will participate in the Colorado assessments of English language arts and math. Our fifth and eighth-graders will also take tests in science April 15th – April 17th. These tests provide important feedback on the academic progress of each student, during this academic year. It is important to remember that these assessments do not define a student’s abilities and skills, but they do impact how we deliver instruction to meet the unique needs of each student. Additionally, this type of testing helps us understand our strengths and weaknesses, as well as prioritize needs, define problems, and develop solutions. It also enhances the ability for student placement into the appropriate classes for high school. Lastly, this data also informs our community about how our students compare to peers locally, across the state, and nationally.

As your student(s) prepares for taking exams, here are some things you can do at home to maximize your student’s success on this type of test: eat a good breakfast the morning of the assessment, go to bed early to ensure a good night’s rest, continue daily reading time at home, and continue to practice basic math facts.

RMCA respects any parent’s decision to opt out of the assessments. If you wish to opt your child out of this important assessment, you must come to our front office in person and sign the 2024 D49 State Assessment Parent Request form for Opt Out **no later than March 14, 2025.** We cannot accept forms after that date. We cannot accept an e-mail or phone call to opt out, as we are legally required to have the signed form. If you choose to opt out your student from CMAS testing we will have a setting for them to silently read for all the testing days. This will be a non-instructional environment for the day of testing. The school library will not be available, classrooms and teachers will be a part of the testing at this time. If you choose to keep your student **who has opted out** at home **during these testing days**, we will provide an administrative excusal for them.

On behalf of the entire staff, thank you for your continued support of your child, our teachers and our school.

Regards,

Dr. Tam Smith

Executive Principal