



December 1st, 2015

Dear Frontier Academy Parents,

As early as December 11th, you will begin to see results from last year's PARCC and CMAS assessments published in the newspaper. The Colorado Department of Education is sending home information to parents (attached) to help understand the change in scores and method of reporting. In an effort to help understand how Frontier students scored on the assessment, the administration will be providing information and analysis of the scores on two occasions, listed below. If you are interested, please join us on one of these evenings or feel free to call us at any time.

Thursday, January 7th 6:00 pm
Executive Committee Meeting
Frontier Academy Secondary

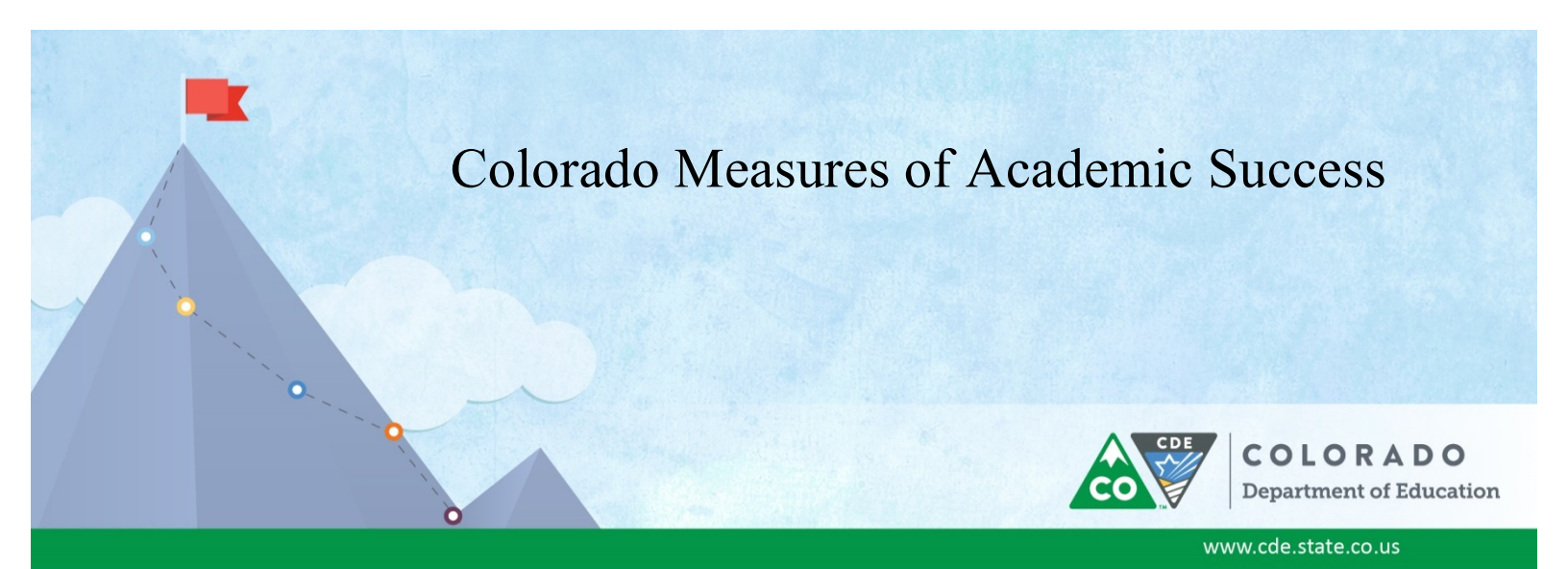
Thursday, January 21st 6:00 pm
Parent Academy
Frontier Academy Elementary

Thank you for your interest and involvement in our school. We hope to see you one of these evenings.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bradford Every
Principal
Frontier Academy Elementary

Dr. Stephen Seedorf
Principal
Frontier Academy Secondary

The banner features a stylized mountain range with a red flag on the highest peak. A dashed line with colored dots (blue, orange, blue, orange, purple) winds up the mountain. The background is a light blue sky with white clouds. The Colorado Department of Education logo and name are on the right, and the website URL is at the bottom right.

Colorado Measures of Academic Success



COLORADO
Department of Education

www.cde.state.co.us

The Colorado Department of Education will soon be releasing results for how our students performed last spring on the new state assessments in English language arts and math. These assessments are often referred to as “PARCC tests” because they were developed by a consortium of states called the Partnership for Assessments in Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). These tests are part of the state’s overall assessment system, the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS), which also includes tests in science and social studies.

State-level results for English language arts and math were released November 12, followed by school and district-level results a few weeks later. Individual student results will be sent home when available.

When you receive your student’s individual score report, please keep in mind that these scores **cannot be compared to old test scores. The new tests measure different things, such as a student’s ability to think critically and problem solve – skills that are critical to success in college and career in the 21st Century.**

You may remember that Colorado implemented new academic standards in 2013-14 that raised the bar with higher expectations for all students. Our new tests are aligned to those academic standards, and they are indeed more rigorous than past tests. This is a good thing, as we are striving to ensure that all students are truly prepared for college and career when they graduate from high school. **But with change may come some growing pains, and your child’s test scores may be lower than what you saw before.** This is not permanent. It is likely that scores will start rising again as students and teachers get used to the higher standards and become better prepared to meet the more challenging material.

Also, remember that these tests were given at end of the previous school year. They represent a single point in time, and are just one of the many factors that can be used together to provide a complete picture of your student’s progress. Scores always take longer to produce during the first year of any new test, but in future years, we expect to receive our student’s scores much earlier to help inform teachers’ instruction for the coming school year.

The new CMAS-PARCC Score Reports you will receive show whether your student met grade-level expectations at the end of last year and if your student is on track for college and careers. Resources to help you understand these new score reports are available at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/resourcesforparents>.

You can use these scores during conversations with your student’s teacher about enrichments or additional supports that are available to help your child meet grade-level expectations and graduate ready for college and career success.